

Group

Discussion Guide



Title: A Spirit-Filled Church

Text: Acts 2:42–47

CONTEXT |

When Peter preached the gospel at Pentecost, the church grew by 3000 people—from about 120. It is interesting to note that what happened on this day with a large number of conversions is different from much of modern mass-evangelism. Those who were converted became a part of the community—a community God continued to grow from this point forward. The church grew through apostles preaching to the masses, but it also grew through the members of the church reaching those they knew. What we have in Acts 2:42-47 is a description of the Spirit-filled church in its infancy. As such we see a description of the Holy Spirit-inspired instincts before there is an opportunity for structure, organization, planning, etc.

MAIN IDEA |

The church must be devoted to worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and evangelism.

KEY VERSES |

⁴² and they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Acts 2:42 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTION IDEAS |

- Which of these devotions of the infant church stands out to you and why?
- What causes the present-day church to be distracted from this type of devotion?
- Which of these devotions do you think are the strongest and weakest at The Oaks?
- Should we strive to grow in our weak points of devotion? If so, what can we do to improve?
- Spend some time praying together for our church.

EXPLANATION |

The key word in the description of this early church is the word “devoted” (v. 42). It is a present active participle in the original language, which is probably best translated “were continually devoting themselves to...” Radical, consuming devotion was the mark of the Spirit in the lives of the infant church. Notice the things they were devoted to in the verses. We can list them out and categorize them if we want. The enemy of the Church will always do everything he can to distract us from the loyalty we should have, as described here. So, this list should serve as a mirror for examination of ourselves as the church.

We must be careful, however, because although it is right for the church to be devoted to Scripture, prayer, fellowship, etc. there is a wrong way to go about it. The right type of authentic devotion that pleases God and is a powerful testimony can only be cultivated in hearts by the Holy Spirit.