

Week 7 Summer Series: In His Footsteps/ Unleashing God's Power Together

August 16, 2025

Opening Monologue

Welcome to Week 7 of our sermon series, “In His Footsteps.” If you’ve missed any sermons in this series, you can catch up through our AVC Connections on the APP, YouTube, Facebook, or Website.

This week’s sermon is titled “Unleashing God’s Power Together.” As you read through the Gospels, it becomes clear that after Jesus began His public ministry, He didn’t go it alone. Pause for a moment and consider this: the Savior of the world invited people to join Him in His mission. Let’s be honest—Jesus could have done it all by Himself. After all, He didn’t need humanity’s help to create the universe; He simply spoke, and it came into existence. He didn’t need us, yet He chose us anyway. As Scripture says, “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God with us’).” (Matthew 1:22)

Jesus came down from heaven to be with us, and He desires to partner with us to spread His love—the Good News—everywhere we go. He called the twelve disciples, and that movement grew to seventy-two, which then birthed the church. What an incredible truth! The church wasn’t a human invention or idea. Jesus Himself established it, declaring, “the gates of hell will not overcome it.” (Matthew 16:18) His purpose was clear: “His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known...” (Ephesians 3:10)

This Sunday, I’m excited to show you, straight from God’s Word, how His power is unleashed when we work together to do the work of Jesus Christ. Yes, together we are unleashing God’s power! But when individuals try to live out their faith alone, they often struggle and

flounder. So let's dive in this Sunday, be encouraged by Scripture, and discover how we can unleash God's power together.

Blessings in Christ!

Rev. Brad Standfest

To Listen to this week's Sermon: "Week 7 Sermon Series: In His Footsteps/ Unleashing God's Power Together" Go to the Sermon tab here in our APP or use the links to our website or YouTube Channel where you can also listen to our Sermons:

Web: <https://www.almontvineyardchurch.org/media>

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/@almontvineyardchurch>

Key Sermon Texts

Luke 10:1-2

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2010%3A1-2&version=NIV>

Matthew 16:18

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2016%3A18&version=NIV>

Ephesians 3:10a

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%203%3A10&version=NIV>

Matthew 14:17-21

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2014%3A17-21&version=NIV>

Acts 2:42-47

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%202%3A42-47%20&version=NIV>

Acts 4:32-35

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%204%3A32-35%20&version=NIV>

Commentary on Main Scriptures

Acts 2:42-47: Commitment to Core Practices and Unity Leads to Miracles and Growth

This passage describes the immediate aftermath of Peter's sermon at Pentecost, where about 3,000 people were baptized and added to the church. It paints a picture of a vibrant, devoted community whose collective practices fostered an environment where God's power was evident.

The full text (NIV) reads:

The Fellowship of the Believers

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- **Working Together and Commitment:** The believers "devoted themselves" (Greek: *proskartereō*, implying persistent dedication) to four key practices: (1) the apostles' teaching (learning doctrine and Jesus' life), (2) fellowship (*koinonia*, deep sharing of life), (3) breaking of bread (likely including the Lord's Supper and communal meals), and (4) prayer. This wasn't individualistic; it was corporate—they met "every day" in temple courts and homes, sharing meals with "glad and sincere hearts." Their unity extended to material possessions: they "had everything in common," selling property to meet needs, ensuring no one lacked. This reflects a radical commitment to one another, prioritizing the community's well-being over personal gain.

- **Unleashing God's Power:** As a direct result, "many wonders and signs" were performed by the apostles, filling everyone with awe. This echoes the miracles of Jesus and foreshadows ongoing supernatural activity in Acts (e.g., healings in Acts 3:1-10, 5:12-16). God's power also manifested in relational and numerical growth: they enjoyed "favor" from outsiders, and the Lord "added to their number daily

those who were being saved.” Here, unity and commitment created a fertile ground for the Holy Spirit’s work, leading to evangelism, provision, and expansion. It’s not that the believers manufactured power through effort alone; rather, their alignment with God’s will (as taught by the apostles) invited His intervention.

This passage sets a foundational model for the church in Acts, where collective devotion counters the isolation and division seen in the pre-Pentecost disciples (e.g., scattering after Jesus’ arrest). It shows that God’s power is “unleashed” not in solitude but in community, aligning with Jesus’ promise in Matthew 18:20: “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Acts 4:32-35: Unity in Heart and Mind Empowers Testimony and Provision

Building on the momentum from Acts 2, this passage occurs after Peter and John’s arrest and release (Acts 3-4), where the church prays boldly for continued signs and wonders (Acts 4:23-31). The place shakes with the Holy Spirit’s presence, reinforcing the theme of corporate prayer unleashing power.

