



UPSTATE GROUP GUIDE

Through the Bible

November 3-9

Acts 2:42-47

Things to Know

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Gospel Connections and Conversations

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*Studying God's Word **In Community***

*Reminder: Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the sermon.*

Sermon Recap

- The Gospel Creates Devotion.

The early church wasn't devoted out of obligation but out of transformation. The Spirit moved their hearts to love God's Word, God's people, and God's mission.

- The Gospel Cultivates Community.

True fellowship isn't built on shared interests but on a shared Savior. The believers broke bread, prayed, and shared life because Jesus had made them one family through His blood.

- The Gospel Compels Generosity.

When Jesus reigns in the heart, generosity becomes the reflex. They didn't give because they had to—they gave because grace had gripped them. Their open hands reflected open hearts filled with the Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be devoted in your relationship with Jesus? How can that kind of devotion shape your daily rhythms?
2. How do you see the four devotions (teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer) working together to strengthen the church?
3. What barriers keep believers today from living in authentic community like we see in Acts 2?
4. How does generosity flow naturally from the gospel? In what ways can our group reflect that kind of open-handed love?
5. How can our life together as a group display the joy and awe that marked the early church?

Read

Read Acts 2:42-47 and make observations about the text.

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
 - What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
 - Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
 - What do you need help understanding about this passage?
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Scripture

Acts 4:42-47

The Fellowship of the Believers

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.

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Acts 2:42-47

Living on Mission In Community

The picture of the early church in Acts 2 is not just a historical snapshot—it's a living invitation. God still calls His people to be a devoted community formed by the gospel, grounded in truth, and filled with joy. When we devote ourselves to the Word, we grow in truth. When we devote ourselves to prayer, we depend on grace. When we devote ourselves to fellowship, we embody love. And when we devote ourselves to generosity, we display the heart of Jesus. The Spirit who filled the believers in Acts 2 still fills us today so that our ordinary lives can bear extraordinary witness to the power of Christ.

How might your devotion this week help others encounter the presence of God through your words, your worship, and your generosity?

So the question is—who is God sending you to reach, disciple, or walk alongside this week?

How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?

Optional Breakout Questions

Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:

1. How did you feed yourself?
 - *(What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)*
2. How did you feed others?
 - *(How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)*
3. How did you feed your flesh?
 - *(What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)*

Leader Resources - Nov 3-9

Small Group Curriculum: Acts 2:42-47 - “A Devoted People”

1. Session Overview

Main Idea:

The early church was marked by devotion—to God, to one another, and to the mission. Their life together reflected the transforming power of the gospel and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Key Theme:

A gospel-centered community is devoted to truth, fellowship, worship, and mission.

Passage: Acts 2:42–47

Supporting Truth:

Where the Spirit of God reigns, the people of God respond with awe, generosity, and glad worship.

2. Opening (Prayer & Icebreaker)

Icebreaker:

When you think of a healthy church, what comes to mind first?

OR

Share a time when you experienced genuine Christian community—what made it meaningful?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to renew our devotion—to Him, His Word, His people, and His mission.

Before prayer, invite groups of 2–3 to share one way they can be prayed for personally in their walk with Christ this week. Lead by example in vulnerability.

3. Scripture Reading

 Read Acts 2:42–47 aloud.

Encourage multiple readers—one for verses 42–44 and one for verses 45–47—to keep everyone engaged.

4. Teaching Points (Systematic Walkthrough)

A. Devotion to the Word (v. 42a)

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching...”

- The word “devoted” (proskartereō) means to persist steadfastly.
- The early believers built their lives around the truth of God’s Word—not personal preference.
- The apostles’ teaching centered on Christ’s death, resurrection, and reign. The Word was not information but transformation.
- Theological Note: The church’s authority rests not in experience or tradition, but in revelation—God’s truth made known in Christ (John 1:14, 2 Tim. 3:16–17).

B. Devotion to Fellowship (v. 42b)

“...and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

- “Fellowship” (koinonia) is not socializing but sharing life in Christ.
- The breaking of bread refers both to meals and to the Lord’s Supper—reminding them of Jesus’ body and blood.
- Prayer united the church in dependence on God.

Gospel Connection: At the cross, Jesus made fellowship possible—not only with God but with one another. True community flows from reconciliation.

C. Awe in Worship (v. 43)

“And awe came upon every soul...”

- “Awe” (phobos) means reverent fear. God’s presence produced worship, not casualness.
- Signs and wonders authenticated the gospel and confirmed the apostles’ witness.
- When the Spirit moves, the church doesn’t become showy—it becomes reverent.

D. Generosity in Love (vv. 44–45)

“They had all things in common...they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”

- The gospel transformed their view of possessions.
- This wasn’t forced socialism—it was Spirit-born generosity.
- Love for Christ overflowed into sacrificial care for others.

Theological Connection: Grace leads to generosity (2 Cor. 8:9).

E. Joy in Worship & Witness (vv. 46–47)

“They received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people.”

- Joy was the natural fruit of worship.
- Their community became a powerful witness—people saw the gospel lived out.
- “The Lord added to their number day by day” reminds us that God grows the church when God’s people are faithful.

Christ-Centered Truth: The same Spirit who birthed the early church indwells us today. The mission and the method remain the same—Spirit-filled disciples living for Jesus together.

5. Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be devoted to something? What would it look like if our church mirrored this kind of devotion?
2. Why is the Word of God foundational for genuine community?
3. How does true fellowship differ from casual friendship?
4. What might awe-filled worship look like in our modern context?
5. What keeps us from living generously and joyfully?
6. How can your small group practically reflect this kind of Acts 2 community this week?

6. Application Points

- Be Devoted to the Word: Start each day with Scripture—not out of duty, but delight.
- Be Devoted to Prayer: Commit to praying for one another and your church this week.
- Be Devoted to Fellowship: Reach out to someone in your group midweek to check in and encourage them.

- Be Devoted to Generosity: Look for needs around you and ask how you can meet them.
- Be Devoted to Witness: Live in such a way that others see Christ through your joy.

Application Question:

What one area of devotion—Word, fellowship, prayer, generosity, or worship—does God want to deepen in your life this week?

7. Closing Reflection & Prayer

Read Romans 12:10–13 aloud.

Reflect quietly for 1 minute on how the early church’s devotion challenges your walk with Christ.

Then pray together:

“Lord, make us a people devoted to You and to one another. Let our love be genuine, our worship sincere, and our witness bold. Add to Your church as You added then—by the power of Your Spirit and for the glory of Your Son.”

8. Memory Verse

Acts 2:42 — “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

9. Leader’s Notes

- Emphasize rhythm over perfection. The Acts 2 church wasn’t idealized—it was energized by grace.
- Encourage vulnerability in prayer groups.
- Use meals to cultivate fellowship—share the Lord’s Supper occasionally if your group setting allows.
- Celebrate small wins in generosity and service.
- Remind participants: revival begins with ordinary obedience in everyday community.