

Small Group Guide: The Power of Christian Community

Key Takeaways:

1. The early church was devoted to four key elements: apostles' teaching (God's Word), fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.
2. True Christian community goes beyond superficial interactions and reflects God's glory to the world.
3. Our togetherness as believers becomes our witness to the power of the gospel.
4. Devotion to these core practices led to awe, generosity, and daily growth in the early church.

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor mentions the beauty of small community connections. How have you experienced the benefits of living in a close-knit community? What challenges come with it?
2. Reflect on Acts 2:42. Which of the four devotions (teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer) do you find easiest to practice? Which is most challenging for you?
3. The sermon emphasizes that Christian life was never meant to be lived in isolation. How has being part of a faith community impacted your spiritual growth?
4. The early church's devotion led to awe, generosity, and daily growth. In what ways have you seen these fruits manifested in our church community? Where do we need growth?
5. How can we as a small group better reflect the kind of community described in Acts 2:42-47?
6. The pastor mentions that our "togetherness becomes our witness." Can you share an example of how Christian unity has been a powerful testimony to non-believers?
7. What obstacles prevent us from experiencing the depth of fellowship described in the early church? How can we overcome these?

Practical Applications:

1. Commit to a daily practice of engaging with God's Word this week. Share with the group next time how it impacted you.
2. Identify one person in the church you don't know well. Make an effort to connect with them this week, perhaps over coffee or a meal.
3. As a group, brainstorm ways you can serve the broader community together, reflecting the generosity of the early church.
4. Set aside time each day this week for focused prayer, particularly for the needs of others in your church community.
5. At your next gathering, share a meal together and practice "breaking bread" with intentional conversations about your faith journeys.
6. Reflect on your personal devotions. Are you committed to the four elements mentioned? Choose one area to strengthen over the next month.
7. Look for opportunities in your daily life to explain to others how your faith community differs from other social groups, emphasizing the transformative power of the gospel.