

To Small Group Leaders: This guide is designed to keep our discussion time shorter this week leaving additional time to pray.

INTRO

Do you have a hobby or pastime that you are devoted to? Maybe a favourite sport? How easy is it to spend time and money on something you are passionate about?

READ

- Acts 2:42-47

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. —Acts 2:41-42 The Message

REFLECT & RESPOND

In response to the first sermon recorded earlier in Acts 2, the crowd cried out, “What shall we do?” Peter called the listeners to repent, to be baptized, to receive the Holy Spirit. The response was unimaginable — 3000 put their faith in Jesus.

What happened next? Those who believed lived remarkable lives. They lived lives committed to God’s Word, to one another, to prayer and to generosity. And the gospel —the good news — continued to spread, and people were added daily.

DEVOTED

“When the early believers converted to Christ, it never occurred to them to fit him into the margins of their busy lives. They redefined themselves around a new, immovable center. He was not an optional weekend activity, along with the kids’ soccer practices. They put him and his church and his cause first in their hearts, first in their schedules, first in their budgets, first in their reputations, first in their very lives. *They devoted themselves.* — Pastor Ray Ortlund

Qu: Comparing the 1st century church and the 21st century church, what things stand out to you

as to how the Christian faith is lived out? What has been lost?

As we read of the devotion of the early church, we catch that sense of awe and amazement. Lives were changed by faith in Jesus and commitment to Him and one another. The beauty of these lives well-lived had a multiplying effect as many others came to faith.

“THIS IS OUR SHOT”

This past year as a time to reflect and reset some things in our lives. Many of us experienced some of this Acts 2 excitement when we first came to faith, but for some of us it has faded with time. Maybe this is our “shot” —our time to consider our devotion to God.

Qu: How can we as individuals and as a church grow in devotion to God’s word, one another, prayer, generosity? What might need to change in your life?

PRAY

In 2021, our church is focusing on greater devotion to prayer. This includes setting aside the first Thursday in each month to fast and pray for God to move in our nation, in our church and in the lives of those who don’t know Christ. During the first week of each month, we are asking small groups to take time in the group to:

- pray for God to pour out his Spirit on our nation
- pray for boldness to bring the good news to those you know who aren’t yet followers of Jesus
- pray together for friends or family members to respond to the message of the gospel