

# A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Acts 2.42-47, Galatians 5.22-23

Message for the Week: Living Out Covenant

Sunday, June 2

# **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 the most selfless commitment you have made?

# **Preparation:**

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

# Read/Watch:

Read / Have two people in your group read <u>Acts 2:42-47 & Galatians 5:22-23</u> out loud. Then watch the testimonies and sermon from the worship gathering <u>HERE</u>.

[Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, 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:

How have you internalized the 5Gs (Grace, Growth, Group, Gifts, Giving)?

How are you living out the 5Gs (Grace, Growth, Group, Gifts, Giving) in your everyday life?

How are you/we not going to be "done with" the 5Gs (Grace, Growth, Group, Gifts, Giving)?

How are you/we going to carry the 5Gs (Grace, Growth, Group, Gifts, Giving) forward and allow them to shape and form who you are as a disciple of Jesus?

## Try It:

Connect with 2 or 3 people from Covenant Church this week and have a conversation with them about what their commitments look like in each of the different 5G areas: Grace, Growth, Group, Gifts, and Giving.

## Prayer:

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

Father, my heart is fickle, it doesn't want to commit to kingdom things. I'm selfish and sinful. Break me of myself, tune my heart to pursue your kingdom and your will here on earth as it is in heaven. May I be a part of your kingdom restoration in Covenant, in my home, in my school and/or workplace, and throughout all my community. AMEN

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# Missional/Spiritual Practice: Membership Covenant

# **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.

# **Giving**

I commit to giving generously of my time for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my talents for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my treasures (financial resources) for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

I commit to giving generously of my testimony for the building of Christ's Church and Kingdom.

## **Gifts**

I commit to discovering, developing, and deploying the spiritual gifts God has entrusted to me for the building of the body of Christ.

I commit to using my spiritual gifts to be a witness in this world and to usher in the Kingdom of God.

### Grace

I commit to loving Jesus with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength knowing I have been saved by grace because of Jesus' death and resurrection; this is a free gift, not the result of anything I have done.

I commit to sharing my testimony of what God has done and continues to do in my life by his grace regularly and boldly as I am led by the Spirit.

## Growth

I commit to deepen my faith in Jesus Christ through regular Scripture reading and prayer.

I commit to having and pursuing a personal rule of life (a plan for intentionally growing my relationship with Jesus Christ) and living it out in my community, my church, and His Kingdom.

### Acts 2:42-47

#### **New International Version**

**2** <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> 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, <sup>47</sup> 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

- **2** <sup>41-42</sup> 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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- <sup>43-45</sup> 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.
- <sup>46-47</sup> 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.

#### **Galatians 5.22-23**

### **New International Version**

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

### The Message

<sup>22-23</sup> But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

<sup>23-24</sup> Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.