

Apr 24 -
May 22

AFTER EASTER

remembering the resurrection

REMEMBERING THE RESURRECTION

A STUDY

of Easter

April 24 - May 22

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Written by TJ Johnson

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BAPTISM

Acts 2:36-41

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Baptism

Acts 2:36-41

36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

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# Baptism

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

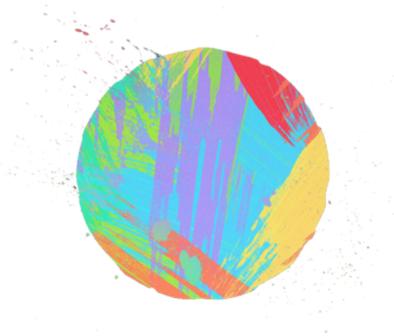
But now what? After resurrection are we to lay low and wait for Jesus' return? No! After studying Holy Week, found in the Gospel of Luke, we turn to Luke's sequel, The Book of Acts. Acts is the continuing work of Jesus among His people. What we find after resurrection is that Jesus has set apart His people, the church, to be a community committed to living out their faith TOGETHER.

But what is the church to commit to? What are some of the main essentials of life together? To answer this, we will spend the next several weeks in Acts 2.

This Sunday we will look at the first of the two church ordinances, baptism. Baptism teaches us something about Christ, the church, and the one who is committing their life to Christ.

In Him,

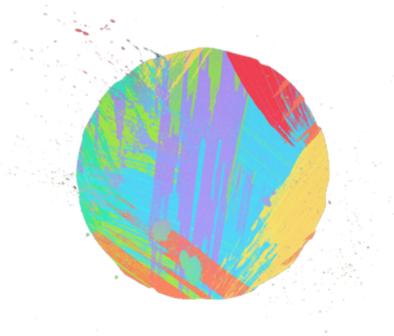
Pastor TJ



*Repent and be baptized*

## Discussion Questions

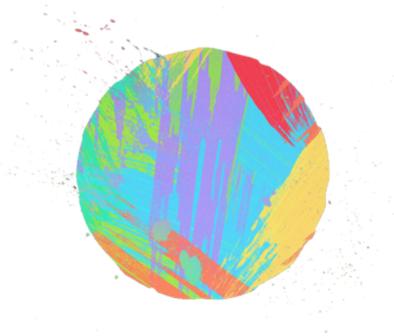
1. Take some time to discuss the context of Acts 2 and its connection between the Book of Luke that we just finished.
2. Can you recall the covenants and covenant signs mentioned in the sermon and the rest of the Old Testament? Why does God accompany His promises with a sign?
3. Read Acts 2:21. Who does Peter identify as “the Lord” in this passage and what are we being “saved” from (be specific).
4. Read Romans 6:3-7. How does the mode of baptism remind us of the promise of God?
5. Go to the gospels and read of Jesus’ baptism. What promise was given to Jesus at His baptism and how did Satan attempt to get Jesus to doubt that promise?
6. In what ways have you been tempted to doubt the promise of God?
7. How is baptism a reminder to the church to preach the gospel?



*Repent and be baptized*

## Discussion Questions

8. Read Acts 2:22-38 and discuss how Peter preached the gospel.
9. Read Acts 2:39. What are the three groups Peter calls on to receive the gospel?
10. In what ways can you get involved in sharing the gospel locally?
11. In what ways can you get involved in sharing the gospel generationally?
12. In what ways can you get involved in sharing the gospel globally?
13. Read Acts 2:38. In baptism what is the individual committing to and for how long?
14. What are some ways we can regularly reaffirm our commitment to turn from sin and follow Jesus?
15. Read Acts 2:41. What are baptized believers added to and what does that look like practically?

