

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of October 4

A SHARED, SPIRIT-FORMED COMMUNITY

Acts 2:42–47

MAIN POINT

Genuine faith must transition from individualized discipleship into a shared, Spirit-formed community for evangelism.

LOOK → UNDERSTAND → CONNECT → APPLY → PRAY

LOOK — What does God's Word say?

Read Acts 2:42–47 together.

1. What do you notice about the way the early believers lived together in Acts 2:42–47?

Leader follow-up:

- What did they devote themselves to, share with one another, and do together?
- What stands out to you about the way their faith affected their relationships?

2. Verse 42 says that the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers. Why do you think Luke emphasizes these things?

Leader follow-up:

- Which of these seems easiest for you to prioritize?
- Which might be easiest to neglect?
- What does this tell us about what a healthy Christian community should be centered around?

Leader Note: The community in Acts 2 was not simply a group of individuals who happened to believe the same things. Their shared faith in Christ produced a shared life together.

UNDERSTAND — What does it mean?
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3. Acts 2:44–45 says that the believers were together and shared their possessions with those who had needs. What does this teach us about Christian community and caring for one another?

Leader follow-up:

- Why do you think genuine Christian community naturally leads toward generosity?
- What might it look like to care for someone's needs without treating them as a burden?
- What makes sharing our resources with others difficult?

Leader Note: The goal is not simply to imitate every detail of the early church. The passage demonstrates a willingness to hold our possessions loosely and use what God has given us for the good of His people.

4. What do you think would be missing from our Christian lives if we tried to follow Jesus entirely on our own?

Leader follow-up:

- What does God intend other believers to contribute to our spiritual growth?
- How can Christian community help us when we are struggling, discouraged, or spiritually weak?
- What can we contribute to the spiritual lives of others?

Leader Note: Individual discipleship is important, but the New Testament picture of following Christ is never merely individual. God forms His people into a community where believers teach, encourage, serve, pray for, and care for one another.

CONNECT — How does it connect to our lives?
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5. What keeps us from moving beyond attending church together to actually sharing life together?

Leader follow-up:

- How can busyness, family schedules, privacy, or independence get in the way?
- What is the difference between being around people and being genuinely known by them?
- What would deeper community require from us?

6. Acts 2:46 says the believers were "day by day" together, including sharing meals in their homes. What might this teach us about the importance of ordinary, everyday connection?

Leader follow-up:

- Why might meals and ordinary time together be important for building relationships?
- Do we sometimes make hospitality more complicated than it needs to be?
- What are some simple ways we could spend time with other believers outside of church programs?

Leader Note: Biblical community wasn't limited to formal gatherings. The believers shared ordinary life together. The point isn't to create another program, but to become more willing to invite others into the normal rhythms of our lives.

APPLY — What will we do with it?

7. What is one practical way you could become more involved in the life of someone else in this church?

Leader follow-up:

- Is there someone you could encourage, invite to a meal, check on, or help practically?
- What is one small step you could take this week?
- What might keep you from following through?

8. Elmer Surigao asks: "We often think our house must be perfectly clean before we can host guests. What is one normal, messy part of your week—like eating leftovers or doing yard work—where you could invite someone over to just be with you?"

Leader follow-up:

- What makes hospitality feel intimidating?
- How could we make hospitality simpler and more ordinary?
- Who is someone you could invite into your normal life this week?

9. Elmer Surigao asks: "We are taught to be self-reliant and fix our own problems. Why might it be hard to ask someone in this church for help, or to let them borrow your things?"

Leader follow-up:

- What makes asking for help uncomfortable?
- Do you tend to see needing help as weakness or as an opportunity for Christian community?
- What might keep us from allowing other believers to care for us?

10. How could deeper Christian community help us reach people who do not yet know Christ?

Leader follow-up:

- What might an unbelieving friend or neighbor notice about a genuinely loving Christian community?
- How could sharing meals, resources, and ordinary life create opportunities for gospel conversations?
- What does Acts 2:47 tell us about the relationship between the community's life together and evangelism?

Leader Note: The progression of the sermon is important: Root → Release → Reach. The church is *rooted* in Christ, *releases* its resources to care for one another, and *reaches* people through genuine connection. Community is not an end in itself; God uses the shared life of His people as a witness to the gospel.

PRAY — How should we pray about it?
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Share briefly:

- Where do you need to become more known by others?
- Where do you need to become more willing to invest in the lives of others?
- Who is one person you could invite more deeply into your ordinary life?
- Who is someone outside the church you could begin building a relationship with?

Pray for one another:

Ask God to help us become a church community that is deeply rooted in Christ, generous with what He has given us, willing to give and receive care, and intentional about building relationships through which others can encounter the gospel.

Pray also for other requests, needs, and praises mentioned by group members.