

LC STUDY GUIDE: DONE IN SYNC WITH
THE SERMON FROM 5.18.14
The Passage – Acts 2:41-47
 For LCs meeting 5.18.14 – 6.1.14

These LC studies complement the sermons, often using the same biblical texts, and will help your LC go deeper in personal understanding and application. These italicized portions are meant to resource and help you in leading and are not to be distributed to the entire group (it limits conversation). Not all of these questions need to be used in your LC meeting. Best to consider this a head-start to customize for your LC.

Big Idea: When people are fully devoted to God, then everything changes.

Acts 2:41-47 (NIV © 2011)

⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Introduction:

At the beginning of Acts 2, the Holy Spirit came to the people from diverse cultures who were gathered together in Jerusalem. In the passage we are looking at today, we see Luke's description of a Spirit-filled community.

Starter Questions:

Verse 42 says, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

- Have you ever devoted yourself to something? How has that changed your attitude or approach?
- Why would they have chosen these specific things to devote themselves to? Why should we also devote ourselves to these things?

Discussion Questions:

According to Thayer's Greek Lexicon, the Greek word in Acts 2: 42 for fellowship, *koinónia*, means, "fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, contact..." What comes to mind as you think about the meaning of *koinónia*? To what degree have you experienced this before?

Describe verses 44 and 45 in a word or two. (*Care, Love, etc.*) When have you experienced the care and generosity of other believers when you have been in need?

What is the value/benefit of breaking bread and praying together (vv. 42 and 46)?

How can we be intentional about making *koinónia* a priority in our lives? What steps can you take this week to make it more of a priority in your life?

What hinders us from this level of community in our culture? What challenges do we need to overcome?

(Selfishness—we tend to want to live for ourselves/to take care of ourselves rather than caring for others/to spend our time on ourselves rather than for others/with others; expectations from the world to succeed financially/be workaholics, time spent on internet, etc. rather than with people in person, the tendency to be self-sufficient)

Why can it generally be so difficult for the Body of Christ to give generously to others and to share what we have with others?

(Sometimes we are selfish and want to use what we earn for ourselves instead of for others; sometimes we do not know the needs of others because they have not voiced them/sometimes when we ourselves are in need we do not want to humble ourselves to the point of asking for help; many of us in this culture tend to want to be independent and self-sufficient because our culture tells us that is how we should be; many of us unknowingly make decisions based on selfishness and greed or fear that we will not have enough for ourselves if we give what we have to others; etc.)

In verse 47 we see that the believers enjoyed the favor of all the people and that, "...the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." What does the increase in number of those being saved say about the type of community that this group had?

Summary:

In what ways has our Life Community experienced the goodness of these qualities this year? Conclude by thanking God together for these blessings and pray that God would continue to deepen our community so that it might be life-giving and contagious.

- a. **Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting.** Take some time and select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your LIFE Community group.
- b. Certain questions work better for certain groups. You are encouraged to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best.
- c. Complement these questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? what do others think?).
- d. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- e. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- f. Application: Pace the study to conclude with “difference making” application.
- g. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into “teaching,” rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.