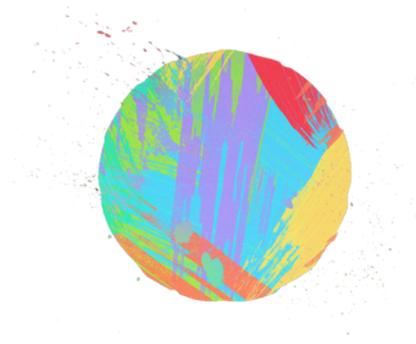


*Repent and be baptized*

## Going Deeper

### Questions

1. At BICF City Church we practice baptism by immersion. What are the other modes of baptism that churches practice and why?
2. At BICF we believe that salvation from the penalty of sin is a gift of God's grace, cannot be gained by any work (including baptism), and is provided on the single ground of trust in Christ's work on the cross. All who trust Christ in this way are forgiven of their sins and born into God's family by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (John 3:16-19, Romans 3:23, 5:1-9, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5). How would you counsel someone who believe that baptism is required for salvation?
3. At BICF City Church we practice credo-baptism, yet some churches practice paedobaptism. What is the biblical rationale for each? Would you recommend an adult who was baptized as an infant undergo adult baptism?
4. Most creeds and confessions speak of baptism as a sign and seal. What does that mean and why is that important?
5. What Old Testament shadows prefigured and prepared us for New Testament baptism?



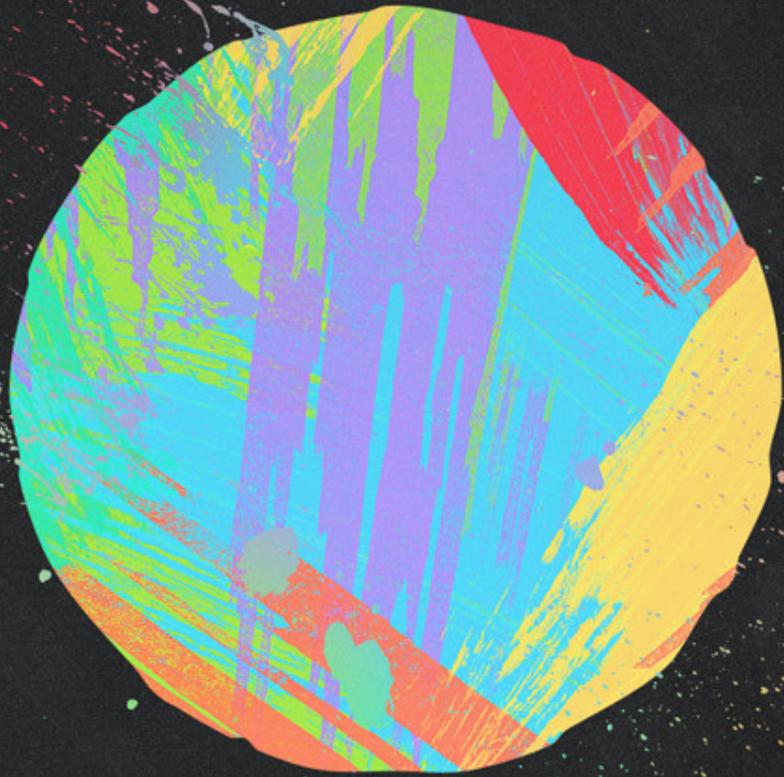
*Repent and be baptized*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



TEACHING

*Acts 2:42-47*

May 01

AFTER

EASTER

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*remembering the resurrection*

# Teaching

Acts 2:42-47

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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Teaching

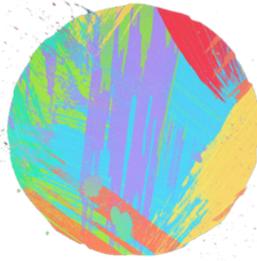
In Acts 2:42 we find some regular commitments of the early church.

Last week we looked at the commitment of the church to evangelize and the commitment of the converts to repent and be baptized. But is this all it means to be a follower of Jesus?

Now that we have repented of our sins and joyfully trusted in Jesus, what does it mean to follow Jesus? This week we will look at the early churches' devotion to the Apostles' teaching.

In Him,

Pastor TJ



They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching

Discussion Questions

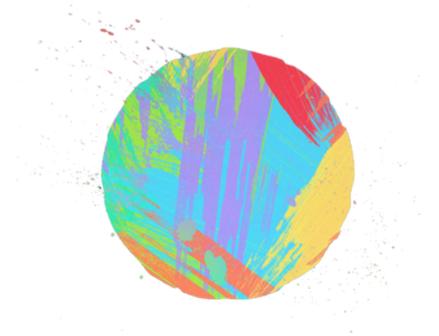
1. Share with the group about a teacher who has had a tremendous impact on your life.
2. List some examples of how the early church devoted themselves to “apostles’ teaching”.
3. What have been the most effective ways you have devoted yourself to Biblical teaching?
4. What Biblical teachings did the early church find it difficult to devote to?
5. Which of the “apostles’ teaching” have you found most difficult to devote yourself to and why?
6. What teaching opportunities of City Church have you found most helpful and why?
7. Recall the practical tips for devoting to teaching given in the sermon and share which ones you have implemented.
8. What does the “apostles’ teaching” refer to in its original context?



