



ACTS: DEVOTED TO GOD'S WORD

Acts 2:42

Week of June 4, 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, Would you rather color your hair neon, pierce your nose or get multiple tattoos?
 - OR, all of the above?

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**. There is a simple word contained in this verse that will drive our instruction. This word is **"devoted."** **Devoted** is defined as: *"to give all of something, especially your time, effort, or love, or yourself, to something you believe."* [Cambridge Definition] As we will discover, **"devoted"** is a summary of the early church as they "continued steadfastly," or as they constantly and continually did what the Holy Spirit led them to do. **This week** we will focus on how the early church was devoted to the Apostle's teaching, or the teaching of God's Word. **This lesson will be important for us as we learn we need to be more than a casual student of God's Word.**

Have someone in your group read **Acts 2:42** aloud.

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 4 main things. **What were they?**

- Do we see that the church today is still devoted to these things?
- In what ways do we see that the church is still devoted to these things?

Who were the Apostles? And why did the early church devote themselves to their teaching?

Have someone read **2 Timothy 3:16–17**. Based on this text, how does Paul describe **"Scripture,"** and what does he say it is profitable for?

True or False: Since Scripture is **"breathed out by God,"** does that make Scripture:

- **Inerrant:** [The Bible is without error] **T or F**
- **Inspired:** [God is the author of the Bible] **T or F**
- **Infallible:** [The Bible is incapable of error.] **T or F**
 - Do you agree with all of these statements **OR** disagree?

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?*

Do we **devote** ourselves to "the apostles' teaching" today?

- If yes, is there evidence of our devotion?
- If no, how can we be more intentional about devoting ourselves to Scripture?

One of the main ways our **devotion** shows, is that whatever is inside of us [internally] begins to show on the outside [externally].

- If we are devoted to God's Word, how does this show externally?

There are 3 characteristics that describe our devotion to God's Word. They are: study, obedience, and teaching. All of these characteristics require something of us.

- Which of these 3 do we do well & which of these 3 do we struggle with? Why?

Have someone in your group read **Acts 17:10–14** aloud.

- In regard to Scripture, what good qualities can we see in the Thessalonians?
- How can the church today imitate these qualities? **Is this easy or difficult?**
- In **vs 12**, what happened to those who studied the Word?
- But, in **vs. 13–14**, we also see another reaction to the Word. What was it?
 - Who left? Who stayed? For those who stayed, what was their role?
 - How does the church today react when there's a little bit of "trouble" in sharing the Word?

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.

