

***Bishop Dwayne C. Debnam, Pastor***

***Bible Study Sheet***

June 4, 2025

Acts 2:42 The believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. 43 A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. 44 All the believers were united and shared everything. 45 They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. 46 Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. 47 They praised God and demonstrated God’s goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

## Pentecost Sunday

* PENTECOST SUNDAY IS THE CELEBRATION of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus Christ, marking the birth of the Church and empowering believers for ministry and witness to the world.
* The Holy Spirit descended on about 120 believers gathered in the upper room.
* They spoke in other tongues/languages, symbolizing the global reach of the gospel.
* Peter preached and about 3,000 people were saved and baptized.
* It marks the birth of the Christian Church as a Spirit-empowered, mission-driven community.
* Fulfillment of Jesus’ Promise: Jesus told His disciples to wait for the “promise of the Father” (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5).
* Empowerment for Mission: The Holy Spirit gave the early believers boldness and power.
* Unity and Diversity: People from many nations heard the message in their own language.
* The Beginning of the Church Age: Pentecost is the “birthday of the Church.”

## Core Values of the Church

* The devotion to be taught.
* The power of fellowship.
* The symbolism of the 'breaking of bread': unity, trust, peace.
* Meals were intentional gatherings: to reflect, worship, and connect.
* Jesus discipled people around meals.
* We need to reclaim the table for teaching, healing, and belonging.

## Commitment to Prayer

* In the Greek, 'their prayers' referred to structured, public prayers.
* Acts 3:1 shows Peter and John going to the temple at an established prayer time.
* The early church modeled a strong prayer life: prayer for healing, intercession, worship, and lament.
* There is power in corporate prayer. The early church remained rooted in the discipline of prayer.

## Spirit of Generosity

* They shared everything, sold possessions, and met needs.
* Generosity reflects God's nature (John 3:16; Romans 8:32).
* Matthew 25 and Luke 4:18 remind us of our call to care for others.
* Generosity is about money, time, hospitality, words, and forgiveness.

# Reflection Questions

## Devotion to Teaching & Fellowship

* What does it mean to be \*devoted\* to the apostles’ teaching in today’s world?
* How have you experienced the power of Christian fellowship in your life?

## The Power of Shared Meals

* How can we reclaim the tradition of “breaking bread” as a sacred and healing practice in our families and churches?

## Prayer as a Core Practice

* What is your personal rhythm of prayer? How can it be deepened or strengthened?
* What would it look like for our church community to re-center corporate prayer as a priority?

## Living Generously

* How do you reflect God's generosity in your everyday life?
* In what ways can you use your time, gifts, or resources to meet the needs of others?

## Scripture References

* Acts 2:42-47
* Luke 24:49
* Acts 1:4-5
* Acts 3:1
* John 3:16
* Romans 8:32
* Matthew 25:35-36
* Luke 4:18-19
* 1 John 3:17–18
* Galatians 5:13
* Romans 12:13
* Proverbs 18:21
* Ephesians 4:29
* Colossians 3:13