



ACTS: LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 2:42-47
Week of July 23, 2023

Start at 9:50-10:00

Belong: *Use 5-10 minutes as an opportunity to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and to know the group members.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Ask the questions below:

- **How would you describe the church?**
 - **What should matter most to a community of people who claim allegiance to Jesus?**

10:00-10:05 *Use 5 minutes to read this week's assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that helps*

Believe: *you to understand the passage better. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

Have a group member read **Acts 2:42-47 [ESV]** aloud.

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe 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.

Which verses/ words stand out to you or help you understand the passage better?

10:05-10:15

Build: *Use about 10 minutes to engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning.*

This week, Pastor Jacob spent some time in **Acts 2:42-47**. This passage provides a clear indication of how the church should function when the Holy Spirit reigns - *[the church should be]* devoted to Scripture [the apostle's teaching], fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers.

The interesting part of this Scripture is the Greek word for "fellowship." It is **koinonia**. This word is not found in the Gospels [*Matthew, Mark, Luke & John*]. **Acts 2:42** is the first occurrence of the word in the New Testament. The root idea is "commonness" or "commonality." Every time this word is used in the New Testament, it denotes some kind of sharing. In our verses today, we see the foundation of the first century church rested on a mutual generosity and sharing. Meaning, fellowship cost something in the early church.

In your opinion, what does "fellowship" cost us today?

- If it doesn't cost us anything, do we truly want "fellowship"?

10:20–10:35/40

Become: *Use about 15 minutes to apply what you have read. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?*

How many times is the word "all" used in this passage?

- What does the use of the word "all" in this passage tell us about the first century church?
- What does this word tell us about the "fellowship" of the first century church?
- What does it mean that these people had "all things in common"?

The early church saw themselves as a single family. Just as a biological family would share shelter, food and money, so did the first century church.

- In what ways can we share our lives with one another? [*materially and otherwise*]
- Do we see "fellowship" like this at FBC Portland? **Why or why not?**

In your opinion, what obstacles get in the way of our **devotion** to community?

- In what ways does social media OR online church give a false sense of community?

Have a group member read **2 Corinthians 8:1–5**. This church is pleading to participate in an offering "for the relief of the saints," basically, pleading to be a part of fellowship.

- Why devotion did they have to cause them to do this? [**vs. 5 – they gave themselves first to the Lord**]

10:35/ 10:40 – Class ends at 10:45

Begin: *Use the last 5–10 minutes for prayer. It's important that we not only hear and discuss God's Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)*

**Do you see any of God's attributes in this week's passage that struck out to you?
How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?**

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

Additional Resources:

Blue Letter Bible: Acts 2: Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: Acts 2: Check out the QR code to learn more.

