

Acts 2 Part 2



The Fruit of Devotion

Life Group Leaders should read through this material and choose a few questions to talk over in your group. Your group will not have time to cover all the material. The guide is for personal study and for choosing a few questions that you and your life group would like to discuss.

Read Aloud Acts 2:42-47

Before we break down this section of Scripture, describe what is happening in your own words. (Being able to summarize Scripture is a great way to see if we are comprehending what we have just read.)

Acts 2:42

This section of Scripture gives us great insight into the priorities of the early church:

1. Apostles' Teaching, 2. Fellowship, 3. Communion and 4. Prayer.

1 Apostles' Teaching

The church should be a place where His Word is proclaimed and explained. The Apostles taught the Word of God and the message they had just received from Jesus Christ. They did not rely on the message of the world to attract sinners but rather devoted themselves to Scripture which is able to save sinners through the power and love of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

? **Question: Like the first church, we should also crave and hold fast to the Word of God. Read the following Scriptures, what sticks out to you about the Word of God?**

1 Peter 2:1-2 Romans 12:1-2 1 Timothy 4:11-16 1 Timothy 4:6 1 Timothy 3:16

! Knowledge cannot save us, but a lack of knowledge can lead to deception and destruction. We must be devoted to God's Word! Hosea 4:6

2 Fellowship


Those who were baptized continued meeting together. Persecution and hardship were heading their way, but they remained steadfast. Holding fast to faith in Christ is evidence and fruit of the genuine believer—not circumstantial faith. As we continue in Christ, we continue walking in fellowship with other disciples.

John 15:1-8 Matthew 13:3-9 (sower) 1 John 2:19

The term “*fellowship*” is not often used in Scripture, but rather what is sometimes called the “*one anothers*” can be referenced as fellowship:

Romans 12:10, 12:16, 13:8, 14:19, 15:5 Galatians 5:13 Ephesians 4:2, 4:25, 4:32
Philippians 2:3 Colossians 3:9, 13 Thessalonians 4:9, 18 Hebrews 3:13 1 Peter 1:22

! The term “*fellowship*” in the greek is **kōinōnia**. In a very basic sense, this word means to share or partner. This means that fellowship is a two-way street. It is not about being a consumer but being a giver and taker in a relationship.

 **Question: Describe a current or past relationship in your life that truly pushed you to love Christ. What were these relationships like? How did they form?**

Breaking of Bread/Communion

This phrase included both common meals with one another, but also, and more specifically, communion. The early church made it a practice to celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. To meditate on His sacrifice and atoning blood. The Gospel of Jesus was at the center of the early church gatherings.

1 Corinthians 11:17-24

Communion brings unity to the church by:

1. Humility: There is a level playing field at the cross. We are all sinners and need of grace

1 Timothy 1:12-15

2. Repentance: Communion calls for self-examination and the confession of hidden or unrepentant sin. This brings a unified purpose, to walk in holiness.

2 Corinthians 7:1

3. Worship: Communion brings us to gratitude and thanksgiving for the sacrificial payment of Jesus Christ. We are forgiven, our names our written in the book of life!

Luke 10:17-20


 **Question: What element of unity sticks out to you through communion?**

Prayer

The early church was devoted to prayer. They knew their need for God, and they clung to the promises Jesus gave of the power of prayer. John 14:13-14, John 15:1-8

Read the following Scripture passages about prayer:

Luke 18:1-8 Ephesians 6:10-20 Romans 12:9-13 Colossians 4:2-4 James 5:16-18

 **Question: What sticks out to you about prayer in these Scriptures?**

Acts 2:43-47

This section of Scripture gives us great insight into the fruit of the early church. Look at these related scriptures regarding some of the fruit that was produced during the formation of the early church.

1. Awe/Fear of God



Question: What does it mean to fear God from the following Scripture? What does the fear of God produce? If it is unclear, read the surrounding context.

Leviticus 25:36 Deuteronomy 13:4 Joshua 5:19-24 Job 1:1 Psalm 19:9
Proverbs 9:10 Proverbs 1:7 Exodus 18:21 Matthew 10:28 Acts 9:31 Ephesians 5:21

2. Unity - Ephesians 4:1-7

3. Sacrificial Giving - Philippians 2:1-11

4. Corporate Gatherings & Small Fellowship - Colossians 4:13 & Hebrews 10:25

5. Encouraged Hearts - Colossians 2:1-3

6. Praising God - Ephesians 5:19-21

7. Evangelism - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21



Question: Is there a specific area of fruit that you feel like you excel in? Is there a specific area of fruit that you feel like you lack? How can our local church body grow in producing these areas of fruit?

Weekly Challenge

The early church was powerful and balanced! It is easy to be strong in one area and weak in another. As individuals, we will not be good at everything, possess every gift, or even be passionate about every area of ministry. However, as the Body of Christ, we can be gifted, equipped, and passionate about every good work together. What is an area of weakness you see at MBC? Is there a gift that you have that could help balance out our church to represent Christ well? This week ask two friends, 1 family member, and 1 spiritual leader in your life about what they see as your spiritual gift. Let God lead you to serving Him!

Memory Verse

Acts 9:31 ESV

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

