



Week 6

Series: Glorify God. Proclaim Christ. Make Disciples.

Sermon Title: The Early Church in Community

Sermon Text: Acts 2:42-47

Group Week of: February 4, 2024

Sermon Date: February 11, 2024

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	Apostolic Foundation – Eph 2:19-21
Day 2	Signs and Wonders – Acts 3:1-10
Day 3	The Temple Courts Pt 1– Acts 4:1-22
Day 4	The Temple Courts Pt 2 – Acts 5:12-42
Day 5	Supporting the Needy – Rom 15:23-29

The Text: Acts 2:42-47

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Observe everything.** Use pens and highlighters to mark the text. Come up with your own system of symbols, underlines, arrows, highlights, and notes, that will *help you understand and apply*. Only do what is helpful.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.

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

Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the main lesson(s) you see Luke (the Holy Spirit) teaching to Theophilus (us) through this text?
- 2) How are you to learn from a prescriptive text (a verse that tells you how to live)?
- 3) How are you to learn from a descriptive text (a verse that tells you what happened)?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) If you had to explain why being part of a small group (or at West Side, a “life group”) is a good idea, what would you say?

- 2) The early church is described as being devoted to teaching, fellowship, and prayer. What is excellent...
 - a. Teaching?

 - b. Fellowship?

 - c. Prayer?

- 3) Discuss with your life group about the current state of “teaching, fellowship, and prayer.” Carefully consider your health in all three aspects. Should you see room for improvement (and there is always room for improvement), carefully provide loving and constructive feedback on anything you see that could be improved.

- 4) Teaching, fellowship, and prayer done properly will produce excellent disciples of Jesus Christ. What can you do to engage more in the process of discipleship through those three activities?

- 5) Remarkably, the early church was eager to sell their personal property to meet the needs of their fellow believers. Sometimes, people will use this to say that Christianity supports communism (no personal property). However, we see that possessing property is essential to Christian love because it makes it a choice to sell and give away things to brothers and sisters in need. Thus, love becomes a choice instead of an obligation. With this in mind, discuss the responsibility we have towards other Christians in need in the church. To what extent should we be willing to go to meet their needs? Secondly, discuss what it means to be “in need” in the church and what “needs” we share a responsibility to meet.

- 6) The summary ends with the news that someone new was coming to faith in Jesus Christ every day. Why is this happening in the early church? Should we expect it today as well?

- 7) Their fellowship was characterized by gladness, sincerity, and the praising of God. What do you need to do so that you are ready to attend your life group with that kind of heart each week?