

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 11, 2007

Passage: Acts 2:41-47

Memory Passage: Acts 2:42

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 2:41-42.** What did those who accepted Peter's words do initially? Why does baptism matter? When should it occur?
- (b) What four activities describe the life of the early church?
- (c) Which of these is mentioned first? What does this tell us about the priority of the early church? Is this priority mentioned elsewhere in Acts (Acts 6:1-4)?
- (d) Why is the apostles doctrine and teaching so important to the life of the church (2 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 5:12-13; Ephesians 2:20; John 17:14-19)?
- (e) What are some ways that we do this (Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; John 8:30-32)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 2:41-42 and John 8:30-32. Discuss the importance of reading and hearing the Word of God. What was the priority for the early church? Why do we make the Bible our priority at church? Why does doctrine matter? What would the church be without attention to doctrine and teaching? Pray for those who teach you the Word of God.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 2:42-45.** Define *fellowship*. Why is fellowship so important to the life and testimony of the church (John 17:21; John 13:34-35)?
- (b) What was one aspect of the fellowship of the early church according to Acts 2:44-45? To what extremes did these early believers go to meet each other's needs (Acts 4:34-37)?
- (c) Are believers *required* to sell their own property to meet each other's needs (Acts 5:1-3)?
- (d) What other ways did they meet each other's needs (Acts 6:1; 1 Timothy 5:3-10)? Are there times when the church should not have the first responsibility in this area? Who should (1 Timothy 5:8, 16)?
- (e) Is meeting the needs of one another a biblical command (James 1:27; 1 Timothy 6:19; 1 John 3:16-18)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 2:42-45 and 4:34-37. Talk about sacrificial giving. How does it display the love of God in us? What are some ways that the people of your church display this kind of love?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 2:46.** What additional aspect of fellowship is seen in Acts 2:46?
- (b) What two places did they meet? What was the role of the home in the early church (Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2)?
- (c) How did this demonstrate their love for one another (Acts 2:46; 1 John 3:14-16)?
- (d) What was the "breaking bread together" (Acts 20:7)? How did this show the reason for their love for one another (1 John 4:7-8; 1 John 4:19)?
- (e) How does Luke say this fellowship affected them (Acts 2:46)? Why should these be marks of the church (John 16:20-24; John 17:13; Romans 14:17)? How does fellowship together promote this (Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 12:26; Romans 15:9-13)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 2:46 and Hebrews 10:24-25. Talk together about the importance of meeting together as believers. Why is this important for the church? How is it a testimony to its unity? How does it allow us to minister to and care for each other? Pray for your church that it might show the love of God and the joy of the Lord through the fellowship of believers.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 2:43.** What were the apostles doing during this time? What affect did this have on the believers?
- (b) Why did this take place (2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:1-4)?
- (c) Is this still true today? Why was it important then (Acts 4:33)? What does Peter say about these signs compared to God's written Word in 2 Peter 1:15-21?
- (d) In Acts 2:42, the disciples were also devoted to prayer. Read Acts 4:23-31. What is surprising about the focus of their prayers?
- (e) What was the concern in their prayers (Acts 4:29)? What was Paul's concern in Colossians 4:3-4? What are some areas that we need to pray together for (1 Timothy 2:1-4; Ephesians 6:18)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 2:43 and Hebrews 2:1-4. Discuss the difference between the time of the apostles and now. Why did they do miracles on a scale unlike seen since? What did God verify for us through them that no longer needs to be verified today? Spend time together thanking God for giving us His Word.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 2:47.** What does Acts 2:47 tell us about evangelism in the early church? What two things are they doing?
- (b) How are both of these important in evangelism? What does evangelism include besides sharing the gospel (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:12-16; 1 Peter 2:11-12)?
- (c) Was it their evangelism that brought people to faith? What must God do for people to be saved (Acts 2:39; Acts 11:18; Acts 14:27; Colossians 4:3-4)?
- (d) What does this teach us about sovereignty and responsibility (2 Timothy 2:24-26; Romans 10:13-15)?
- (e) What view of the church is the basis for this understanding of evangelism (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:9)? Whose church is it (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 2:47 and 2 Timothy 2:24-26. Discuss evangelism and sharing our faith. Why is it important? How do our attitudes and lifestyle affect our witness? Why is prayer essential in evangelism? Pray for someone that does not know the Lord. Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Acts 2:41-47. What did the church do together that made the early church so exciting to be part of? What was their priority? What did they do that demonstrated their dependence on God? How did this affect their evangelism? Pray for church services tomorrow that God's Word may be taught clearly and that God's people might be a testimony to His love within them.

**DATE:** February 11, 2007

**PASSAGE:** Acts 2:41-47

***The Life of the Church***

*“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and prayers.”*