



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

How God Turned a Band of Nobodies into a Movement for Everybody

How did a handful of ordinary people become ten thousand followers of Jesus in the year following his public execution? Written in the middle of the first century, The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of how Christianity spread like wildfire across the Roman Empire and beyond. For 25 weeks we will journey through Acts in pursuit of the truth behind history's most consequential movement.

Discussion Guide: Week 4

Acts 2:42-47

The Foundation

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching...”

Based on what we know about Peter’s first sermon (2:14-41), what were the apostles teaching the first Christians and where did they receive this information from?

What does it actually look like for believers to “devote themselves” to sound doctrine?

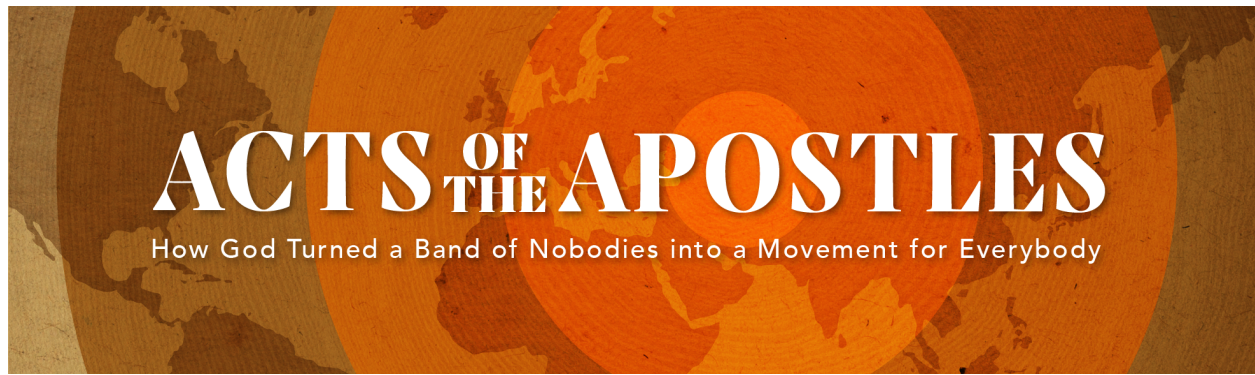
“...and to fellowship...”

What is fellowship, and what did that word (*koinonia*) mean in its first-century context?

What’s the difference between fellowship and just casually hanging out? How can you take your fellowship to the next level so that it becomes a spiritual discipline?

“...to the breaking of bread...”

What was the deeper significance of breaking bread together in the first-generation Church?



“...and to prayer.”

How would you rate your current prayer life on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being non-existent and 10 being constant? Why did you give yourself that score?

How can you double down on prayer in your personal life as well as your family and the groups you are a part of?

The Result

In verses 43-45, we read about the results of this foundation built on sound doctrine, fellowship, worship, and prayer. What were the results? How did these disciplines contribute to the way the believers viewed personal property?

Verses 46 and 47 describe Christians who were happy, sincere, joyful, and beloved by “all the people” - including unbelievers. What was it that made first-generation Christians so appealing to the world around them?

In what ways have you witnessed churches failing to mirror the Church’s heart as described in Acts 2? What may be some of the underlying reasons why some congregations look nothing like the Acts 2 Church?

Think of one or two church practices described in Acts 2:42-47 that are lacking in your own life or our community. As you write them down, think about how you can introduce them to your personal faith and our church.