# A logo with a cross and a dove AI-generated content may be incorrect.*Bishop Dwayne C. Debnam, Pastor*

# Bible Study Sheet

**October 8, 2025**

***Life in a Community of Faith***

## Introduction

From the very beginning, the Church was never defined by buildings, titles, or religious routines—it was defined by people united by faith and a shared life in Christ. Acts 2:42-47 shows us a powerful picture of what it means to live as a community of faith: believers worshiped, fellowshipped, shared resources, and lived out their faith together.  
  
The early church reminds us that being the church is more than attending worship—it’s about living life together as one body.

## Key Principles of a Community of Faith

### Devotion to God’s Word

The believers 'devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching' (Acts 2:42).  
- The Word of God was central to their growth—not trends, but timeless truth.  
- Today, the Church must remain rooted in Scripture, not culture.

### Fellowship (Koinonia)

Fellowship was more than social time; it was sharing life—resources, joys, and burdens.  
- In the Black church tradition, fellowship has historically been central: meals after service, gathering in homes, and building community together.

### Breaking of Bread

Shared meals and Communion were reminders of unity and Christ’s sacrifice.  
- Table fellowship created bonds beyond Sunday worship.

### Prayer

They maintained both communal and personal prayer.  
- A praying church is a powerful church; prayer fuels unity and spiritual strength.

### Radical Generosity

Believers voluntarily sold possessions to meet needs (Acts 2:45).  
- True Christian generosity flows from love and unity, not obligation.

### Daily Gathering & Worship

They met in the temple courts (public worship) and in homes (private fellowship).  
- Worship was not limited to a location but was woven into everyday life.

### Joy and Favor

Their joy, sincerity, and generosity drew others in.  
- God blessed their community by adding new believers daily.

## Why Community Matters

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once wrote: “We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”  
This truth mirrors what Acts teaches us: we are not called to walk alone. Our faith is communal, not individualistic.  
  
When believers live out these habits—teaching, fellowship, prayer, generosity, joy—we demonstrate the purpose of the Church: to be Christlike together, creating paths for abundant life.

## Reflection Questions

• In what ways can we strengthen fellowship in today’s church beyond Sunday worship?

• How can we practice generosity that reflects the spirit of Acts 2?

• What steps can you take to devote yourself more fully to Scripture and prayer within your community?

• How does your church reflect being a true 'community of faith'?

## Scripture References

- Galatians 6:9–10

- Hebrews 10:24–27

- Acts 2:42–47