

FURTHER STUDY GUIDE

BE THE CHURCH: WHO WE ARE | Acts 2:37-47

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Acts 2 records the birth of the church at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit has come upon the disciples, Peter has preached the gospel of Jesus' death and resurrection, and thousands have heard the message.

When the crowd asks, “What shall we do?”, Peter calls them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. About 3,000 people respond.

But Luke doesn't stop with their conversion. Acts 2:42–47 gives us a picture of what these new believers became. They devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, meals, prayer, generosity, worship, and mission. Their faith wasn't merely something they believed—it became a new way of life together.

The church wasn't primarily a building, an event, or a weekly gathering. It was a people transformed by Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as His body in the world.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Think about a time you were part of a group that felt like a true community. What made it feel different from simply being around other people?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A People Transformed — Acts 2:37–41

1. What does Peter's call to repentance reveal about what it means to become part of Christ's people?

2. Why do you think Luke immediately connects faith in Christ with baptism and identification with the church?

3. How should becoming a Christian change the way we understand our identity?

4. What is the difference between going to church and being the church?

A People Devoted — Acts 2:42

5. What does devotion look like compared with casual participation?

6. Why do you think Luke begins with the apostles' teaching? What does that tell us about the importance of Scripture in the church?

7. What does biblical fellowship involve beyond simply spending time together?

8. What would it look like for our church to become genuinely devoted to prayer?

A People Who Belong — Acts 2:42, 44–46

9. What do these verses teach us about the importance of relationships within the church?

10. Why is authentic Christian community difficult to experience if we only attend a weekly worship service?

11. What does it mean practically to say, “No one walks alone”?

12. What might keep Christians from allowing others to truly know them?

13. How can we move from being consumers of church to contributors to the community?

A People Who Care — Acts 2:44–45

14. What does their generosity reveal about how they viewed their possessions?

15. What does Christian love look like when someone in the church has a genuine need?

16. Why can generosity be difficult?

17. What are some ways we can care for one another that don't involve money?

18. How would our community look different if every person asked, “Who can I serve?” rather than “What can the church do for me?”

A People Who Worship & Witness — Acts 2:46–47

19. What does “day by day” reveal about how the early believers understood worship?

20. What connection do you see between the way the church lived together and the way people responded to the gospel?

21. What happens when a church becomes focused primarily on what happens *inside* the church?

22. What would it look like for you to live as Christ's body in the world this week?

23. If someone knew nothing about Christianity but watched the way we lived together, what would they conclude about Jesus?

PERSONAL DEVOTION

- Take a few minutes to prayerfully consider:
- “Am I primarily someone who attends church, or am I becoming someone who IS the church?”
- Where is God inviting you to take your next step?
- With Christ:
What do I need to surrender or obey?
- With His people:
Who do I need to know, encourage, serve, or care for?
- With the world:
Who is God placing around me that needs to see and hear the gospel?

QUESTIONS | REFLECTIONS | OBSERVATIONS
