

## Week 4—Acts 2:42-47

Begin each day of your study by asking the LORD to speak to you through His Word.

### Day 1

1. Read Acts 2:42-47. What happens when the Holy Spirit works in these first believers individually and collectively? What happens externally in their community (v. 47)?

2. What surprises you about their response? How is this similar and different from the church today?

3. Why might v. 42 be especially important for both the theology and practice of the church still today?

### Day 2

1. Read Acts 2:42. Starting today we are going to break down the four elements of worship mentioned in v. 42. Before looking at the note below, what is your understanding of what is meant by “the apostles’ teaching”?

**Apostle’s Teaching**—Refers to everything the apostles learned from Jesus (see Matt 28:20) as well as the facts and meaning of His death, burial, resurrection and ascension (or the “gospel”). As the apostles’ lived out their commission, they explained the implications of the gospel for individuals and churches and these teachings/letters were later collected and became what we now know as the New Testament.

2. Why is it important to devote ourselves to this *together* according to the following verses?

Romans 12:3-8—

Ephesians 4:1-16—

2 Timothy 3:16-17—

3. Are you devoted to the apostles' teaching both as an individual and as part of a local church? Why or why not?

### Day 3

1. Read Acts 2:42. What is your understanding of the word *fellowship*? Read the box below and answer how that may be different than how we tend to think of it today.

**Fellowship**—From the Greek word *koinonia*, fellowship had a rich meaning: sharing, participation, communion, partnership. It implied a degree of community, intimacy, and *interdependence*. It always centered around the calling every believer has to *partner* with other believers in the commission of being Christ's "witnesses" in this world

2. Why is it so crucial for us to nurture *fellowship* according to the following verses?

1 Corinthians 12:12-26—

Philippians 2:1-11—

Hebrews 10:23-25—

3. Why is it harder for us today to practice true fellowship in the American church? What are some specific ways you can begin to *partner* with other Christians and devote yourself to fellowship?

**Temple Courts**—It's important to remember that the earliest believers were still devout Jews, not starters of a new religion. The temple was the place where Jews gathered for worship, prayer, and teaching, so the early believers met there as well. No doubt they hoped and prayed that others would be added to their number and receive Jesus as Messiah as the apostle's taught and they met.

4. What does the early church's pattern of meeting in the "temple courts" and "homes" (v. 46) teach us about fellowship? Are you practicing this? Why or why not?

#### Day 4

1. Read Acts 2:42. What is meant by "the breaking of bread?" Is what's being described in v. 46 different than what is being described in v. 42? Why or why not in your opinion?

2. Why is the Lord's Supper important according to the following verses?

Luke 22:14-23—

1 Corinthians 10:16-17—

1 Corinthians 11:23-26—

3. How can you keep Communion/The Lord's Supper from becoming an empty ritual? Why is it important we celebrate it *together*?

#### Day 5

1. Read Acts 2:42. This is the second time *prayer* is mentioned as a practice of the early believers (see also 1:14). Why did they consider prayer so important? Is this the same for us today? Why or why not?

2. What do the following verses say about the purpose and practice of prayer?

Matthew 6:5-14—

Matthew 26:41—

Mark 11:25—

Romans 8:26-27—

Philippians 4:6-7

3. Why should we devote ourselves to prayer with *other* believers and not just individually? Is this easy or hard for you?

### *Conclusion*

1. What most stood out to you as you studied Acts 2:42-47 this week? *Why* do you think this was the case?

2. What is the Holy Spirit prompting you to *do* as a result of this? Be prepared to share with your group!