

## Day 1

### Follow the Leader

*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. (Acts 2:42-47)*

We know that Jesus came to "seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10) But how did He come? He came "eating and drinking."

*34 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' 35 But wisdom is proved right by all her children." (Luke 7:34-35)*

In Acts we see that the Christians devoted themselves to the breaking of bread together in their homes. Their fellowship led to the sharing and meeting of needs. And their close fellowship led to the salvation of non-believers.

***Are you involved in a small group or Sunday school class in your church? How have you seen God working through the small groups in your church?***

## Day 2

### Follow the Leader

*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. (Acts 2:42-45)*

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What were the characteristics of their breaking of bread together?

## Breaking Bread

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- Vs. 42 – prayers are prayed and answered
- Vs. 42 – growing in knowledge of truth
- Vs. 45 – Everyone’s needs were being met
- Vs. 43 – Witnessing of signs and wonders
- Vs. 46 – People filled with joy
- Vs. 47 – Lost people were getting saved.

Some experts say that the sense of Community in America began to die with the invention of air condition. Prior to the invention of air condition families would congregate outside on the front porch, but as air conditioning became more popular, more people stayed inside and there was less interaction between people. Then we built attached garages so that we don’t even have to walk outside from the car to the house. And then we bought answering machines so that we could screen our calls so that we wouldn’t have to talk to someone we didn’t want to. We live in a world now where a Facebook “like” has become the extent of our fellowship.

***Are you involved in a community like the one mentioned in Acts? If not, why? This is the type of community Jesus wants for His Church!***

## Day 3

### Follow the Leader

*4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Rom 12:4-5)*

The Bible says that there is power in community. Craig Groeschel described what the Acts 2:42-47 type of community would look like in today’s Church.

"The Christians were devoted to themselves, and occasionally got to Church when they had time. No one was filled with awe because there were no signs and wonders performed by the believers. Very few of the believers were together and they had almost nothing in common because they had no real

time for each other. If they sold something, they used the money to buy something better for themselves. They ate on the run, they kept to themselves, and they were too rushed to enjoy one another or give praise to God. They claimed to love God, but they didn't really love each other and they felt very empty and alone. As a result most people disliked them and very few people were ever saved."

As Christians we are completely dependent on the grace of Jesus and on one another because we are incomplete without each other.

***Which version of the Act 2:42-47 description of community do you see yourself in? Ask God to show you how to be involved in a small group and to be involved in the Community of believers that He created us for.***

#### Day 4

##### Follow the Leader

*8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

One of Satan's best tactics is to get us alone. Just as a lion will attack a lone animal who has strayed from the herd, Satan knows that we are weaker on our own. There is power in the presence of others.

How does community make us stronger? When we have a need, we have others surrounding us ready to help. When we have good times we have others surrounding us ready to rejoice in our happiness. When we have questions we have others surrounding us to guide us toward God's will. When we have anxiety we have others surrounding us that we can trust who will provide comfort. By being in community we have a chance to show our love for one another.

*7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live*

*through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. (1 John 4:7-12)*

**Do you feel the effects of others who have invested in your life? How has community made you stronger?**

### Day 5

#### Follow the Leader

*14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Matt 6:14-15)*

Forgiveness is a choice. There comes a time when we have to choose to forgive. It's not about feelings, but a choice. Feelings can be deceptive. But when we choose to forgive, God will bless that choice and bring our feelings into His will.

*May your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts. (Psalm 119:173)*

When we choose to do things God's way, He stands ready to help us accomplish His will. When we choose to forgive those who have hurt us, God stands ready to help us forgive that person. We don't have to try to forgive someone on our own, God enables us and empowers us to forgive those around us and to live the Christian life. We just have to choose to live God's way.

***Have you made a choice to forgive those who have hurt you? If not, do so today. God can empower you to forgive, but you must choose to be obedient first.***

## Day 6 & 7

### Follow the Leader

*1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! 2 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. 3 It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. (Psalm 133)*

Spend time meditating on how you are involved in Community:

Ask God to show you how you can be involved or further involved in a small group

What can you do this week, tomorrow, today to get involved in Christian Community?

Is God asking you to be the one to start a small group?

Are you contributing to your small group or only taking? How are you contributing and what more can you do?

Has Satan isolated you so that you are easy prey?

Ask God to return you to the fold.

How did you encourage someone in your small group today?

When was the last time you shared something in your small group?

How well do you know the people in your small group? Do you know them well enough to pray specifically for what's going on in their life? Do you rejoice in their joyous times?

How quick are you to respond to needs brought up in your small group? Are needs met or forgotten?

***God wants us to be in Community, so find out where He want you to fit in! God has a place for you, don't give up!***