The full text (NIV) reads:

The Believers Share Their Possessions

32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

•** Working Together and Commitment:** The emphasis here is on profound unity—“one in heart and mind” (Greek: *kardia kai psychē mia*, literally “one heart and soul”). This oneness translated into practical action: no possessive claims on belongings, but full sharing. Wealthier members periodically sold assets, entrusting proceeds to the apostles for distribution. This wasn’t forced communism but

voluntary, Spirit-led generosity, echoing the commitment in Acts 2 but highlighting its ongoing nature amid growing persecution.

•**Unleashing God’s Power:** The outcome is multifaceted. The apostles testified to Jesus’ resurrection “with great power,” implying bold preaching accompanied by miracles (as in Acts 4:29-30). God’s “grace was so powerfully at work in them all,” eliminating poverty within the community—“there were no needy persons among them.” This provision was a sign of divine favor, fulfilling Old Testament promises (e.g., Deuteronomy 15:4) and demonstrating the kingdom of God in action. The power here is both spiritual (empowered witness) and practical (economic equity), showing how unity amplifies the gospel’s impact.

In context, this follows a prayer for boldness (Acts 4:29-31), where the church’s collective cry leads to the Holy Spirit filling them afresh. It contrasts with later warnings against disunity, like Ananias and Sapphira’s deceit (Acts 5:1-11), which disrupts the community and invites judgment.

Broader Connections in the Book of Acts

These passages aren’t isolated; they exemplify a recurring pattern throughout Acts where church unity and commitment trigger God’s power:

- ** Prayer and Unity in Crisis:** In Acts 12:5-17, the church prays “earnestly” together for Peter’s release from prison, resulting in a miraculous escape.
 - ** Missionary Expansion:** Acts 13:1-3 shows the Antioch church worshiping and fasting together, leading to the Holy Spirit commissioning Paul and Barnabas, unleashing global outreach.
 - ** Resolving Conflicts:** Acts 15’s Jerusalem Council demonstrates commitment to unity amid disagreement (Jew-Gentile tensions), preserving the church’s mission and allowing continued growth.
 - ** Overall Theme:** Acts portrays the church as the Spirit-empowered continuation of Jesus’ ministry (Acts 1:1). When believers commit to shared life—despite diverse backgrounds (Jews, Gentiles, rich, poor)—God’s power breaks barriers, performs miracles (Acts 5:12, 19:11-12), and multiplies the church (Acts 6:7, 9:31).
- However, Acts also warns that disunity or lack of commitment hinders

this power, as seen in divisions (Acts 6:1) or hypocrisy (Acts 5). The statement thus serves as both encouragement and exhortation: modern churches can experience similar outpourings by emulating this model. (1)

Ephesians 3:10a

3:10 So that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

God's mystery was to build a church by uniting Jews and Gentiles as believers in Jesus Christ. Through this joining of believers in the church, the wisdom of God in its rich variety (God's "manifold wisdom") will be powerfully displayed. This wisdom will be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. Paul had written in 2:7 that "in the ages to come" Christ would "show the exceeding riches of His grace," hinting that God's purpose for the church is not limited by time or space. Even the angels would see the mystery unfold. (See also 1:21-22 and commentary there.)

That now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known: God is a being of infinite wisdom and glory, and He wants His creatures to know His great and manifold wisdom. One purpose in His great plan of the ages is to reveal this wisdom.

Understanding the character of God, we can say that this is not for a selfish or self-glorying motive, in the way we think of the proud man showing his brains and accomplishments to everyone. God does this for the glory of His creatures, because the glory of the creature is directly connected to the glory of the Creator.

This wisdom is manifold. The ancient Greek word *polupoikilos* has the ideas of intricacy, complexity, and great beauty. "That hath abundance of curious variety in it, such as is seen in the best pictures or textures." (Trapp)

It also must be made known. Dean Alford points out that the words might be made known are emphatic, strongly contrasting the idea of hidden in Ephesians 3:9.

Acts 2:42-47 THE BELIEVERS MEET TOGETHER / 2:42-47

Books about church planting, church health, and church growth are popular. Seminars about the church abound, with pastors and church boards eager to copy the techniques of a successful pastor or a fast-growing congregation. The following paragraph is a snapshot of the church a few days old. At Pentecost, after the coming of the Holy Spirit, the gathering of 120 exploded! In one day three thousand people came to faith in Christ. Now what do they do? This handful of verses provides a concise summary of what the early church was about; it provides a model that can be applied to the modern church, as well.

