

June 24, 2018

Together
Acts 2:37-47
Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 8 Num. 25

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

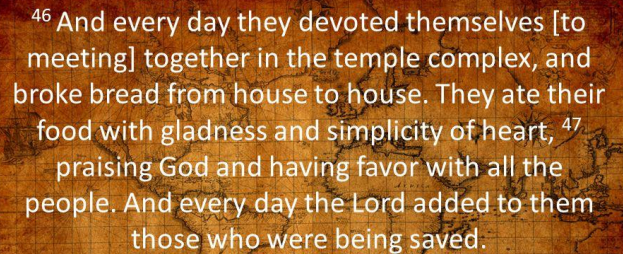
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



⁴⁶ And every day they devoted themselves [to meeting] together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47

This week we will look at a passage in the book of Acts. The passage tells us of the beginning of the church. Peter has given his sermon which cut to the heart and the people responded. They have placed their faith in Christ and are now forming the early church. It is good for us as a church and as individuals to stop and look at what they viewed as important. They studied the apostles teaching, broke bread, fellowshiped, and prayed. They also gathered both at the temple and in each others' homes. They formed true community. This week we will look at how we can also be a true community and at some of the pieces essential to that community.



The Response to Peter's Address

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were acutely distressed and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "What should we do, brothers?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to himself." ⁴⁰ With many other words he testified and exhorted them saying, "Save yourselves from this perverse generation!" ⁴¹ So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added.

The Fellowship of the Early Believers

⁴² They were devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Reverential awe came over everyone, and many wonders and miraculous signs came about by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and held everything in common, ⁴⁵ and they began selling their property and possessions and distributing the proceeds to everyone, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to gather together by common consent in the temple courts, breaking bread from house to house, sharing their food with glad and humble hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the good will of all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number every day those who were being saved.

🕒 EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.

4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. What are the four things that they devoted themselves to in verse 42? Do you see these all as equal?

9. How much do you think they sold?

10. How often did they gather?

11. Where did they gather? (more than one place)

12. Why do you think they had the good will of the people?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. Should we gather more than once a week?

14. Do you think our church does a good job of the 4 things mentioned in verse 42? At which one can we do better? How?

15. Why did God increase their numbers? Why would He increase our numbers?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...