

Life Group Guide

Acts 2:42-47 | "Transformed Together"

OVERVIEW

This passage gives us a window into the earliest days of the church following Pentecost. After about 3,000 people came to faith through Peter's preaching, a brand new community was formed. Luke's account shows us what God does when he saves people: he does not simply transform individuals in isolation. He transforms them into a community devoted to him and to one another. This guide is designed to help your group reflect on that design and consider what it means for your own life together.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- When Jesus saves people, he transforms them into a church devoted to God and to one another -- that is his design, not an afterthought.
- The early believers devoted themselves consistently and persistently to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. Devotion is not a one-time event but a sustained pattern of life.
- Their life together was marked by genuine generosity. Transformed hearts produce selfless, others-aware people who notice needs and act on them.
- The church's life together became a witness to the watching world. The way they lived drew people toward the gospel before a single word was spoken.
- Growth came from the Lord. Programs, buildings, and technology serve the ministry, but only God can transform a human heart and add to his church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening

1. When you first became a Christian, or when your faith became genuinely personal, what was your appetite for God's word and for being around other believers like? How does that compare to where you are today?
2. What is one word you would use to describe your current experience of Christian community? Share briefly why you chose that word.

Digging into the Text

3. Acts 2:42 describes the early believers as devoted -- a word that carries the idea of persevering consistently in an activity. In practical terms, what does devoted look like for a follower of Jesus today? What does it not look like?
4. The sermon pointed out that the early church devoted themselves to the apostles'

teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer -- together, not in isolation. Why do you think community is so essential to each of those four practices? What is lost when we try to pursue them alone?

5. Verses 44 and 45 describe believers selling possessions and distributing to those in need. The sermon was clear this was not a political or economic system -- it was radical generosity flowing from transformed hearts. What is the difference between giving out of obligation or social pressure and giving out of genuine transformation? How can you tell which one is driving you?
6. Verse 47 says the church had favor with all people, and that the Lord added to their number day by day. In what ways does the internal life of a church community become an external witness? Can you think of a time when you were drawn toward something because of the way a group of people lived together?

Getting Personal

7. The sermon raised a straightforward question: what does your calendar reveal about your devotion? Without oversharing, are there areas where your schedule reflects a lower priority on gathering, God's word, or community than you would like?
8. Is there someone in your life group or in this church right now who has a need you are aware of but have not yet acted on? What is one concrete step you could take this week?
9. The pastor said, "There is no such thing as lone star Christianity." Have you ever tried to live out your faith largely on your own? What was that season like, and what did you learn from it?
10. For those who may be newer to the church or still on the outside looking in: what has drawn you toward this community, or what has held you back from going deeper? What would it take for you to take one more step?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to act on before your group meets again.

- Examine your calendar. Set aside fifteen minutes this week to look honestly at how your time is allocated. Identify one specific change you could make to give God's word, prayer, or community a more consistent place in your week.
- Share a meal. Reach out to someone from your life group or from the broader church and invite them to share a meal with you. Keep it simple. The goal is presence, not a perfect dinner.
- Notice a need and meet it. Pay attention this week to the people around you -- in your group, your neighborhood, or your workplace. When you identify a specific need, do not just pray about it. Take a concrete step to meet it.

- Pray for someone by name. Write down the name of one person in your life who does not yet know Jesus. Commit to praying for them daily this week and ask God to open a door for a conversation.
- Take a next step toward membership. If you have been attending but have not yet taken a step toward deeper commitment, consider signing up for Membership Matters or reaching out to someone on the church staff with your questions.

CLOSING PRAYER PROMPTS

Close your time together by praying over one or more of the following:

- Gratitude for the specific ways God has transformed individual lives represented in your group
- Faithfulness to the ordinary, consistent practices of devotion -- the word, prayer, fellowship, and remembering Jesus

- Generosity of heart toward those inside and outside the church
- That the Lord would add to your number those who are being saved