

Faith Family Worship Guide – Week 2

MEMORIZE

Acts 2:42 – And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

READ

Read Acts 2:42-47.

In this paragraph, we learn a little about how the early Christians lived their lives. They were able to teach each other how to pray and how to study the Bible. They were able to meet one another's needs because they were sharing their belongings and money. Their time together and their caring for one another is a great example of Christ-followers showing the Word to one another. The great thing is that, as they showed the Word to each other, they were also showing the Word to non-believers. Seeing the lives of the Christ-followers helped non-believers to understand the power and love of the gospel.

Questions:

What were some of the things the early church devoted themselves to doing with one another?

How did what they were doing affect each other?

How did what they were doing affect the non-believers around them?

Bottom Line: The early church glorified God through their community with one another.

SING

As we have read above, when we treat other believers with a Christ-like love we not only minister to them, but we also show a picture of who Christ is to those who don't know Him. Let this week's song, 'Come People of the Risen King', be a prayer of praise for the gift of biblical community. Let it be an encouragement to you throughout the week while you delight in Him and show the love of Christ to those around you.

We will lift our eyes to Him
Where steady arms of mercy
Ready to gather children in

Rejoice, rejoice
Let every tongue rejoice
One heart, one voice
O Church of Christ rejoice

Visit our website for a link to this song: www.brookhills.org/gathering/this_week.html.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created by the age-group ministry leaders as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool

- Before you begin, prepare or purchase a special treat that your family can enjoy together. (Ex.: cupcakes, cookies, etc.)
- Read Acts 2:42 to your preschooler.
- Explain to your preschooler that this verse is about a group of people who had chosen to turn away from their sin/bad choices, were sorry for their sin/bad choices, and had chosen to follow Jesus. They were very excited and were now Christ followers. They were new Christians!
- Tell your child that it was kind of like a birthday for them. It was the time in their lives that they began a new life with Christ as their Savior.

- Explain that just as we celebrate the day you were born with a cake or cupcake and by getting together with friends and family, these new Christians loved getting together. They would learn together about God. They would eat together, take care of each other, and share the good news of their new birthday in Christ with others.
- Did you know that God wants us, as Christians, to get together with other Christians, and share the Word of Jesus with each other just like the new Christians in the Bible did? Yes, He does. God also wants us to share His Word with others who do not know Jesus too!
- Get out your cupcakes or special treat. Explain that you are all going to enjoy a time of celebrating with each other and enjoy these special treats together. Remind your child that as you enjoy your special treats, they should remember people that do not know the good news of Jesus.
- Pray and ask God to help your family share His love with others, so they will have a new Birthday in Christ too!

Children

- Read Acts 2:42-47.
- On paper or a white board, draw a horizontal and vertical line to divide the paper into 4 sections.
- In one section, make a list of all the things the early church devoted itself to doing together. (See verse 42: apostles' teaching of the Word, breaking of bread in the Lord's Supper, fellowship, prayer)
- Beside that section, write what these actions caused them to feel toward each other and how they felt toward God. (See verses 43-46: were in awe of God, worshipped and praised God with thankfulness, great love for one another, felt community with other believers)
- In the bottom left corner, list how these actions and emotions led them to respond to one another. (See verses 44-45: they shared all that they had, they even sold what they owned so no one would be in need, worshiped together)
- In the final space, write out what effects the lives of the Christ-followers had on the nonbelievers around them. (See verse 47: they had favor with the unbelievers, people were coming to salvation daily)
- Basically, just by living how Christ had taught them to live with each other, their lives showed the love of Christ to nonbelievers, and these outsiders wanted the life that they saw in the believers. They wanted to belong to a church that loved, cared, shared, and accepted others. And the early believers learned how to do these things as they devoted themselves to the Word, prayer, and living sacrificially like Christ's example.
- Today, we should be like the early Church as well. We should be fully devoted to the Word, prayer, sacrificial living, and a body of other believers—not a group that we meet with casually once a week, but a group that we are devoted to study the Word with, pray with, share life with, sacrifice with, and do ministry with. Are you and your family experiencing the fullness of the early Church in these ways?
- If we are being the Church, the result should be similar to what is seen in Acts 2. Non-believers should be attracted to us and be curious as to what is different from everyone else. The temptation is to become a bubble, draw inward, and focus on ourselves, but we must be a magnet that attracts and accepts the ones that need Christ the most.
- Pray as a family and ask God to show you how you can be more like the early Church in Acts so that nonbelievers will be drawn to Christ by your example. Praise God for all that He teaches us in His Word!

Students

- Because of their life-stage and the fact that they are still growing spiritually and emotionally, most students take life as it comes. This means that they often don't plan ahead and priorities can shift from moment to moment. This also means that priorities are not always what they should be. In Acts 2:42-47 we see believers intentionally making teaching, prayer, fellowship, and sacrifice a priority. With all of this in mind, begin your time with your family by having everyone write down all that they have done in the past week. If they can, have them write down the time they spent on those items as well. Now, have them rate how important those things really are (use a 1-10 scale). Many of the items may very well be significant matters, so this is not an attempt to have them feel chastised for every little detail. Ask them, "Are there any things that you wish you would have done that you did not make time for? Do you feel like you spent too much time doing anything that was not all that important?" Point out the fact that if we are not careful time gets away from all of us, and those things that are most important are left undone. Share with them that this was a real issue for the early church as well, and then have someone read Acts 2:42-47.
- Ask your students, "What did you see were priorities in the lives of Christians in Acts? Do you see any area where we as a family could do a better job of these things? (Be ready for honest answers.) Where do you think you struggle the most?" After an honest time of sharing have your students flip over their list of tasks from the last week, and then have them write a new list for this coming week. Instruct them to write down at least five key priorities for the next week, and have them assign time for these items as well. Some of these may be things like studying for tests or homework, but make sure they write down the time they will spend studying Scripture and praying as well. If they struggle with what to write give them suggestions, and then commit to review this list **and yours** the next week!