



ACTS 4 • WEEK 5

One Heart One Soul Open Hands

Acts 4:32-37

LARGE PRINT EDITION

ONE HEART • ONE SOUL • KOINONIA • OPEN HANDS



Prepare Your Heart

LET GOD'S GRACE SHAPE OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Before You Begin

- Read Acts 4:32-37 slowly. Keep your Bible open as you work through this guide.
- Remember the setting: the believers have prayed for boldness and have been filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how grace changes relationships, possessions, and care for people in need.
- Use this guide to record what you observe, what God's Word teaches, and how you will respond.

Big Question

What does a healthy, Christ-centered church look like when grace shapes its shared life?

Big Idea

Healthy disciples help build healthy churches. Healthy churches grow in generosity because the risen Christ remains at the center and great grace changes the people inside them.

Observe the Passage

1. What descriptions of unity appear in verse 32?
2. What remained central in the apostles' witness in verse 33?
3. How did the believers respond when needs arose?
4. Who directed the distribution of resources?
5. What does Barnabas do in verses 36-37?



Understand the Text

Spirit Filled Boldness Forms Community

Acts 4:32 begins with the word “and.” Luke connects bold witness with shared life. The Holy Spirit gave the believers courage to speak about Jesus, and He also changed how they treated one another. Spiritual power became visible in both proclamation and community.

One Heart and One Soul

The believers did not become identical. They remained different people with different histories and resources. Christ became their shared center. One heart describes common desire under His lordship. One soul describes a shared life in which another believer’s burden became a concern for the community.

Koinonia Means Shared Life in Christ

Koinonia is connected with fellowship, participation, partnership, and sharing. Acts 2:42 uses the word, while Acts 4:32 shows the idea in action. Believers shared more than a meeting. Their belonging to Christ created responsibility for one another.

Christ Centered Brotherhood and Sisterhood

Fraternities and sororities often appeal to the desire for belonging, loyalty, service, brotherhood, and sisterhood. Scripture shows that the longing for committed community is real. Biblical koinonia has a distinct center: Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit forms the family, Scripture governs its commitments, and the cross defines love and sacrifice.



Understand the Text

Great Power and Great Grace

The apostles kept proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus. Great grace rested on the whole church. Christian community does not replace the gospel. It displays what the gospel produces when the risen Christ changes His people.

Open Hands Without Forced Surrender

The believers still owned property. Acts 5:4 confirms that owners retained authority over their property and money. Grace loosened the grip of possessiveness. People gave willingly as real needs arose. This was not socialism or communism because no government seized property or forced equal distribution.

No Neglected Needs

The church did not end poverty throughout Jerusalem. It refused to ignore need within its shared life. Resources moved through accountable leadership toward actual needs. Compassion and order worked together to protect dignity, prevent favoritism, and help the right people.

Minimum Giving or a Generous Life

Ten percent can serve as a helpful starting discipline, but it should not become a ceiling. A minimum mindset asks, “What must I give?” A generosity mindset asks, “What has God entrusted to me?” Mature disciples place money, time, gifts, influence, hospitality, and access under Christ’s direction.

Barnabas Gives Truthfully

Barnabas sold a field and entrusted the proceeds for community care. His encouragement cost something. Acts 5 will contrast his truthful surrender with the deception of Ananias and Sapphira. The issue is integrity, not failure to meet a required percentage.



Reflect and Respond

CHRIST AT THE CENTER • SHARED LIFE • OPEN HANDS

Think It Through

Where am I tempted to remain disconnected instead of sharing life with God's people?

What relationship, loyalty, vow, or tradition needs to be examined under the lordship of Christ?

What has God entrusted to me that could strengthen another person?

Do I view ten percent as a finish line, or am I growing toward full surrender?

What is one need I can help address while protecting the person's dignity?



Continue Your Study

Use the Online Study Guide

Return to the online Bible study during the week for continued Scripture reading, reflection, and application. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how one heart, one soul, and open hands should take shape in your life.

My Forward and Higher Next Step

The person or relationship where I will practice koinonia:

The resource I will place under God's direction:

The generous step I will take this week:

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep Your resurrection at the center of our witness and our life together. Form one heart and one soul among us. Free us from selfishness, fear, and performance. Teach us to hold every resource with open hands. Give our leaders wisdom. Help Priest Lake become a church where people are known, needs receive faithful care, and no one walks alone. In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Week

Breaking Bread Bible Study • September 30 at 6:30 p.m. • Acts 4 conclusion, dinner, game night, and fellowship.