They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching

Discussion Questions

9. What does the “apostles’ teaching” mean for us today?
10. What are the Biblical qualifications of teachers?
11. Give some examples of faithful and false teachers in the Bible and the dangers of not knowing the difference.
12. In Acts, how do you see New Testament teachers committed to teaching?
13. Share with the group a Bible teacher you know who has modeled commitment to faithful teaching.
14. What are some things the church can do to encourage City Church’s Bible teachers?
15. Read Acts 20:26-27 and Matthew 28:20. What parts of the Bible do you think would be difficult to teach and why?
16. The sermon discussed preaching through books of the Bible. What is the importance of this?
17. How can Bible teachers continue to grow in their teaching gift?



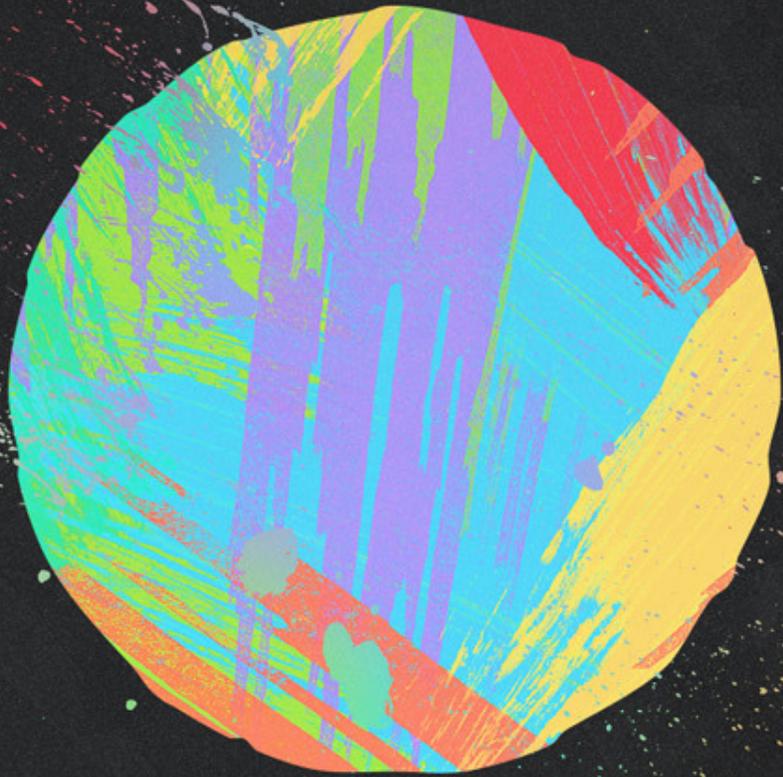
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching

Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



FELLOWSHIP

Acts 2:42-47

May 08

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Fellowship

Acts 2:42-47

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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# Fellowship

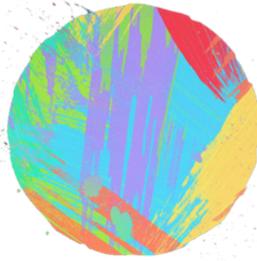
Over the past two weeks, we have been looking at Acts 2 and how the early church followed the example set out by the Apostles.

We have already looked at how they followed the example of baptism and teaching as foundational truths, and this week we look at fellowship.

What does fellowship really mean, and how are we to engage in it if it's so important?

In Him,

Brett Warren



*And they devoted themselves to the fellowship*

## Discussion Questions

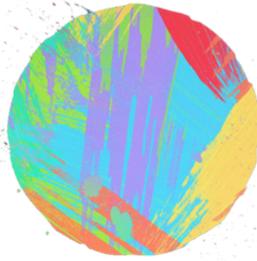
1. After reading Acts 2:42-47, underline examples of the early church's unity/fellowship, circle the results of the early church's unity/fellowship, then as a group discuss your findings.

