

Biblical Guidelines for Sabbath Fellowship

Overall Directions for the Sabbath Day

A holy convocation (Leviticus 23:3)	Honor God (Isaiah 58:13)
A day of rest (Leviticus 23:3)	Don't speak your own words (Isaiah 58:13)
A feast day (Leviticus 23:2)	A reflection back to Eden (Exodus 20:11)
A day of delight (Isaiah 58:13-14)	A bless day (Exodus 20:11)
Don't do your own pleasures (Isaiah 58:13)	A hallowed day (Exodus 20:11)

The Purpose of Sabbath Fellowship

1. Provide encouragement to one another to endure to the end of the age, so we are prepared to meet Jesus Christ at the first resurrection (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 24:13; 30-31; Revelation 20:4-6)
2. Build up one another in the unity of the faith and knowledge of Christ to the perfect person, to His stature and fulness (Ephesians 4:13)
3. Exercise our spiritual gifts by serving one another in the context of God's system of government (I Corinthians 12; I Peter 4:10; Romans 12:6-8)
4. Show love to one another (I Corinthians 13; John 13:35; Jude 12)

God's Guidelines for Sabbath Fellowship

Where: Brethren's homes (Romans 16:3-5; I Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1-2). Rotating among homes each week is an excellent practice, and meetings in other places is surely acceptable.

How:

- Prophetic speaking by everyone is highly encouraged. These are words inspired by the holy spirit to edify and encourage everyone (I Corinthians 14:1, 39). The fellowship must be an "open forum," not structured so only appointed brethren will be speaking. While elders (older people) might provide messages, the younger people should also speak when inspired by the holy spirit.
- Two or three brethren can give longer messages at a meeting (I Corinthians 14:29), but other shorter discussions should not be discouraged. These need not be pre-prepared messages.
- Others in the meeting should judge or discern whether what is being prophesied is truthful, and affirm or correct as needed (I Corinthians 14:29).
- Prayer for specific needs, for the sick, and for other needs should be made.
- Singing should be an integral part of the gathering, as well as allowing "doctrine," "revelation," the "gift of tongues," and the "gift of interpretation" (I Corinthians 14:26).
- There need be no particular order for functions during the gathering — singing, speaking, prayer, etc. — but ought to be spontaneous as moved by the spirit of God.
- A feast of food ought to be a part of the fellowship, such as a pot luck or as prepared by the host family.

