

Acts - The Birth of the Church - Week 5 - Church Vital Signs.

Acts 2: 42-47

Questions

1. Today let's start with the ending of the sermon...which area were you personally convicted about? Of the three categories (Teaching, Fellowship, Worship), which one needs the most work in your life?
2. **Main Point: A Healthy Church is Devoted to Healthy Practices.** For those who have attended different churches, have you ever sensed that your church is not in a healthy place? Consider this same question if you've attended one church for a long while, spanning different eras of ministry. What were the symptoms of the "illness"?
3. **Point #1: A Healthy Church is Devoted to...Teaching.** Other than 35 minutes on Sunday morning to absorb the sermon, what activities throughout your week reflect this devotion? Help one another generate more ideas to live this out, and don't forget to include some aspects of you teaching others.
4. **Point #2: A Healthy Church is Devoted to...Fellowship.** Other than chatting with friends in the lobby before or after the service, what activities throughout your week reflect this devotion? (If you're reading these questions in your small group, you already have an easy one to start!) Help one another generate more ideas, even if you're not currently doing it.
5. Verse 45 says the early disciples sold their possessions and helped anyone in need. Doesn't the government already do that for needy people today? Can we just expect the Salvation Army and Mission 25 to handle this part? Why or why not? How might generosity, even radical generosity, become part of our devotion to fellowship?
6. **Point #3: A Healthy Church is Devoted to...Worship.** OK, you know the drill by now...Other than singing four songs and praying for 2 minutes in the Worship Service, what activities throughout your week reflect this devotion? We tend to think of worship as more natural for certain people, such as creatives who are into music and the arts or just more contemplative in their manner. What are some ways that anyone can participate in worship throughout the week, no matter their personality or manner?
7. Read Luke 6:12-13. Also look at Mark 1:35, 39. If you have time, check out Luke 9:28-29. What is the common element to these passages? Just like Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane before his crucifixion, many big events in His life were preceded by prayer. If Jesus prioritized prayer, shouldn't we do the same? What are some practical steps to do this?
8. Pray that our church will be a healthy place that reflects the same devotion as the early church. Since the church is the people, let's encourage one another and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the ways that each of us can take positive steps.
9. **Note to small group leaders:** The letters of the church in the early chapters of the book of Revelation could also be helpful this week. They are like the diagnoses and prescriptions of a doctor treating patients, which totally fits with this week's theme. Feel free to creatively use these however the Lord leads, perhaps as part of your introduction.