

# Forward Framework: A Weekly Devotional

## Introduction Activity (for Groups):

Think the telephone game but with drawing.

- Break in to teams of at least 3 (2 will work but the more the better).
- Each person should have a sheet of paper and writing utensil (preferably a marker).
- 1 person will draw on their paper using the wall, the next person will use that persons back to draw (repeat until everyone on the team is lined up).
- The last person (furthest from the wall) will draw something of their choosing. The person in front of them, will have to draw what they think it is, judging only by the movement of the marker on their back. It may help to draw slower or break it up in parts in order to give the person ahead of you a chance to think of what and where something was drawn and draw it themselves. Repeat this all the way to the person using the wall.
- Once complete, compare the drawings.

## God Encounters:

Journal, Think about, or discuss with your group how you have encountered God in your life this week.

Real Talk: This is a time to be authentic, with yourself and others. Share how you're doing with God personally and pray for one another.

## Worship Song:

Click in this area for a hyperlink to Youtube or search for:

Love Of The Father (Acoustic)  
By, CityAlight





## Sermon Summary:

In the book of Acts, we see the radical change that Jesus made in the life of the early church. The disciples of Jesus lived their lives differently and the world took notice. The passage we look at today, Acts 2:42-47 doesn't discuss much about what the disciples refrained from or relished in, what they were for or what they were against, but instead chooses to focus on how the disciples lived their lives. It wasn't what the disciples did that people noticed, it was how the disciples related to those around them that set them apart.

Acts 2:42-47 tells us that the early church committed themselves to eating together, studying scripture together, praying together, and to learning about each other. They worshipped together. They shared their physical possessions and wealth. They cultivated unity with one another -- not a unity from complete agreement, but a unity that focused on serving the same savior. The world around them took notice of this unique, eccentric, beautiful lifestyle and it was attractive. The world saw the power of God in "signs and wonders" and also in the way the disciples related to one another. People started to join the church because the way church people lived was so authentic, so changed by the power of Jesus, that it became irresistible.

When we know Jesus and prioritize knowledge of the character and nature of God, our lives are changed. The way we live and the way we relate to each other becomes different from the way people in the world live and relate to each other. Doing life with other Christians is not optional, but a part of God's design for our individual and corporate lives. Biblical community, like all important relationships, takes work. It needs people who are vulnerable and humble; who are willing to admit their mistakes and willing to forgive the mistakes of others. It requires people to be all-in with each other, loving each other the way Jesus loved us. As our church learns more about the book of Acts, the nature of God, and the early church, we will learn more how to live in Biblical community and show the world how our lives have been radically changed by Jesus.



Read: Acts 2: 42-47

What Stands out to you?

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Discuss:

How do you feel about this passage? Why?

How do you see our church living this out?

How can you live more authentically in your life?

Prayer:

Lord,

You have given us a wonderful precedent for living out our faith through the early church as illustrated in the book of Acts. As a follower of Christ, I desire to live authentically; sharing, encouraging, and loving others. But, honestly, there are times when I fail miserably! Like Peter, I can be so consumed with enthusiasm and love for you, that I overcompensate and become misdirected. Then situations in my life go array, causing my faith to falter and my stewardship begins to languish. The amazing thing is that you have always known this about me! You don't turn away from me in disappointment. You use these moments to encourage my growth because you created me and you know what I will become. I am so grateful for your patience and I am thankful that you never abandon me. Your kingdom will grow because you purposed it and I can rest in your faithfulness always!

In Jesus name,

Amen