2:42 They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord's Supper and in prayer. This first report of the newborn church describes early church worship in the first decade of the church. These key elements have been called the four pillars of worship.

The three thousand new believers joined with the other believers. That is, they gathered with others of like mind and faith. "Devoted themselves" implies that they were regularly, continually persisting in the activities that follow. These activities form a practical map for not only the day-old church but for any church of any age.

The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold on me. Martin Luther*

The apostles' teaching was central to the content of what was to be studied. This was one reason that the replacement of Judas was so important—the apostles, the eyewitnesses of all Jesus had done (and earwitnesses of all he had said) would be the ones whom the Holy Spirit would remind of the crucial truths by which the church would be directed for centuries to come (John 14:17, 25–26; 16:13). From the beginning the early church was devoted to hearing, studying, and learning what the apostles had to teach.

There is nothing more unchristian than a solitary Christian. John Wesley

The fellowship (koinonia) means association and close relationships. This was more than just getting together, certainly more than just a religious meeting. It involved sharing goods, having meals together, and praying together.

Sharing in the Lord's Supper is "the breaking of bread." It refers to communion services that were celebrated in remembrance of Jesus and patterned after the Last Supper, which Jesus had eaten with his disciples before his death (Matthew 26:26-29). It likely included a regular meal shared together (Acts 2:46; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-25; Jude 1:12).

Prayer joins "sharing in the Lord's Supper" to explain the word "fellowship." These are at least two of the activities that were part of their regular meetings. Prayer has always been a mark of the believers' gatherings.

2:43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. The word "awe" is the Greek word phobos, literally translated "fear." This awe was partly caused by the many miraculous signs and wonders performed by the apostles. The "wonders" (terata) were fabulous miracles that evoked awe in those who saw them. The "miraculous signs" (semeia) were given to authenticate the message and the messenger, pointing observers toward a divine source of the miracle or a divine truth. Here these signs and wonders authenticated the apostles' message, identifying it as divine truth.

2:44-45 All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. A cognate word of "fellowship" appears here: "common" is the Greek word koina, from which comes the word koinonia (fellowship—2:42). Of the thousands of Jews who had made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Pentecost, many may have come as early as Passover (fifty days earlier). Now they were extending their stay in Jerusalem even longer to learn the basics of this newfound

Christian faith. Many would likely need financial or physical help from those who lived in Jerusalem to be able to remain this long. When a need arose, believers would sell their possessions to help the needy person. This practice of having everything in common was likely a response to that specific need. After the incidents of 5:1–11 (Ananias and Sapphira), there is no further mention of this particular practice of sharing everything, at least to the extent that it was practiced in the first few weeks of the church's life.

JOY IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

Wherever the gospel message went, it brought joy to those who believed. Follow this theme through the book of Acts (verses are quoted from NIV):

2:46 "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts."

5:41 "The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name."

8:8 "So there was great joy in that city [Philip in Samaria]."

8:39 "When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing."

11:23 "When he [Barnabas] arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts."

12:14 "When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

13:48 "[In Iconium] When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed."

13:52 "And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."

14:17 [Paul speaking in Lystra] "Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and

crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.”

15:3 “The church sent them [Paul & Barnabas] on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the brothers very glad.”

15:31 “The people read it [the letter from Jerusalem] and were glad for its encouraging message.”

16:34 “The [Philippian] jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.”

2:46-47 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. With these words this marvelous chapter comes to a close. Luke pointed out the everyday nature of the church’s meetings. Believers were gathering both in the temple (that is, in large groups, possibly for apostolic teaching) and in their homes (at least to celebrate the Lord’s Supper and, presumably, for fellowship, the sharing of needs, and prayer).

A common misconception about the first Christians (who were Jews) was that they rejected the Jewish religion. But these believers saw Jesus’ message and resurrection as the fulfillment of everything they knew and believed from the Old Testament. At first the Jewish believers did not separate from the rest of the Jewish community. They still went to the temple and synagogues for worship and instruction in the Scriptures. But their belief in Jesus created great friction with Jews who didn’t believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Thus, believing Jews were forced to meet in private homes for communion, prayer, and teaching about Christ. By the end of the first century, many of these Jewish believers were excommunicated from their synagogues.

