



ACTS: DEVOTED TO PRAYER

Acts 2:42

Week of June 11, 2023

Start at 9:45–9:55

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.

Choose two of the questions below:

- Ask about highs or lows that have happened since the last time you met.
- Or, Give a fun fact about yourself.
- Or, If you could switch one thing about yourself, what would it be?

How has God revealed Himself to you this week?

9:55–10:05

Believe: *Use 5–10 minutes to read this week's assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that helps you to understand the passage better. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

Over the next several weeks, we are going to focus on **Acts 2:42**. Have someone in your group read **Acts 2:42** aloud.

This week, we will discover how the early church was devoted to continual life of prayer. They lived out a life where they prayed without ceasing. **John Phillips** describes the early church as "a company marked by the throne. The name of Jesus opened up prayer opportunities never before known, [through prayer, they] had instant access to the throne of grace." Prayer fuels the purpose/ mission of the church. **In our lesson, we will learn that we need more than a prayer list to drive our time with God – we need a life devoted to prayer which fuels our purpose to make the truth of the Gospel known.**

10:05–10:20

Build: *Use about 15 minutes to engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning.*

Acts 2:42 tells us that the early church was devoted to prayer.

- What's your best definition for prayer?
- What should characterize our praying?

Can you think of examples in the Bible of people who devoted themselves to prayer?

- What characterized their purpose for prayer?

In **Acts**, what was the church's purpose/ mission?

- Why do you think they devoted themselves to prayer? **[hint – not selfish reasons]**

Today, what is the church's purpose/ mission?

- Do you think that the church today is still **devoted to prayer life that matches the church's purpose/mission?** What's your evidence?

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?

Reflect on your personal prayer habits:

- How would you describe your prayer life? [*intense, lukewarm, sporadic, frustrating*]
- How would you like it to be different?

Reflect on FBC's commitment to prayer:

- What are some contemporary challenges we face as we attempt to imitate the early church's devotion to prayer?

Have someone in your group read **Colossians 4:2-6** aloud.

- Looking at the context of **Colossians 4**, what is Paul stating that prayer is essential for? [*making the truth of the Gospel known to those outside the Christian community.*]
- What does Paul's prayer request reveal about his understanding of God's role and His responsibility in evangelism?
 - Do you think this prayer life imitates the **Acts 2** church's understanding of their mission?
 - Do you think FBC's prayer life reflects our understanding of our mission?
 - If so, where is this evident?
 - If no, then what are we praying for?

Discuss this quote:

- *"Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscles of omnipotence." - Charles Spurgeon.*

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 & Colossians 4:

Check out the QR codes to learn more.



Precept Austin: Acts 2 & Colossians 4:

Check out the QR codes to learn more.

