

# A Guide for Spiritual Formation

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

Text for the Week: Acts 2:42

Message for the Week: "Devoted Themselves to the Fellowship"

Theme for the Week: We must be devoted to one another.

Week 8

# 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 makes a good friend?

# **Preparation:**

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

### Read:

Read Acts 2:42 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:**

Have you ever needed to have a difficult conversation with someone where you felt led to forgive them or asked for forgiveness because of a relationship killing situation from the past?

Why is our unity so important to God?

Which one of the five reality checks do you find most challenging, personally? Loving | Forgiving | Thinking the Best of Others | Joining | Caring about the Lost

Is there unresolved conflict between you and anyone else in the body? How have you seen disunity ruin a relationship? Are you willing to take personal responsibility to bring this body back into unity? To be part of the solution? Together?

## "Try It!"

Who is God calling you to forgive?

Ask the Spirit to bring someone to mind and commit to work toward resolution and unity with that person.

## **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!"