

The Model Church
Acts 2:40-47

Accountability: Let's hold ourselves accountable!

- We've been learning that all of our possessions belong to the Lord, and that we are simply stewards of all that God has allowed us to possess. We are born into the world with nothing and we leave with nothing. How should this realization lead us to see everything as tools by which to honor God while we are sojourning on planet earth?

Refresh: Let's take a fresh look at our focal scripture again!

- Acts 2:40-47

Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.

- Acts chapter 2 is a snapshot of the church at Jerusalem, which shows us how the early church functioned. It was a very healthy church. Let's look at verse 42 again and explore the four primary functions of the church. What were the main things that they gave themselves to, and how should this picture instruct the focus of our ministry today?
- According to verses 43-47, what were the practical results of the church living out verse 42? How do looking at these qualities speak to your heart? Are these qualities that believers should desire in their church today?
- In our vision meeting we discussed two keywords that the Lord gave our Pastors to guide us during the Pandemic...Simple and Strong. Interestingly, we see this same reference to simplicity in the Acts 2 passage. What can we learn from this about how the Lord intends for our churches to function, and how believers should live out our faith? Why do humans have a tendency to complicate things?
- Verse 46 describes the Jerusalem church as meeting for a large corporate gathering at the Temple, and also meeting in smaller groups from house to house. Based on this Biblical model, what should be the emphasis of these two meetings by the church, and what should be the commitment to these two meetings on behalf of church members?

Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study.

- Ephesians 4:11-15 What are the two purposes for which the Lord has given us our Ministers?
- Ephesians 4:16 How important is each member of the Fellowship, and why?

- Ephesians 2:20 The church is built on two foundations and a cornerstone. What are they, and what did Paul intend to communicate by writing this?
- Romans 10:14-15 What place does preaching have in the church? Why is preaching to be preferred over singing?
- 1 Peter 5:1-3 What instructions are provided for Pastors?
- Hebrews 5:12-14 What did the writer of Hebrews teach us about maturing in the faith?

Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?

- Pastor Joel asked us to make two commitments this week...a commitment to regular weekend worship attendance, and a commitment to participate in a small group. Is there a hindrance in your life to making one or both of these commitments, and how would the Lord have you to address those in order to live out these commitments to assemble that we also see in the Jerusalem church? Is there another commitment that needs to bow the knee to our commitment to honor Jesus first?
- If you had to identify a weak point in the four functions of Acts 2:42 in your personal walk of faith, which one would it be: the apostle's doctrine, Christian fellowship, breaking bread together, or prayer? What specific steps can you take to improve in this area?