

Living in Community

Lessons from the Early Church

Aim: This small group study aims to explore the practices and attitudes of the early church as described in Acts 2:42-47, and to consider how we can apply these principles to our lives today.

Introduction:

Begin with a prayer, asking God to guide your discussion and reveal insights from His Word. Then, read Acts 2:42-47 aloud.

Discussion Questions:

1. Devotion to Teaching and Fellowship

- According to Acts 2:42, what were the primary activities of the early believers?
- Why do you think the apostles' teaching was central to the life of the early church?
- How can we prioritize learning and growing in our faith today?
- What role does fellowship play in our spiritual growth and support?

2. Impact of Signs and Wonders

- How did the signs and wonders performed by the apostles contribute to the awe and reverence among the believers? (Acts 2:43)
- Do you believe that signs and wonders are still relevant in the church today? Why or why not?
- How can we cultivate a sense of wonder and awe in our worship and spiritual practices?

3. Unity and Sharing

- Describe the level of unity and sharing among the believers as portrayed in Acts 2:44-45.
- What motivated the early Christians to sell their possessions and distribute the proceeds to those in need?
- How does this passage challenge our attitudes towards material possessions and generosity?
- What are some practical ways we can demonstrate unity and generosity within our church community?

4. Gathering for Worship and Fellowship

- How did the early believers balance their worship in the temple with their gatherings in homes? (Acts 2:46)
- Why do you think it was important for them to meet both in large gatherings and in smaller, intimate settings?

- How can we create a balance between corporate worship and smaller group fellowship in our churches today?

5. Gladness and Generosity

- What was the attitude of the early believers as they shared meals together and praised God? (Acts 2:46-47)

- How does gratitude contribute to our ability to share with others and worship God wholeheartedly?

- In what ways can we cultivate a spirit of gladness and generosity in our daily lives?

Application:

Reflect on the principles discussed and identify one area in which you can grow in your commitment to living in community with other believers. Share your commitment with the group and encourage one another to support and hold each other accountable.

Prayer:

Close the session with a time of prayer, thanking God for the example of the early church and asking for His help in living out these principles in our own lives. Pray for unity, generosity, and a deepening of fellowship within your small group and the larger church community.