

Membership Covenant

The 5 G's
Groups
Giving
Gifts
Grace
Growth

A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Acts 2:42-47

Message for the Week: A New Creation

Sunday, October 15

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 work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

What is your favorite possession? Why?

Preparation:

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

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Acts 2:42-47](#) out loud.

(Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.)

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

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

Respond / Reflect:

What we devote ourselves to determines what we will be. Who do you want to be? What are you devoting yourself to?

What is needed for a community like the one described in these verses to occur?

Would you ever sell all your possessions? Why or why not?

Why do you/we hang on to our stuff so tightly?

Is the community described in these verses even possible? Is this a pipedream? Pie in the sky? Or could it be a reality even today?

Reread John 17. Is the community described in these verses the culmination of Jesus' prayer in John 17? Why or why not?

Do you think Adam and Eve experienced what is described in our passage in the Garden of Eden?

Try It:

On a scale of 1 to 10, rank yourself in regards to how devoted are you to the following: School, sports, work, friends, entertainment, phone, possessions, God, the apostles' teaching, the fellowship, the breaking of bread, prayer. What do you notice about how you scored yourself? What is the Spirit of God saying to you?

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Glorious God, our Father in heaven and among us: Thank you for dwelling among us through your Son and Spirit. Make me aware of who I am and who is the center of my BEING. I offer myself and my possessions to you so that through them your Kingdom will come, your name will be honored, and your Kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen, for Jesus' sake.

Missional/Spiritual Practice: Groups

I commit to being an active participant in Covenant's faith community through corporate worship and ministry involvement. Are you an active participant in these?

I commit to being involved in a small group, prayer group, and/or a ministry group to encourage others in their spiritual life and to be held accountable for mine.

Are you involved in a ministry group? If not, which ministry group will you join?

New International Version

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.

The Message

⁴¹⁻⁴² That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

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⁴³⁻⁴⁵ Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷ They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.