

Week 6 — Acts 2:42–47 — The Spirit-Filled Church

Read the Passage: Read **Acts 2:42–47** aloud together.

Group Direction & Reflection

This week's sermon explored six ways the gospel shaped and transformed the early church in Acts 2:42–47. Though this is a familiar passage, we were challenged to move beyond simply learning information and instead ask how the Holy Spirit wants to transform our hearts through it. As a group, briefly reflect:

Which of these six areas felt most impactful, convicting, encouraging, or personally challenging to you?

- *Devotion instead of distraction*
- *Awe instead of familiarity*
- *Generosity instead of scarcity*
- *Community instead of loneliness*
- *Gratitude instead of discontentment*
- *Evangelism instead of insularism*

After sharing, choose the top three areas your group most wants to discuss together tonight.

The Gospel Spurs Devotion (Not Distraction)

"The Spirit of God leads the people of God to submit to the Word of God."

"They devoted themselves..." (v.42)

The early church wasn't casually interested in Jesus, they were devoted. The gospel had so captured their hearts that they "glued" themselves to God's Word, prayer, fellowship, and worship. Yet if we're honest, distraction and busyness often pull our hearts away from deep devotion.

Discussion Questions:

- What tends to distract your heart most from devotion to Jesus?
- Which spiritual rhythm feels hardest to remain devoted to right now?
- How does remembering the gospel reshape devotion from obligation into delight?

The Gospel Spurs Awe (Not Familiarity)

"Meditation fetches life in a truth." — Thomas Watson

"And awe came upon every soul..." (v.43)

The early church lived with a sense of wonder and reverence before God. But over time, familiarity can dull our amazement. We hear about grace, the cross, forgiveness, and resurrection so often that our hearts can become numb to their beauty.

Discussion Questions:

- When was the last time you genuinely felt awe or wonder toward God?
- How can familiarity with spiritual things slowly harden our hearts?
- What helps move truth from your head into your heart?

The Gospel Spurs Generosity & Care (Not Scarcity)

"A scarcity mindset fears the well will run dry. An ownership mindset forgets who owns the well."

"All who believed were together and had all things in common..." (vv.44–45)

The gospel freed the early church from clinging tightly to their possessions. Because Jesus was their treasure, they became radically generous toward others. Fear and scarcity loosened their grip when grace captured their hearts.

Discussion Questions:

- In what ways do fear, comparison, or self-protection make generosity difficult?
- How does believing "all is gift" reshape the way we view money, possessions, and time?
- Where might God be inviting you to grow in generosity or care for others?

The Gospel Spurs Community (Not Loneliness)

"Risk or rust." — Scotty Smith

"Day by day... breaking bread in their homes..." (v.46)

The early church shared life together in meaningful, embodied community. In a world marked by loneliness and isolation, the gospel invites us into honest, vulnerable, sacrificial relationships with one another.

Discussion Questions:

- Which barrier to community do you most relate to: vulnerability, convenience, or passivity?
- Why is authentic community often harder than we expect?
- What would it look like for you to move toward deeper connection instead of isolation?

The Gospel Spurs Gratitude (Not Discontentment)

"Have you ever made a situation worse by being grateful?"

"They received their food with glad and generous hearts..." (v.46)

Gratitude marked the early church. Even ordinary meals became occasions for joy and praise. The gospel reframes life as grace rather than entitlement and thankful hearts become powerful witnesses to the world.

Discussion Questions:

- What tends to fuel discontentment in your heart?
- How does gratitude change the atmosphere of relationships and community?
- Where have you recently seen God's grace in ordinary life?

The Gospel Spurs Evangelism (Not Insularism)

"We're one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread."

"And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." (v.47)

A healthy church doesn't turn inward. The gospel moves us outward with love, humility, and hope for people who don't yet know Jesus. Evangelism is not superiority, it's grace-filled invitation.

Discussion Questions:

- Who has God placed in your life that needs the hope of Jesus?
- What fears or hesitations keep you from engaging spiritually with others?
- How does remembering your own rescue shape the way you view evangelism?