



ACTS

Session 3 : Acts 2:42-47

..... OPENING

Select one of the questions below to open discussion.

- How has your relationship with Christ been impacted by your church community?
- What are the markers of a healthy community? What are the warning signs of an unhealthy community?

..... DISCUSSION

Read Acts 2:42-47

1. The first thing mentioned in Acts 2:42 as being significant for the life of the early church is a commitment to the apostles' teaching. John Stott comments "contemporary devotion to the apostles' teaching will mean submission to the authority of the New Testament."ⁱ
 - What does it look like in your life today to be committed to the apostles' teaching?
 - How is your spiritual life impacted by your study of Scripture?
 - How do you want to grow in your knowledge and/or application of God's Word in 2021?

2. The second thing mentioned in Acts 2:42 as being significant for the life of the early church is a commitment to fellowship.
 - How does 2:44-45 illustrate the fellowship of these believers?
 - What do you think is meant by this term fellowship? Are there more modern terms that you might use instead of the word fellowship?
 - Regardless of what terms you use, fellowship seems pretty clearly to involve a mutual sharing of one another's lives in a community. How have you been changed by your relationships with other believers?
 - Are there ways that you want to grow in your relationships with other believers at MBC?
 - What is your prayer for your HomeGroup as you go through this year together?
 - What commitments (good or bad) get in the way of our commitment to meaningful time spent in Christian community?
 - How is involvement in a Christian community a costly thing? What makes this cost a worthy investment of our time, resources and attention?
3. The third thing mentioned in Acts 2:42 as being significant for the life of the early church is a commitment to the "breaking of bread." Some think this could be a reference to early celebrations of the Communion in a worship service. This part of the worship service is also known as The Lord's Supper or the Eucharist in other Christian traditions.
 - How is the early church's emphasis on corporate, communal worship an important one for us to hear today? What does Hebrews 10:24-25 relate to this idea of a commitment to common worship?
 - How is technology both a benefit in terms of our ability to worship together, but also a potential negative?
 - How has worshipping in community impacted your relationship with God?
4. Interestingly however, the earliest celebrations of Communion involved more than a waver and small amount of juice. It involved an entire meal.
 - How has sharing a meal with other believers been important both in terms of worship and your relationship with other believers?
 - What is it about sharing a meal together that can draw us closer to one another and closer to God?
 - What can you do to form or strengthen relationships with other believers through meals this year?
5. The final thing mentioned in Acts 2:42 as being significant for the life of the early church is a shared commitment to the prayers. Christians likely observed set hours of prayer throughout the day observed by Jews.ⁱⁱ This is similar to the way the Hours may be celebrated by some Christians today or the way times of prayer are prescribed for Muslims throughout the day.
 - What role does prayer play in your relationship with God?

- How does prayer connect you both to God and to other believers?
- What does it look like to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess 5:17)?
- How do you desire to see your prayer life changed during this year?
- What can you do as a HomeGroup to make prayer more of a community act?

.....CLOSING.....

- The early church seemed to be committed to four things in this passage: Scripture, community, worship, and prayer. Which of these areas do you sense God calling you personally to grow in? Which of these areas needs to be a bigger priority for your HomeGroup?
- Which of these same four things is Midland Bible Church strongest in? In what area do we have the most room for growth as a community? How can you personally help our churchwide community grow in that area?
- Pray that God would work in us to help us personally and as a community grow in our love for His Word, for one another and for worship.

ⁱ John Stott, *The Message of Acts* The Bible Speaks Today (Downers Grove: IVP, 1990): 82.

ⁱⁱ I. Howard Marshall, *Acts* The Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove: IVP, 1980): 83.