



Sermon Notes

Topic: New Freedom & New Life

Bible Passage: Acts 2:42-47

Preacher: Ps Sam Toms

Date: 21 June 2026

Study Guide Overview

The community described in Acts 2:42–47 was alive with awe, generosity, unity, joyful fellowship and mission. It is the kind of church community most of us would love to experience. However, this community was not created by copying certain activities or manufacturing the appearance of togetherness. Emperor Julian discovered this when he tried to imitate the generosity of Christians through government programs. He could reproduce some of their actions, but he could not manufacture the love and devotion that produced them.

The key to the Acts 2 community is found in verse 42: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Their remarkable community was the fruit of being devoted to the right things.

Devotion is more than emotion, inspiration or occasional enthusiasm. Devotion is the deliberate and sustained giving of ourselves to what matters most until it shapes the way we live. It involves choice, priority, consistency and cost.

The early believers were devoted to four essential ingredients:

1. **The apostles’ teaching** — allowing God’s truth to continually reshape their thinking and lives.
2. **Fellowship** — opening their homes and lives to one another, even when relationships and hospitality were messy.
3. **The breaking of bread** — remembering Jesus’ death and resurrection and keeping him central to the whole of life.
4. **Prayer** — recognising their dependence upon God and inviting him into every part of their lives.

Like the ingredients in a cake, these practices belong together. Flour alone does not make a cake, and focusing on only one aspect of Christian life will not produce a healthy community.

We cannot manufacture the fruit of Acts 2, but we can cultivate its roots. As individuals, families and life groups, we can choose patterns and habits that prioritise teaching, fellowship, Jesus and prayer. When we devote ourselves to the right things, God forms us into an authentic, generous and life-giving community.



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Small Group Questions/Discussions

Devotion: Cultivating an Acts 2 Community | **Key passage:** Acts 2:42-47

Main idea: We cannot manufacture the fruit of a healthy Christian community, but we can devote ourselves to the practices through which God forms one.

Opening Question: What is something you are devoted to without even thinking about it?

Consider what regularly receives your time, attention, energy or money.

Read: Read Acts 2:42-47 together | As the passage is read, notice:

- ☒ What the believers devoted themselves to. ☒ What began to develop within their community.
- ☒ What effect their community had upon the people around them.

The Root and the Fruit | Acts 2:42 describes the **roots**:

- ☒ The apostles' teaching ☒ Fellowship ☒ The breaking of bread ☒ Prayer

Acts 2:43-47 describes the **fruit**:

- ☒ Awe ☒ Generosity ☒ Unity ☒ Joy ☒ Sincere relationships ☒ Worship ☒ Favour with others ☒ People being saved

The early church did not simply attempt to appear generous, united and joyful. These qualities grew from a people who were devoted to Jesus and to the right spiritual practices.

Discussion

1. Understanding devotion

Devotion is the deliberate and sustained giving of yourself to what matters most until it shapes the way you live.

- ☒ How is devotion different from emotion, enthusiasm or good intentions?
- ☒ What repeated patterns in your life reveal what you are currently devoted to?
- ☒ Why does true devotion eventually involve inconvenience or cost?

2. Devoted to teaching

The early believers continually placed themselves in environments where they could learn, grow and have their thinking reshaped.

- ☒ What can stop us from remaining teachable?
- ☒ Are you currently approaching Scripture with hunger, apathy or familiarity?
- ☒ What is one practical way you could become more devoted to learning God's Word?

Read Jeremiah 29:13.

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”



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3. Devoted to fellowship

Biblical fellowship is more than being friendly at church. It involves sharing our homes, possessions, struggles, meals and lives.

- ☒ Why can genuine fellowship feel messy or inconvenient?
- ☒ What fears or forms of pride can prevent us from practising hospitality?
- ☒ How can we make room for deeper and more honest relationships?

Discuss the statement: Our homes do not need to be impressive; they need to be open.

4. Devoted to the breaking of bread

The breaking of bread kept the death and resurrection of Jesus central to the life of the community.

- ☒ What competes with Jesus for the central place in our lives and homes?
- ☒ How can Jesus become more than a “Sunday subject”?
- ☒ What could it look like to keep Jesus central around your family table or during ordinary conversations?

5. Devoted to prayer

Prayer is an expression of dependence upon God. Pride says, “I can manage this.” Prayer says, “Jesus, I need you.”

- ☒ What commonly pushes prayer to the edges of your life?
- ☒ Do you tend to pray before acting or only after things go wrong?
- ☒ What ordinary part of your life needs to be turned into a spiritual reality through prayer?

The Cake Question

The four practices of Acts 2:42 are like essential ingredients in a cake. They are designed to work together.

- ☒ Which ingredient is currently strongest in your life?
- ☒ Which ingredient is missing or neglected?
- ☒ As a life group, are we using the whole recipe, or are we serving people a mound of flour?

Practical Response | Choose one small, repeatable habit for this week:

Teaching: Read and reflect on a passage of Scripture each day.

Fellowship: Share a meal, invite someone into your home or have an honest conversation.

Jesus at the centre: Talk about what Jesus is teaching you during a family meal or conversation.

Prayer: Schedule a regular time to pray, or pause to pray before making decisions.

Complete this sentence: This week I will cultivate devotion by...

Prayer | Pray that God would make your life group:

- ☒ Hungry for his Word
- ☒ Honest and open in fellowship
- ☒ Centred upon Jesus
- ☒ Dependent upon him in prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to produce the fruit that cannot be manufactured: awe, generosity, unity, joy, sincere love and a natural witness to others.