

## TOGETHER

### ABOUT TOGETHER



In Ben Mandrell's first short-term adult Bible study, "[Together](#)", he shows how the first generation of believers embraced the idea of "church" in a way that impacted every aspect of their lives and empowered the gospel to spread far and wide. The study includes printed content for six sessions, personal study between group sessions, applicable Scripture, "How to Use This Study" and tips for leading a group.

In addition to the adult study, Lifeway is also releasing "Together for Teens", which was created to help students see how God has designed the church and how they can be part of it now. While made up of imperfect people, the church is God's plan for community, support, and telling the world about Jesus. Students are encouraged to build the foundation for their understanding of the church and delight in this unique community—

the body and bride of Christ. The teen study includes six group sessions, six weeks of personal study and a leader guide to direct questions and discussion with small groups.

Similarly, the six-session adult Bible study invites Christians across all walks of life to challenge their distinctions between "Sunday church" and the rest of life, to go all in with their faith and commitment to church community and to live the truly dynamic, impactful life God has always intended for every Christian to live.

The study will teach the foundations and rhythms of the early church to show how Christians can more intentionally emulate their way of life to make a greater impact in the world today while also experiencing the fullness of God in their own lives.

### BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

#### (Adult Edition)

- Publisher: Lifeway Christian Resources
- Publication Date: Jan. 1, 2025
- Language: English
- Reading Age: 18 years (min.)
- Printed Paperback: 120 pages
- ISBN-13: 9798384510802
- Item Weight: 2 pounds
- Dimensions: 9.50 x 7.00 x 0.34 inches



### BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION (Teen Edition)

- Publisher: Lifeway Christian Resources

- Publication Date: Jan. 1, 2025
- Language: English
- Reading Age: 12-18 years
- Printed Paperback: 96 pages
- ISBN-13: 9798384520153
- Item Weight: 2 pounds
- Dimensions: 9.50 X 7.00 X 0.30 inches

**Media requests:** Please direct media requests to Lauren Pratt (Lauren.Pratt-ctr@lifeway.com) who can provide high-resolution images and other media assets and discuss interview availability, excerpts and other content ideas.



## ABOUT BEN MANDRELL

Ben Mandrell was elected the 10th president of Lifeway Christian Resources on June 28, 2019. As president and CEO, Mandrell provides vision and strategic leadership to the nonprofit organization headquartered in Brentwood, Tennessee.

Prior to joining Lifeway, he pastored churches in Colorado and Tennessee. A native of Tampico, Illinois, Mandrell graduated from Anderson (Indiana) University in 1998. He also holds a Master of Divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Union University in Jackson, Tennessee.

Although Ben is in executive leadership for Lifeway, he still maintains his pastor's heart; he preaches at churches across the United States and serves as a speaker at various conferences and leadership and training events. He and his wife, Lynley, host *The Glass House* podcast, which focuses on conversations that point the way forward to healthy emotions and relationships for ministry leaders and their families.

## TALKING POINTS AND INTERVIEW ANGLES

- Since the pandemic, loneliness has been on the rise while a sense of community and belonging in the local church is at an all-time low. "Together" aims to provide a biblical understanding of community by looking at the early church in Acts and other passages throughout Scripture that capture God's vision and purpose for the local church.
- The need for recapturing the importance and necessity of the local church is seen in the following research:
  - According to the [2022 State of Theology report](#), 66% of Americans say worshipping alone or with one's family is a valid replacement for regularly attending church. Only 18% of American adults strongly agree that every Christian has an obligation to join a local church.
  - [A study](#) from Grey Matter Research and Infinity Concepts showed that only 54% of Protestant evangelicals are currently engaging in the traditional model of in-person weekly church attendance. This marks a significant departure from pre-pandemic norms.
  - Additionally, Lifeway Research's [2022 Greatest Needs of Pastors study](#) highlighted that 75% of pastors identified "people's apathy or lack of commitment" as a significant concern.

## SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- What prompted you to write this study, and what is the main takeaway you hope people come away with?
- What do you think Christians often get wrong about the vision and purpose of the local church?
- In “Together”, you talk about how it’s easier to do church activities than it is to be the church in relational vulnerability. Why do you think that is?
- What are people missing out on when they don’t view biblical community correctly?
- For middle and high school students, why does it matter that they understand the purpose for the local church and their role in it?
- How can church leaders guide their members to view the church as family? What specific practices can they begin putting into place?
- Can you share a time when you’ve seen biblical community practiced well?