



it starts with one

IT STARTS WITH ONE, PART 4: GROWING FURTHER FASTER

At the end of Acts 2, there was a sudden explosion of believers from a 120 to about 3,000—in one day! *Yet in this passage, we don't find any personal pronouns.* It's not about us as individuals—it's about the Body of Jesus called the Church working together. Let's discover how being a part of something bigger than yourself makes outliving your life more possible.

BIG IDEA: [Life is better connected—people grow further faster together.](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you devote yourself to daily? Anything that would pass for a *daily devotion*?
2. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Acts 2:41-47.*

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. 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. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 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—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.
Acts 2:41-47 (NLT)

3. List the things to which the early church was devoted. Why was each of these important?
4. What attitudes and actions marked the heartbeat of God's new community people?
5. If you were a first-century person who was not a follower of Jesus, how would you describe this strange group of people who were giving their stuff away to help each other and gathering for worship with such frequency?
6. One of our core values is *The church does not exist for us. We are the church and we exist for the world.* How does Acts 2:42-47 illustrate this beautifully?
7. Describe a time when you did not feel like going to worship, or serving in an area of ministry, or caring for another person—but you did so out of sheer devotion to God and others. What happened in your heart and life when you chose to act on devotion rather than feeling?
8. What is one area in which you sense God's calling to grow more devoted to Him and His people?
9. What is one worldly devotion that is standing in the way of your following Jesus fully, and what do you need to do to put this aside?

THINK ABOUT IT

Sharing is not just for kindergarten—it's a distinctive mark of Christian community. This week, make the decision to have more 'in common' with others by sharing what's yours.

MOVING FORWARD

God has created us for unity. And He is jealous to see us reach it. Jesus prayed in John 17:21 that all believers "may be one," just as He is one with the Father, and He went so far as to die so that we can be restored to unity with God and each other.

In today's culture, every person fends for him or herself. Relationships can be discarded or replaced with relative ease. People can live next to each other for years or work at the same job and be bitter and hostile enemies. Sadly, this same attitude can infect the church. People church hop and go from church to church to see what the church can do for them, not how they can be a part of a group of people bigger than themselves.

GOING DEEPER

1. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Ephesians 2:11-18.*

Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

Ephesians 2:11-18 (NLT)

2. Describe the kind of unity Jesus longs for people to experience (Ephesians 2:11-18) and how the early church was beginning to realize this dream.
3. Tell your group about a relationship in your life in which you have unresolved conflict with someone in one of the following areas:
 - In your family
 - In your workplace
 - In a social setting
 - In your church
4. What do you need to do to seek healing in this relationship? How can your small group pray for you in your efforts to find restoration and reconciliation in this relationship?
5. In Acts 2:44-47, how would you describe the spirit Jesus wants us to have toward those who are in material need?
6. What is one material thing you have in your life that incites unhealthy devotion in you and gets in the way of your being generous with others? What is one thing you can do to lessen the grip of this material item?
7. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Acts 2:46-47 and Acts 4:33.*

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—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.

Acts 2:46-47 (NLT)

The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all.

Acts 4:33 (NLT)

8. When the church is truly functioning as God intended, what impact does this have on those outside the community of faith? Give one example of how you have seen a life changed because of the example of a biblically functioning community.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

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Acts 2:42, 46-47

