



Acts 2:42 Small Group Study Guide

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

Week of 10/19/14 – Harmony and Unity

Food and Fellowship:

Take time to enjoy some food and fellowship together, afterwards move the discussion to where you can all sit together.

****Upper Room Gatherings**** Take opportunity to get to know one another. Each person should be given opportunity to share a little bit about themselves.

Prayer:

Take a few minutes to share prayer requests individually. As each person shares, give opportunity for someone in the group to commit to pray for the requests that were just shared. After all of the prayer requests have been shared, take a few minutes to pray over the requests. One person should begin praying with a person designated to close after everyone who desires to pray out loud has prayed. One person can pray for all of the requests also...the goal is to feel comfortable sharing and have opportunity to open up with prayer.

Reflect:

Take a few minutes to reflect on the Sermon from the most recent Sunday.

- What sticks out in your mind?
- What principle/principles did you glean?
- How do you plan to apply some of the principles personally from the sermon? Please share.

Looking In:

Romans 12:16-18

¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 15:5-7

⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Ephesians 4:1-6

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Discussion Questions:

1. The early church was described as being together, (Greek *homothumadon*) a word that means to “rush along in unison.” Describe some of the characteristics of the early church and how this concept was lived out in daily life. How does this principle influence how we live as the church today?
2. How is the church similar to a symphony? Who is the One that is supposed to direct the orchestra of the church? What happens when people in the church decide to play their own song?
3. Why is harmony and unity so important to the life of the church? Who gives it? What are the consequences when disharmony and disunity are present? How does that affect the atmosphere of the church?
4. How can we allow dramatic differences to exist in the church (ie. ethnic/philosophical/political etc) and yet remain harmonious and united? How does Christ’s acceptance of us influence how we accept others?
5. What steps can we practically take as a church to guard against disunity and disharmony? What virtues provide the perfect environment for harmony to flourish? Who is our ultimate example of unity in dramatic diversity (Hint: God).

******* We are one week away from the end of the “One Another” series.*******

If you are an URG, begin to consider if you would like to continue meeting with your group, we will have some ideas following the end of the series. Also consider how the URG experience has impacted you. Would you do it again? Would you recommend it to others? How can we make it better?

If you are a Life Group, begin to consider this question: How has the use of the sermon studies, in conjunction with the sermon series, impacted your life group? What can we do to make it better? Would you recommend it to others?

Next week, we will be sending out an anonymous survey via email with similar questions. We ask that all who receive the email please take the time to fill it out. Thanks in advance.

In preparation for next Sunday’s message: Forgive One Another

Ephesians 4:25-32

²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief

no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Close:

Take a moment to close with prayer (please pray for the other life groups and the Upper Room Gatherings that are meeting)