

## SERMON-BASED STUDY: A BETTER CHURCH FAMILY

*Acts 2:41-47, ESV – <sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. <sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

### Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

### ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week we were reminded that we need to be connected with other believers. What are the benefits of being connected with other believers?
- 2 Why does connection come with a cost?

- 3 Discuss the importance of each of the following in the church: right doctrine, right relationships, right liturgy, and right dependence.

## DIGGING DEEPER

A **Acts 5:42, ESV** – <sup>42</sup> And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

**Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV** – <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- 4 Looking at Acts 5:42, we see the early church gathering in two locations. Why are each of these locations important for church gatherings?

- 5 Why does the author of Hebrews encourage believers to gather and to not neglect meeting together?

- 6 Can a follower of Jesus grow and be on mission with Jesus by attending only one of the two gatherings discussed (large group or small group)? Why or why not?

B **2 Timothy 2:1-2, ESV** – You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

**Colossians 3:16, ESV** – <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

- 7 According to the passage above, what benefits can be found in a small group setting? Explain.

- 8 In life groups, we talk all the time about “doing life together.” What does that mean to you? What does it look like?

## TAKING IT HOME

This week, we learned that we need to be connected with other believers. How are you doing with being connected in the large gathering? In the small (life) group? Is there someone you know that needs to get connected? How can you help them this next week begin to get connected? Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you. Pray for one another as you seek to be connected believers.

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Matthew 18:20  
1 Corinthians 14:26  
1 Thessalonians 5:11