



The Fellowship

“Every person gives their life to something. Every day we give our lives for our jobs, our bank accounts, our hobbies, our comfort, our goals, or something else. The Bible calls this devotion. The early church devoted themselves, through grace-driven effort, to studying the Apostles’ teachings, to gathering, to one another, to prayer. What are we devoted to?”

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

What is the hardest you’ve ever worked to earn something? Describe how you devoted your life to doing this and how it turned out.

MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 2:42-47

“42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

SCRIPTURE READING:**Acts 2:42**

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

1 Peter 1:13-17

"13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,"

Colossians 3:1, 5-17

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God...5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Philippians 3:12-16

“12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If someone were to look at your calendar or your schedule, what would they say your life was devoted to? If they looked at your finances? If they looked at what you think about day in and day out?
2. What would you say are things that our church family is devoted to? How do you know that we are devoted to those things?
3. Describe what it means to be devoted to something.
4. Sometimes creating space to devote our lives to something means we have to get rid of some of the things we devote our lives to now. What things do you spend time and money on that, honestly, don't have eternal value in light of the Kingdom of Heaven?

**CLOSING PRAYER
ACTIVITY:**

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.