FAMILY MATTERS

Recognizing other believers as brothers and sisters in the family of

God, the Christians in Jerusalem shared their possessions and money so that all could benefit from God's gifts. It is tempting—especially if we have accumulated wealth—to cut ourselves off from others, only taking care of our own interests. As part of God's spiritual family, however, it is our responsibility to help other believers, especially those who are suffering and who are poor, whenever possible. God's family works best when its members work together.

We also see here one of the repeated themes of the book of Acts: joy. These believers had glad and sincere hearts, praising God. The early church was marked by joy.

Two final statements reveal two significant results of the presence of this regularly meeting, money-sharing, miracle-working, Bible-studying, God-praising group:

1. The watching community was favorably impressed (the believers were enjoying the favor of all the people).
2. The watching community was coming to faith (and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved).

These are two measurable results of any church that is living like the early church. Note, too, that the credit for the salvation of souls is not given to Peter's preaching, the apostles' miracles, or the Spirit's manifestations—it was the Lord who was adding to their number daily.

ALIVE AND GROWING

The Jerusalem church experienced both qualitative and quantitative growth. Eager for this same result, many church leaders flock to church growth seminars. It would be wiser to concentrate on church health. Why? Because it is the nature of a healthy organism to grow. When a church body emphasizes strong worship and solid biblical teaching in an atmosphere of true fellowship mixed with consistent evangelism, it will be healthy. And a healthy Christian community will attract people to Christ. What are you doing to make your church a healthy place that will draw others to Christ?

Acts 4:32-35 THE BELIEVERS SHARED THEIR POSSESSIONS / 4:32-35

The final verses of chapter 4 provide a glimpse into the inner workings of the early church. The first-century Christians enjoyed a sense of closeness and unity that caused the world to sit up and take notice. “Behold how they love one another!” was the startled response, as those outside the church watched believers care for one another and share with one another in extravagant ways. It’s one thing to talk of loving others; it’s quite another to sell one’s valuable possessions and give the proceeds to those less fortunate. Yet that kind of generosity was common in the early church. And that kind of selflessness is the essence of true fellowship. Fellowship in its purest form invites sharing.

4:32 All the believers were of one heart and mind, and they felt that what they owned was not their own; they shared everything they had. In summarizing the daily activities of the early church, Luke noted the believers’ unselfishness. Surely the church’s spiritual unity (all the believers were of one heart and mind) prompted this material generosity. No one was required to contribute to the needs of others; this “communal purse” was voluntary. Yet the believers willingly shared everything they had, not holding tightly to possessions, for they felt that what they owned was not their own.

The early church considered itself to be the “righteous remnant” of Israel, spoken of so often in the prophets. Isaiah wrote, “Once more a remnant of the house of Judah will take root below and bear fruit above. For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this” (Isaiah 37:31–32 NIV). See also Jeremiah 6:9; 31:7; Micah 7:18. These people were Jewish Christians, so they had learned the Scriptures. They may have desired to follow God’s law as recorded in Deuteronomy 15:4, “There should be no poor among you” (NLT).

Differences of opinion are inevitable among human personalities and can actually be helpful if handled well. But spiritual unity is essential—loyalty, commitment, and love for God and his Word. Without spiritual unity, the church could not survive. Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to urge the church in Corinth toward greater unity.

The early church was able to share possessions and property as a

result of the unity brought by the Holy Spirit working in and through the believers' lives. This way of living is different from communism because the sharing was voluntary, didn't involve all private property but only as much as was needed, and was not a membership requirement in order to be a part of the church. The spiritual unity and generosity of these early believers attracted others to them. This organizational structure is not a biblical command, but it offers vital principles for us to follow.

FAMILY SHARING

Since none of these first-century believers felt that what they had was their own, they were able to give and share, eliminating poverty among them. Those with plenty helped those who were in need. How do you feel about your possessions? We should adopt the attitude that everything we have belongs to God (Psalm 24:1), comes from God (James 1:17), and is to be used for his glory.

4:33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. Ignoring the threats of the Jewish ruling Council (4:18), the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. As a result, the entire church experienced much "grace" (a word found frequently in the book of Acts—see 6:8; 11:23; 13:43; 14:3, 26; 15:11, 40; 18:27; 20:24, 32). Here the idea may be that they experienced God's grace together with the favor of the people. Much grace was upon them all refers to God's favor and blessing. God worked powerfully among them (see 6:8) to empower their witness and to meet their material needs. Jesus had told his disciples, "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples" (John 13:35 NLT). As the outside world saw the believers' generosity with one another, their care for the needy, and their powerful witness, they were drawn to the Lord Jesus.

