

## What Kind of Christian Community Are You Looking For?

What you'll need for this session: Your Bible, a favorite candy bar and a stick of Freedent sugarless gum

➡ **Step 1 – Put the candy bar on the table.**

➡ **Step 2 – Get your shopping face on.**

### My attitude toward shopping

When I go shopping I feel...	When I go shopping I feel...	When I go shopping I feel...
<input type="radio"/> an Extreme Sport adrenaline rush.  <input type="radio"/> intoxicated by the smell of deals.  <input type="radio"/> like Xena, the Warrior Shopper.	<input type="radio"/> I have to. Food is important and I don't have any.  <input type="radio"/> This will count as "quality time" with my girlfriend.  <input type="radio"/> I have to. Underwear is important and I don't have any.	<input type="radio"/> oppressed by the merchants of capitalism promising to fill my soul with their cheap, imported goods.  <input type="radio"/> like punching the first smiley-faced salesperson who interrupts me with that phoney "I'm available if you have any questions" approach.  <input type="radio"/> AAAAAUUUUUUGGGGGHHHH!
<input type="checkbox"/> I <b>LOVE</b> shopping.	<input type="checkbox"/> I <b>TOLERATE</b> shopping.	<input type="checkbox"/> I <b>HATE</b> shopping.

➡ **Step 3 – Study your Bible.**

- Read Matthew 28:18-20  
What did Jesus say that His followers should be about?
- Read Acts 2:42-47  
What four activities was the early church devoted to?  
  
How did the believers in the early church treat each other?  
  
How often would they meet and what would they do together?  
  
What words are used to describe how they felt?  
  
What was God doing in their midst?  
  
How does this description in Acts 2:42-47 compare with what Jesus said in John 13:34-35?  
  
How would you like to be involved in a church or fellowship like the one described here?  
  
What would you need to do to help create this kind of community?
- Read Galatians 2:10  
What was one thing the Apostles ask Paul to be committed to in his ministry? Why do you think this one thing they asked Paul to do is such an important function of the church?

## ➡ Step 4 – Figure out your preferences.

It is important to me that the Christian community I commit to is doctrinally sound and believes that:

- ☐ The Bible is God's word, without error, to a fallen humanity.    ☐ Jesus is fully God and fully man.
- ☐ Mankind is sinful and under a penalty of separation from God, ultimately ending in hell.
- ☐ Salvation from sin's penalty is by grace, through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ only
- ☐ Rock music is of the devil.

I prefer to be in a small group Bible study that is made up of:

- ☐ men and women    ☐ only women    ☐ only men    ☐ others in my dorm, team, fraternity, sorority or unit.

How many people are involved in my Christian community means something to me. The crowd size I like is:

- ☐ over 100    ☐ over 300    ☐ under 2    ☐ under 100    ☐ under 50    ☐ exactly 163

The kinds of worship experience that really helps me connect with the Lord includes:

- ☐ a full band    ☐ a few guitars    ☐ one guitar    ☐ one piano    ☐ a guy with a tamborine    ☐ "new" music
- ☐ "old" music    ☐ a variety of music    ☐ tons of singing    ☐ some singing    ☐ lots of hand motions
- ☐ lifting hands    ☐ hands in pockets

I want to be involved reaching out to the lost:

- ☐ on-campus    ☐ at my place of work    ☐ on base    ☐ in the community    ☐ on overseas missions
- ☐ by sharing the Gospel    ☐ by helping the poor

I want to grow in my faith and would really like to learn how to:

- ☐ share my faith    ☐ disciple others    ☐ lead a Bible study    ☐ study the Bible    ☐ share without getting cut

The kind of believers I like to be around are more:

- ☐ intellectual    ☐ mission-minded    ☐ emotionally needy    ☐ of the opposite sex    ☐ serious, thoughtful
- ☐ fun, out-going    ☐ politically minded    ☐ ethnically diverse

*(Keep this list. You will use it later to see how many of these features are present in the ministries you visit in the fall.)*

## ➡ Step 5 – Take inventory.

What are some things I really like about my current Christian community?

What are some things I wish were different?

If there are some things missing from my church, what role can I play to bring about those changes?

Do these thoughts lead me to start looking for another church?

If I do decide to look elsewhere, am I just running away from a problem I need to work through?

## ➡ Step 6 – Eat the candy bar.

## ➡ Step 7 – Chew the gum.

Summary: The number one reason students listed for enjoying their youth group was that they liked their youth pastor. You're leaving your youth pastor behind, so a successful grad will take the time to figure out what he or she needs and wants in a new Christian community.

Next Session: How to find your next Christian community in college.