

Acts 2:42-47

June 8, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

MAIN POINT

Our passage today describes the Christian community that was being cultivated in the early church. They were devoted to learning, fellowship in community, and generosity. While our practices today may look different, the attributes of a healthy Christian community are the same.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What have we learned so far in our study of Acts?

The heading in the CSB Bible over today's passage is "A Generous and Growing Church." What does that mean to you, and how might generosity and church growth be connected?

Last week, we concluded our study of Peter's Holy Spirit-filled sermon. He ended his sermon with a call to repentance for the Jews listening, and Luke recorded that around three thousand new believers followed Jesus that day (Acts 2:41). Our passage today



gives insight into what life in the early church looked like. This community was generous and growing.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:42-43.

What activities did Luke describe in these verses?

What similarities and differences do you see between this description and how we live as a church today?

Which of the attributes listed in verse 42 do you think we do best as a group? Where might we need growth?

Following the baptism of about three thousand people at the conclusion of Peter's sermon on Pentecost, a tight-knit community of believers formed, and in verse 42, we get an inside look at some of their activity together.

Learning: Now that these new converts had accepted Jesus as Savior, they had a lot to learn about what it meant to follow Him. Acts records that they devoted themselves to learning from the apostles' teaching. The Greek word that Luke used here (proskartereō) carries a meaning of perseverance and constant attention. Their devotion to learning from the apostles' Spirit-fueled teaching was constant and persistent. The best first step in doing this today is devoting ourselves to reading our Bible daily, followed by seeking out solid biblical teaching.

The disciples' teaching would have included explanation of Old Testament Scriptures that point to Jesus as the prophesied Messiah and firsthand accounts of what they witnessed while walking alongside Jesus in His earthly ministry. (We see the apostles both acting as Jesus's witnesses, as He commanded in Acts 1:8, and making disciples, as He commanded in Matthew 28:19.) In the church today, we undertake a similar mission by teaching faithfully from God's Word and sharing how we have seen God at work in our own lives.

Community: We aren't meant to be isolated; God created us for life in community. In addition to this constant, persistent devotion to teaching, the believers devoted themselves to fellowship. They lived in a healthy community.

Breaking bread: They prioritized sharing meals together. In the days and culture of the early church, people generally shared a meal with people they loved and trusted. This



space was important, and in our passage, we see that the early church devoted themselves to this practice together.

Prayer: Just like the believers in Acts 1:14, this growing body of believers devoted themselves persistently to prayer. This practice, both in community and in private, is vital to the life of a healthy church and the life of a believer. The young Christian community was strong, and God was working powerfully within it (v.43).

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:44-45.

- How would you describe the church community's practice in this passage?
- Where else do we see generosity like this in Scripture?

Verses 44 and 45 give us a closer look at another attribute of Christian community: generosity. Generosity is a common theme in Scripture. Not only do we see that God is radically generous with us but also that we are called to be generous with others.

Consider the generosity of the body of believers in these verses. As their fellow believers had needs, and they had the means, they came together to help meet them. They took care of each other. They humbly considered others before themselves (Philippians 2:1-4). As a result, the needs of those in the community were met.

We shouldn't read this as a literal call to sell everything we own and set up a communal fund—this didn't last forever even in the early church. But we do still have a biblical call to adopt this heart posture: humbly thinking of others before ourselves by living and giving generously.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:46-47.

What were the activities of the church in these verses? What was the result?

How would you describe the picture of community we see in these verses?

We are told the church met every day. They didn't just come to the same building on Sundays, they were meeting together every day to eat, pray, and praise. They were in Christian community and had "joyful and sincere hearts" (v.46).

This is not a prescription to literally come together every day, but our group should prioritize community by being together regularly. The early church fellowshiped together by sharing meals and worshiping together. Think of your last dinner with good friends or loved ones that left you feeling joyful, with a full heart. This is the beauty of community that can happen around a table. This is the type of community God desires for us to have, but it takes devotion like we see in verse 42.



Verse 47 reminds us that where a healthy body of believers is, the gospel is being spread and people are being saved.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What can we do as a group to cultivate community more intentionally?

How have we taken care of those in our body? What could we do to grow in this?

How can living with the heart described in today's passage give us opportunity to share the gospel with others?

PRAYER

Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.

Thank God for the example of Christian community in Acts. Ask for His help as your group seeks to intentionally build this type of community within your church.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.

June 15, 2025 --- Acts 3:1-10

COMMENTARY

Acts 2:42-47

2:42 These four practices—teaching ... fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer—provide insight into the priorities of early Christianity. These same practices should be considered normative for the church today. The apostles' teaching was probably similar to Peter's message at Pentecost. That is to say, it focused on making Christ known by appealing to eyewitness testimony and the prophecies of the OT. Early Christians gathered together regularly for edification, prayer, and exhortation. The breaking of bread probably included fellowship meals and participation in the Lord's Supper (1Co 11:17–34).



2:43 Being filled with awe is the response to the works of God in the midst of the people (4:30; 5:12).

2:44–45 As part of their fellowship, the early church practiced a community of goods for a short time. Distribution to members of the faith community took place according to individual need. This practice did not last long, likely because it was logistically difficult and fraught with potential abuse (see chaps. 4–6).

2:46 Early Christian gatherings took place in two places: the temple and the homes of individual believers.

2:47 The early church was an evangelizing church. Luke recounted that every day the Lord added to those who were being saved. He did not say how this took place, but it appears that evangelism took place primarily through the gathering of Christians in the temple and in individual houses. The crucifixion and resurrection of Christ were at the heart of early Christian preaching, which called for immediate response from anyone who listened.

