



## Life Group Notes: 'Devoted Living'

Tuesday 2nd January 2018

### READ ACTS 2: 42-47

*42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

### INTRODUCTION:

One of the greatest characteristics of a healthy growing church is when the people that represent it are first of all devoted to God, the churches' teaching and a genuine devotion to be committed to regular fellowship and prayer together. In summary a healthy church should be a healthy family.

Following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost earlier in Acts 2, we pick up here on an exciting part of history where the church of Jesus Christ becomes newly established growing daily and clearly birthed out of lives that were truly devoted to God and each other. This week we look at the importance of being devoted to Christ and his church.

### QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE:

1. Acts 2:42 says that the ones who believed and accepted Jesus 'devoted themselves' to the local church. Discuss the importance of devoting yourself to a local church and it's teaching. Discuss the biblical importance of accountability to its leadership and how that helps you establish a firm and healthy relationship with God and other believers.

2. Regular fellowship was evidently a vital ingredient for the church to sustain and grow effectively (see Acts 2:47). Therefore, in a modern world of social media, sermon podcasts and YouTube – discuss the importance of face-to-face fellowship and the need to engage with one another. Acts 2:44 says they '**were together**' and Acts 2:46 says that '**everyday they continued to meet together**'.

*(Explore: Hebrews 10: 23-25 to see the power of encouraging one another)*

3. Whilst we understand that a personal relationship with Jesus involves private prayer (see Matthew 6:6), we also see the importance of devoting ourselves to regular corporate prayer in Acts 2:42. Discuss the importance of meeting to pray together regularly and the power and fruit of unified intercession?

*(Explore: Matthew 18:19-20, Acts 12:5, 1 Timothy 2: 1-2)*

4. Acts 2:43 says they were filled with 'awe' at the many signs and wonders performed by the Apostles. Discuss the importance for retaining a sense of 'awe' in church today and the necessity to believe for signs and wonders in our meetings and daily lives. Discuss any testimonies of signs, wonders or miracles you have seen.

*(Explore: Mark 16: 17-20)*

## CLOSING REFLECTION & PRAYER

Communion was something Jesus asked us to do to remember his sacrifice for us on the cross (Luke 22: 19-20). Whilst we encourage this in the corporate gathering of worship in our Sunday services, we see here in Acts 2 that the early church broke bread together in their homes as well as the Temple. Take this opportunity to break bread together and conclude with a time of renewed devotion to Jesus in response to his sacrificial devotion to us.

### Useful reference scriptures to further explore:

**Read 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27** and look at the biblical description of the church as a body. Understand that you have a part to play and that being actively present or involved is essential to the life of a healthy growing church. As we move into 2018 - let's seek to be truly devoted to God and the church we serve!