

BEING WITH GOD IN COMMUNITY

ACTS 2:42-47

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - FEBRUARY 4, 2024

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:42-47 ESV

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe[a] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Share your favorite memory of a time when you experienced authentic community, outside the church.

SERMON RECAP

What happens when God's people gather together?

1. We receive supernatural power	6. People are delivered from prison
2. We experience supernatural unity	7. People are set apart for mission to new frontiers
3. People repent of sin, come to Christ and become a part of the Church	8. Leaders are committed to the Lord
4. People are healed of disease	9. We maintain hope amidst hardship
5. People are strengthened amidst suffering	10. We express and experience love for one another

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

- Read Acts 2:42-47 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
 - What did the early believers devote themselves to in Acts 1:14, 2:42-47, 4:23-29?
 - What elements of community did the early church experience together? Act 2:43-47
 - What else happened when the early church gathered together? Acts 2:1-4; Acts 2:38-39; Acts 3:1-8, Acts 4:31
- How would you summarize Acts 2:42-47 in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

- What does it mean to be "devoted" to God and to one another? Ps 63:1-5, Acts 2:42 What are some of the obstacles that get in the way of our devotion?
- What does it mean to be a part of a supernatural community of believers? 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 Why is community so important in the life of a believer? Acts 4:23-24, Acts 16:25-27, Acts 5:13-17
- What are some elements of community that are demonstrated in other portions of scripture? Read Romans 12:10-15, James 5:13-17 and Hebrews 10:23-25.
- How is the church pictured in Acts different, or similar, to what believers are experiencing in our culture today? How can we push against the individualism of our culture and the false sense of community that we are tempted to settle for? John 13:34-35

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

- What might be preventing us from experiencing the blessedness of community experienced by the early church?
- What next steps do you need to take to be with God in community like we have seen in the book of Acts?

- How might God be stirring your heart to grow in our devotion to Him and your Church Family?
- What ways might the Lord be leading you to share your life with, and or serve, your Church and Church Family in ways that you haven't done before?
- Do you sense the Lord's calling for missions or to lead a Church Group? How might your Church Group pray and discern with you God's calling. you to lead a Church Group?

LEADER NOTES