

Leaders: This week or next would be a great week to share a meal with your small group! You are encouraged to still get into some questions below, to produce conversation around your own group's growth and commitment to one another.

LEARN

Read Acts 2:42-47 together. What stand out in the passage and what was helpful and/or challenging from the sermon on Sunday?

What were the new Christians in Acts 2:42 devoted to? How is that instructive for us today? (Biblical preaching, loving partnership, hospitable community, persistent prayer. These same basic qualities need to be the core of any Christian's commitment to growth in community.)

What do we need to understand about the activities in v. 44-45, and what do we need to see about the *heart behind those activities*?

(The sharing was occasional, by need, voluntary, and didn't do away with private property. It was not forced and is not commanded for all churches everywhere. But the *heart* is to be there... a sacrificial generosity toward one another whenever a need arises, however we can help.)

PRACTICE

Verse 42 says the disciples "devoted themselves" and any experience of genuine, deep community in a church will require the same. What sorts of things may keep you from coming to small group and devoting yourself to the group?

(Leaders: Now may be the perfect time to have the important-but-uncomfortable conversation with your group about inconsistent attendance. But you need to be open to hear about areas of growth for the whole group in terms of depth and relational closeness that might be lacking, and so forth. Lean in, share, and listen.)

How is our group doing in devotion to prayer together? What can we do to increase the depth and length of time we pray during small group?

(Leaders: Do your best to make your own personal assessment of this before group, and be ready to share. You may even ask "What keeps us from reaching deep prayer together.")

We can confidently assert that these 3,000+ people did not know one another until they came to Christ and started meeting. How should that impact the way we think about a) Adding new folks to our church on an ongoing basis, and b) Our small group being open *and excited* to have new people join?

CHANGE

A compelling Christian community starts with a hunger for the Word of God. 2 part question:

1. Are you reading the Bible regularly (5+ times per week)?
2. What is the quality of your reading? Meaning, is it leading to things like genuine prayer and a deeper love for God?

As a group, how can you regularly help one another be in the Word and increase in depth of quality time in the Word? Pray together that God would produce desire and discipline in his Word.