

**OPEN THE CONVERSATION**

Take some time to build relationships with the students:

* Ask for each student’s high and low from the week.
* Today’s RBQ (Relationship Building Question): **If your life had a theme song that played every time you walked into a room, what would it be?**

**INTRODUCTION**

Imagine if someone followed you around for a day—what would they say you’re devoted to? In Acts chapter 2, we see the early church was completely committed to learning about Jesus, spending time together, and living out their faith. They didn’t just believe in Jesus, they built their whole lives around knowing Him better, especially through Scripture. That kind of devotion didn’t just change them—it changed the world! What if we lived like that today? What would it look like to actually build our lives around God's Word—both on our own and with our community? That’s what we want to consider as we continue to talk through characteristics of a healthy and growing church. Because devotion to studying God’s Word, both individually and in community, is a vital attribute of a healthy church.

***Think about your current habits. Would you say you’re* sampling *the Bible,* snacking *on it, or* feasting *on it? And why?***

***READ ACTS 2:42-47***

1. What are some words you would use to describe the church community in Acts 2? How is this similar or different from your own experience with your small group or church today?
2. Why do you think it was important for the early church to study God’s Word together and not just alone? And why is it still important for us today?

***READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17***

1. **What do these verses tell us about the purpose of Scripture in our life?**
2. Can you think of a time when God used his Word to teach, correct, or otherwise equip you in a way that made you grow? What happened?
3. Why do you think some people (including us at times!) avoid the parts of Scripture that rebuke or correct us? What’s the risk in doing that?

***READ COLOSSIANS 3:15***

1. What does it mean for God’s Word to “dwell richly” in your everyday life? And how do you think we as a small group can help each other do this when life gets busy or hard?

**WRAP UP**

**Put today's lesson into action: How can you apply it to your life? How can you take a step closer to God this week?**

*Spend time thanking God for the gift of the Bible. Ask Him to help you desire His Word more and to grow as a group who reflects the Acts 2 church—devoted to Scripture, prayer, and real community.* *Ask for any prayer requests, and pray for one another.*

**EXTENDED CUT**

**Putting Acts 2 in Context:** *Prior to today’s passage, Matthias was chosen to replace Judas (who betrayed Jesus) among the twelve (Acts 1:15-26), and the Holy Spirit arrived at Pentecost (Acts 2), just as Jesus had promised. While the Holy Spirit has been at work since the days of the Old Testament, this event at Pentecost marked the beginning of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit for all believers (1 Corinthians 6:19). After the Holy Spirit came upon this gathered group of believers as “tongues like flames of fire” (Acts 2:3), the Spirit-filled believers began to speak in many languages, and Peter delivered a sermon to nearby Jews that resulted in around three thousand people being saved and baptized (Acts 2:41). Our passage in Acts picks up right after this. Jesus’s command of the Great Commission didn’t just stop at telling people about Him. He commanded His followers to make disciples, requiring a strong, active community rooted in God’s Word.*

1. **What are some words you would use to describe the church community in Acts 2? How is this similar or different from your own experience with your small group or church today?**

The early church community in Acts 2 could be described with words like devoted, unified, generous, joyful, and active. They weren’t just people who happened to believe the same things—they actually did life together. Verse 44 says, “All the believers were together and held all things in common,” and verse 46 says they met every day, shared meals, and worshiped with glad and sincere hearts. That kind of closeness may be something you’ve experienced, or it might feel pretty different. Sometimes we can be guilty of going to church once a week, maybe joining a group, but not really knowing each other deeply. It’s worth asking—do we treat church like a community or just an event? This passage challenges us to lean into the kind of relationships that help us grow in faith and show the love of Jesus, as he described in John 13:35: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

1. **Why do you think it was important for the early church to study God’s Word together and not just alone? And why is it still important for us today?**

Now that these new converts had believed in Jesus for salvation, they had a lot to learn about Him and what it meant to follow Him. Acts 2:42 says they “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching,” wanting to learn as much as they could. But they didn’t just study God’s Word alone—they made it a shared priority. They were learning together, asking questions, and helping each other grow in their faith. Similarly, studying God’s word in a shared context and not just alone is important for our spiritual growth as well. Just like we see here in Acts 2, we aren’t meant to be isolated—God created us for life in community. Studying God’s Word with others helps us understand it better as we get to learn from each other’s insights and experiences. **Proverbs 27:17** says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Studying scripture together can encourage us when we’re struggling and challenge us when we’re drifting to remember what is true. Like iron sharpens iron, we are sharpened in our faith as we pursue growing in it together.

1. **What do these verses tell us about the purpose of Scripture in our life?**

These verses in 2 Timothy tell us that Scripture is God-breathed, meaning it comes directly from Him (verse 16). That makes it powerful and trustworthy. Paul lists out some of its purposes: teaching us what’s true, showing us where we’ve messed up (rebuking), helping us get back on track (correcting), and training us to live the right way. Basically, God’s Word shapes who we are and how we live. Verse 17 says it equips us for “every good work,” which means it prepares us for real-life situations—school, friendships, choices, and challenges. When we make time for Scripture, we’re not just checking off a spiritual to-do, we’re letting God speak into our lives, prepare us for what’s ahead, and shape us into the people He’s calling us to be.

1. **Can you think of a time when God used his Word to teach, correct, or otherwise equip you in a way that made you grow? What happened?**
2. **Why do you think some people (including us at times!) avoid the parts of Scripture that rebuke or correct us? What’s the risk in doing that?**

Sometimes it can be hard to read parts of Scripture that rebuke or correct us, because those parts can feel uncomfortable. No one really enjoys being told they’re wrong or that something in their life needs to change. Sometimes we’d rather focus on the encouraging verses and skip the challenging ones. But 2 Timothy 3:16 says ALL scripture is useful and valuable for our growth. God’s correction isn’t meant to shame us—but to shape us. **Hebrews 12:11** reminds us, “No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.” When we ignore the parts of God’s Word that challenge us, we risk staying stuck in sin or missing out on the growth God wants for us. It’s kind of like ignoring a warning light on a car dashboard—it may feel easier in the moment, but the damage builds over time. If we truly want to follow Jesus, we need to trust that His correction is always for our good, even when it’s hard to hear or fully understand.

1. **What does it mean for God’s Word to “dwell richly” in your everyday life? And how do you think we as a small group can help each other do this when life gets busy or hard?**

Think about what it means to dwell with someone. Most of us have had the experience of living with someone else: a sibling, parent, grandparent etc. When you dwell with someone, you are around them regularly. You spend time with them and know about them. When we dwell with God’s Word as believers, we are around it, reading it, praying over it, and spending time in it. It becomes part of how we think, speak, and make decisions. God’s Word contains truth on how we should live, gives us insights into His good character, and God uses it to speak to us! When we dwell richly in Scripture and store it up in our hearts, we build a strong foundation for the Holy Spirit to encourage us by bringing God’s Word to mind when we need it most. This is one of the most important things we do as believers. As a small group, we can help each other by staying committed to group, showing up in the midst of the busyness, sharing what we’re learning, praying Scripture over each other, sending encouragement during the week, or even memorizing verses together. Life gets crazy, but in the context of community we can help each other stay connected and grounded to what matters most!