4:34-35 There was no poverty among them, because people who owned land or houses sold them and brought the money to the apostles to give to others in need. So widespread was the generosity of the Jerusalem believers that there was no poverty among them. Lavish gifts from the sale of land or

houses were brought to the apostles for distribution to others in need. Such gifts were exceptional expressions of social concern for those in need. These good times, however, would not last. A famine (see the prophecy of Agabus in 11:28) would eventually result in the Jerusalem church becoming dependent on the gifts of believers in Asia (see Romans 15:25–28; Galatians 2:10).

Resources: Rev. Brad Standfest, (1) Logos Bible Program, Walter A. Elwell and Philip Wesley Comfort, Guzik, David, Life Application Bible Commentary, Factbook Logos bible, Barton, Bruce B., and Philip Wesley Comfort. 1995, Barton, Bruce B., and Grant R. Osborne. 1999. Barton, Bruce B. 1996, Barton, Bruce B., and Grant R. Osborne. 1999. Guzik, David. 2013. Ephesians. David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible. Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik. Barton, Bruce B., and Grant R. Osborne. 1999. Acts. Life Application Bible Commentary. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House. Barton, Bruce B., and Grant R. Osborne. 1999. Acts. Life Application Bible Commentary. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House.

Sermon Notes:

Week 7: In His Footsteps Summer Series

Welcome to Week 7 of our “In His Footsteps” series. Last week, we discussed how all things are possible with Jesus Christ.

You can watch any sermon on AVC Connections via YouTube, our app, or Facebook/website.

[Let's Pray]

Today's sermon is titled “Unleashing God's Power Together.” In the Gospels, Jesus didn't do ministry alone. The Savior invited others to join His mission, the Great Commission.

He could have done it solo—He didn't need help in Creation—but He chose to partner with us to spread His love.

Scripture: Matthew 1:22-23

“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’—which means, ‘God with us.’”

God not only wanted to be with us but to partner with us. The Gospels are the Church’s training manuals. Jesus called 12 disciples, then sent out 72.

Scripture: Luke 10:1-2

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

The Church isn’t man’s invention; it’s God’s design.

Scripture: Matthew 16:18

“You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hell will not overcome it.”

Many churches today focus on building their own kingdoms instead of God’s Kingdom work.

Scripture: Ephesians 3:10a

“God’s intent was that now, through the Church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known...”

Three Goals of Jesus from the Gospels

- 1. Watch Me:** Preach, teach, heal, perform signs and wonders.
- 2. Learn:** Jesus sent out His disciples (Matthew 10:1-5, Luke 10:1-2).
- 3. Go & Do:** Build the Church (Matthew 28, Mark 16).

Story: Evangelism Team

My pastor of 20 years asked me to lead an evangelism committee. I was floored he saw potential in me. I prayed, gathered a team,

planned events, and saw people and families get saved.
There's power in numbers, people, and the Church.

Feeding of the 5,000

Jesus gathered thousands while ministering. The Feeding of the 5,000 (likely 10,000 with women and children) shows His care for people.

Scripture: Matthew 14:17-21

"After Jesus crossed the Lake there was a large crowd waiting for him. Jesus' disciples said, this a remote place. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves food. They don't need to go away. You give them something to eat... We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,' they answered. 'Bring them here to me,' he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children."

It's not the food that satisfies—it's Jesus.

He cared for the crowds, teaching His disciples that these people are the Church. There's supernatural power in the Church.

Main Text: Read Acts 2:42-47 & Acts 4:32-35

Closing Prayer

Devotional Questions

Please read the following passages and reflect on the devotional questions:

Read Matthew 16:18

Question:

How does understanding that Jesus will build His church on a rock empower us to work together confidently in furthering God's kingdom?

Read Ephesians 3:10

Question:

In what ways can we as a church community reveal God's wisdom to the world, considering that His intent is made known through the church?

Read Acts 2:42-47

Question 1:

How can our commitment to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer strengthen us collectively to fulfill God's mission... and what was the result from this passage?

Question 2:

Reflect on the impact of unity and generosity within the early church community. How can these principles help us unleash God's power in our own congregation today?

Read Acts 4:32-35

Question 1:

How does the unity of heart and mind among believers influence the church's ability to witness powerfully to the resurrection of Jesus?

Question 2:

What role does sharing possessions and resources (tithe and offerings) play in advancing God's Kingdom... what can we do together that we couldn't do alone?