

Small Group Guide: The Apostles Proclaiming the Words of Christ

Based on Acts 2:42-47

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and application.

Icebreaker Question

Share about a mother figure in your life who has demonstrated sacrificial love. What did you learn from her example?

Sermon Overview

This message explores the early church's devotion to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. We learn that the Christian life is not about individual experience but about being part of the body of Christ, where we learn to love as Jesus loved.

Key Takeaways

- 1. Descriptive vs. Prescriptive:** Acts 2 describes what happened in the early church, not necessarily prescribing exact practices for today. We must be careful not to misapply narrative passages.
- 2. Four Devotions of the Early Church:**
 - The Apostles' Teaching (God's Word)
 - Fellowship (Life together in the body)
 - Breaking of Bread (Remembering Christ's sacrifice)
 - Prayer (Seeking boldness and courage)
- 3. One Body in Christ:** We are not independent Christians. When one member suffers, we all suffer. When one rejoices, we all rejoice.
- 4. The Cross is Central:** Our sinful nature must be crucified daily. Growth comes through denying self and embracing Christ's character.

5. **The Urgency of Salvation:** Today is the day of salvation. We must proclaim the gospel with boldness.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. Read Acts 2:42-47 together. What stands out to you most from this passage? Why?
2. The sermon emphasized the difference between "descriptive" and "prescriptive" passages. Why is this distinction important when reading Scripture?
3. What does it mean that "everyone kept feeling a sense of awe" (v. 43)? How does the sermon's explanation of "fear occurring to every soul" change your understanding?

Body Life and Fellowship

4. The sermon states: "When we criticize, when we tear down, when we destroy the character of other peoples... we are attacking the body of Christ." Have you witnessed or participated in this? How can we change this pattern?
5. What does it mean that "if one member of the body suffers, the whole body suffers"? How should this truth affect our view of other churches and believers?
6. The early believers "had all things in common" and met needs as they arose. What needs exist in our church family right now? How can we respond?

Application and Growth

7. The pastor emphasized that growth requires crucifying our sinful nature—which is painful. What area of your life is God currently asking you to "crucify"?
8. How does understanding Christ's love and forgiveness enable us to love others better, even when it's difficult?
9. The sermon asked: "Is your life demonstrating that you are in the body in Christ?" How would you honestly answer this question?

Accountability Questions

1. What specific action will you take this week based on today's discussion?
2. Who will you ask to hold you accountable?

3. How can this group pray for you specifically?

Prayer Focus

- **Thanksgiving:** For mothers and their sacrificial love; for salvation through Christ
- **Confession:** For times we've been selfish, critical, or divisive in the body
- **Petition:** For boldness to proclaim the gospel; for unity in the body of Christ
- **Intercession:** For those who don't know Christ; for members facing struggles

Closing Reflection

"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives within me." - Galatians 2:20

How will you live out this truth in the coming week?