

A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Theme of the month: The Church's Rule of Life

Text for the Week: Acts 2:14-42

Message for the Week: "Devoted Themselves to the Apostles Teaching"

Theme for the Week: We must be transformed by the apostles teaching

Week 7

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week?

Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the Holy Spirit working in your life this past week?

What is/was your favorite class in school? OR Who is/was your favorite teacher? Why?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read Acts 2:14-42 out loud.

What words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What is the gospel? What is gospel preaching? Why is it important?

Am I humbly responsive to the Spirit and the gospel?

Do I allow what I've learned to change me? Am I willing to rearrange my life to be obedient to it?

What/who is shaping your patterns of perceiving, thinking, feeling, and valuing? What is informing and forming us?

When have you been "...cut to the heart?"

Which of the five actions are most challenging for you? Reflect, Personalize, Confess, Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness, Consume

"Try It!"

If someone asked you "What is the gospel?" what would you say?

Practice sharing your answer with a family member, friend, co-worker, or classmate each day this week. When you are doing this, you are giving witness to the gospel (Acts 1:8).

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer regarding the things God revealed and that you discerned in your time with God today.

Also, spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you...pray this prayer.

Lord,

We pray for an outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit.

We pray that the Spirit will reveal Christ to us. Come, Holy Spirit.

We pray that the Spirit will shape us in the character of Christ. Come, Holy Spirit.

We pray that the Spirit will equip us for the mission of Christ. Come, Holy Spirit.

We pray that the Spirit will form us by the early church's rule of life, devotion to the Apostle's Teaching, to the fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, AMEN.

Missional Practice for the Month:

Use the prayer above each day to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit for your immediate neighbors on either side (to the right and left) of your house. Sometime during the month, when prompted by the Spirit, bring an expression of appreciation to each of these neighbors. This could be a potted mum, a dozen cookies, a gift card, etc., with a note that says, "I'm glad you are my neighbor!"