KEY SCRIPTURE Acts 2:41-47 (NLT)

41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.

45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—

47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

START TALKING

On Sunday we celebrated baptism.

What were your thoughts while you were watching people of all ages getting baptized?

We also celebrated Communion.

What do you think about during Communion?

START DISCUSSING

Read Acts 2:41-47

THE PRIORITIES OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Scripture - v. 42 Community - v. 42, 44, 46 Prayer - v. 42 Praise and Worship - v. 47 Outreach - v. 47 Growth

For each priority, what do you see in the verses to describe how they lived out the priority?
How would it have been different then today?

In what ways would it have been the same?

Scripture - v. 42

Community - v. 42, 44, 46

Prayer - v. 42

Praise and Worship - v. 47

Outreach - v. 47

Growth

Obviously, Luke did not describe everything about the early church in this one section of Scripture. Are there things you can think of from other NT passages that give additional descriptions of the first century church?

In what ways do these priorities and practices seem to characterize your church experience? What might account for the differences between your experiences and the early church characteristics?