

NEW LIFE ONE STUDIES



Study Guide

Message:

“United: A Community That Reflects Jesus.”

SCRIPTURE

Main Text:	Other Text:
<i>Acts 2:42-47</i>	<i>John 13:34-35; Ephesians 3:16-19</i>

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

*(This section focuses on understanding what the text means —
before jumping to what it means for us.)*

Read Acts 2:42

Main Idea:

A Spirit-filled church is devoted to God's Word together.

Commentary:

Right after thousands of people gave their lives to Jesus at Pentecost, Luke tells us the early believers “devoted themselves” to the apostles’ teaching. The church didn’t grow because people attended events — it grew because people rooted their lives in the truth of Jesus. God’s Word became their foundation.

The early church understood that if they were going to reflect Jesus to the world around them, they needed to actually know Him, follow His teaching, and live it out together. Devotion means consistency, commitment, and intentionality. It’s more than hearing sermons occasionally — it’s allowing God’s truth to shape our lives daily.

In a world full of opinions, trends, and constantly shifting ideas, believers are called to stay rooted in Christ. Spiritual maturity doesn’t happen accidentally. We grow when we consistently stay connected to God’s Word and allow the Holy Spirit to transform us from the inside out.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does devotion to God’s Word practically look like in everyday life?
2. Why is it dangerous to build our lives more on culture than on Scripture?
3. How does studying Scripture together strengthen community?

Takeaway:

A church that reflects Jesus is built on people who are deeply rooted in God’s Word and committed to living it out together.

Read Acts 2:44–45

Main Idea:

Spirit-filled community is marked by authentic love and generosity.

Commentary:

The early church wasn't just attending services together — they shared their lives together. Luke says they had “everything in common” and gave generously to anyone in need. This wasn't forced communism or religious pressure. It was the natural overflow of hearts transformed by Jesus.

The Gospel creates a new kind of family. The Holy Spirit breaks down barriers and unites people who otherwise would never belong together. Authentic Christian community goes beyond surface-level friendship. It means showing up for one another, carrying burdens together, meeting needs, and choosing unity over division.

Our culture often pushes independence, isolation, and self-focus. But Jesus designed His followers to thrive in community. Faith grows stronger when we walk closely with other believers. Isolation weakens us, but authentic fellowship strengthens and encourages us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think authentic community is so important to spiritual growth?
2. What barriers keep people from experiencing real Christian community?
3. How can generosity reflect the heart of Jesus to others?

Takeaway:

The church reflects Jesus best when believers live in genuine community marked by love, unity, and generosity.

Read Ephesians 4:3-6

Main Idea:

The Holy Spirit creates unity among believers.

Commentary:

Paul challenges believers to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Unity doesn’t mean everyone is identical — it means people with different backgrounds, personalities, and experiences are united together through Jesus.

The world constantly creates division through politics, opinions, status, race, and personal preference. But the Gospel tears down walls and creates one family in Christ. Our unity is not built on sameness — it’s built on the Holy Spirit living within us.

This kind of unity requires humility, forgiveness, grace, patience, and intentional love. A divided church reflects the culture around it, but a united church reflects Jesus to the world.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is maintaining unity sometimes difficult?
2. What practical things help build unity in the church?
3. How can Christian unity become a witness to people outside the church?

Takeaway:

The Holy Spirit unites believers into one body so the world can see Jesus through us.

Read Acts 2:46–47 & 1 Corinthians 11:26**Main Idea:**

Worship, Communion and Mission were central to the early church.

Commentary:

The early believers regularly gathered together for worship, prayer, meals,

and communion. Their faith wasn't something they visited once a week — it shaped their everyday lives. They continually remembered Jesus and kept the Gospel at the center of their community.

Communion reminded them of Christ's sacrifice and the grace they had received through His body and blood. Remembering Jesus fueled their worship, strengthened their unity, and kept them focused on their mission.

As they lived faithfully together, God moved powerfully among them. Luke tells us that the Lord added to their number daily. The church grew because people encountered a community that genuinely reflected Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is remembering Jesus central to the church?
2. How does worshipping together strengthen believers?
3. What does it look like to live on mission in everyday life?

Takeaway:

When Jesus stays at the center of a community, people experience hope, healing, and transformation.

Read Acts 4:13

Main Idea:

Ordinary people become powerful witnesses when they spend time with Jesus.

Commentary:

When the religious leaders saw the boldness of Peter and John, they were amazed because they recognized them as ordinary men with no special training. Yet something about them was undeniable: “they had been with Jesus.”

That's the power of a Spirit-filled life. God works through ordinary people who stay close to Him. The more believers spend time with Jesus, the more their lives begin to reflect His character, peace, love, and boldness.

The early church impacted the world not because they were impressive, but because they were empowered by the Holy Spirit and transformed by the presence of Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to live in a way that reflects Jesus?
2. How can ordinary believers become powerful witnesses today?
3. What are some ways people can recognize when someone has “been with Jesus”?

Takeaway:

The Holy Spirit transforms ordinary people into living testimonies of Jesus.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

The early church didn't just believe in Jesus individually — they lived together in a way that reflected Him to the world.

They devoted themselves to God's Word. They prayed together. They worshipped together. They cared for one another. They lived on mission together.

Reflect:

1. Are you trying to follow Jesus alone instead of in community?
2. What currently has your greatest devotion and attention?
3. How can you become more intentional about loving and serving others?
4. In what ways does your life reflect Jesus to the people around you?

5. Where is God inviting you to grow deeper in community?

Key Truth:

A Spirit-filled church reflects Jesus through unity, love, worship, generosity, and mission.

LIVING IT OUT

Let this passage move you from reflection to action this week:

Prioritize God's Word

Spend intentional time reading and applying Scripture daily.

Commit to community

Don't isolate yourself spiritually — intentionally build relationships with other believers.

Serve someone practically

Look for a need you can meet through generosity, encouragement, or support.

Gather consistently

Make worshipping with the church a priority, not just an occasional activity.

Remember Jesus daily

Reflect often on the Gospel and what Jesus has done for you through the cross.

Live as a witness

Ask yourself: Can people recognize Jesus by the way I live?

Join a Life Group

Take a step toward deeper biblical community and spiritual growth with others.

For LifeGroups:

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER

Talk through these together:

1. Where do you find it hardest to stay connected in Christian community?
2. How has community helped strengthen your faith?
3. What does devotion to God's Word look like in your current season?
4. How can this group better reflect Jesus together?

Share honestly and help each other grow in dependence on God.

PRAY TOGETHER

1. Thank God for creating His church
 2. Ask the Holy Spirit to unite believers in love
 3. Pray for deeper devotion to God's Word
 4. Pray for authentic community and stronger relationships
 5. Ask God to help your church reflect Jesus to the world
 6. Pray for people in your community who need hope, healing, and salvation
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Final Thoughts:

The church is more than a building or a weekly gathering.
It's a Spirit-filled community that reflects Jesus together.

When believers stay rooted in God's Word, love one another authentically, worship together, and live on mission, the world encounters the transforming power of Jesus through His people.

