



## Elder Bible Study

---

*God's People Gather* emphasizes the blessings of being together for in-person worship. This study will remind you of some of those blessings so that you will be better able to remind your people.

### Introduction

In what ways has your congregation's worship changed over the past 18 months? In what ways has it remained the same? How have those things (both things that have changed and things that have remained the same) affected your congregation positively and/or negatively?

List at least three blessings of worshiping in person.

You likely listed many blessings. But, for the sake of our study, let's focus on four.

## **Blessing #1 – The In-Person Worship Experience**

Read Psalm 27:4-6

1. What did King David say he sought more than anything?
2. In verses 5-6 he explains why. Summarize his explanation in your own words.
3. Describe what is different (better) about worshiping in God's house from worshiping virtually from home.

## **Blessing #2 – Experiencing Christian Community**

Read Hebrews 10:23-25

1. What does the writer to the Hebrews encourage Christians to continue to do?
2. What are some reasons he encourages this?

3. Share at least one specific way Christians who are gathered together encourage one another.

### **Blessing #3 – Christian Service**

Read Acts 4:32-37

1. What strikes you about this description of the early Christian church in Jerusalem?
2. The early Christians were clearly passionate about serving one another. How do Christians serve each other *and* serve alongside each other when they gather together? List as many examples as you can.

### **Blessing #4 – The Lord’s Supper**

Read Matthew 26:26-28

1. In the book of 1 Corinthians, St. Paul quoted Jesus as saying, “Do this in remembrance of me.” Why do you suppose Jesus wanted his people to continue celebrating this special meal?
2. You are visiting a member who wishes to worship virtually because it is so much more convenient. What might you say, using one or more of the blessings we have discussed?

## Further Discussion

1. Though we may prefer in-person worship, what are the blessings that virtual worship have allowed the membership to enjoy?
2. Why must the matter of returning to in-person worship be viewed by the elders as a case-by-case issue?
3. Give examples of legalistic encouragement toward in-person worship.
4. Give examples of gospel-centered encouragement toward in-person worship.
5. Though we understand that only the Gospel provides proper motivation, in what circumstances might a message of law be called for in the matter of in-person worship?
6. List situations in which a member's return to in-person worship ought to be handled with compassion and patience.