**ACTS 2:42-47:**

***42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.***

2. Using the sermon and the New Testament, how would you define Biblical fellowship (κοινωνία)?

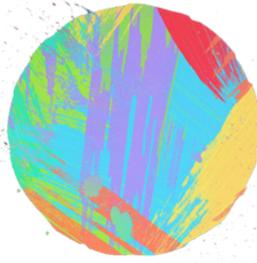
3. Read Acts 2:42 (And they **devoted themselves** to...the fellowship). How do we devote ourselves to fellowship and what are things that might keep people from "devoting" themselves to Biblical fellowship today?



*And they devoted themselves to the fellowship*

## Discussion Questions

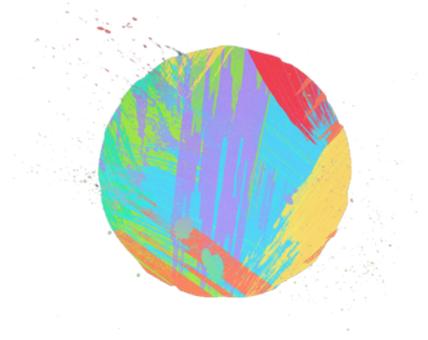
4. How did regular fellowship contribute to “awe” coming upon EVERY soul?
5. Have you ever experienced the awe of God through fellowship? If so, share with the group.
6. Read Acts 2:44 (**ALL** were together). Describe the diversity and cultural differences in the early church (considering all of Acts, not just chapter 2).
7. Read Acts 2:44 (**ALL** were together). What types of segregation are most common in the church today and how can we get better at having “ALL” together.
8. Read the following verses: Acts 2:45, 4:32-35; Rom 15:26; 2 Cor. 9:13; Phil. 1:5; Hebrews 13:16 (each verse uses the word koinonia in relation to giving). In what ways was the early church’s fellowship marked by sacrificial giving and why?
9. In what ways has your community displayed this type of fellowship and in what ways can we better display fellowship through giving?
10. Read the following verses: 1 Cor. 1:9; 10:16; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 3:9; Phil. 2:1, 3:10; 1 John 1:3. How does our fellowship with the Trinity influence our understanding of how we should fellowship with one another?



*And they devoted themselves to the fellowship*

## Discussion Questions

11. Read Acts 2:46. Why are gladness and generosity a natural outcome of the fellowship of the early church? What could keep us from having glad hearts as we gather with others today?
12. Read Acts 2:46 (attending **the temple** together and breaking bread **in their homes**) and discuss the importance of both large group and small group fellowship. What examples do you find in the New Testament and what examples do you find in the church today?
13. Read Acts 2:46 (attending the temple **together**) and the following definition of the Greek word **ὁμοθυμαδόν** “**together/one accord**,” then discuss how our diversity displays, rather than diminishes, the glory of God.
14. After reading the following passages, discuss how unity (**together/one accord**) today can be used for both good and evil.
  - **Positive:** Acts 1:14; 2:1, 46; 4:24; 5:12; 8:6; 15:25; Romans 15:6
  - **Negative:** Acts 12:20; 18:12; 19:29
15. Read Acts 2:47. Is the fellowship experienced by the early church a contributing factor of the church’s growth?
16. In what ways did Jesus and the early church fellowship with unbelievers and how can we mimic those models today?



*And they devoted themselves to the fellowship*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



COMMUNION

*Acts 2:42-47*

May 15

AFTER

EASTER

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*remembering the resurrection*

# Communion

Acts 2:42-47

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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Communion

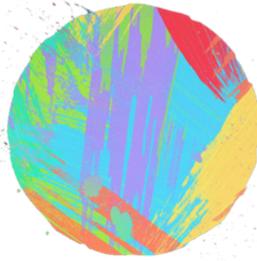
When we gather together we sing, pray, fellowship, and listen to a sermon, but once a month we do something unique: we all eat a small piece of bread and drink a tiny cup of grape juice. Why do we do this?

In Acts 2 we are told that the very first community of Jesus followers devoted themselves to four things, and one of them was partaking in this meal.

This week we will discuss what this meal is, why we partake of it and how we ought to partake of it.

In Him,

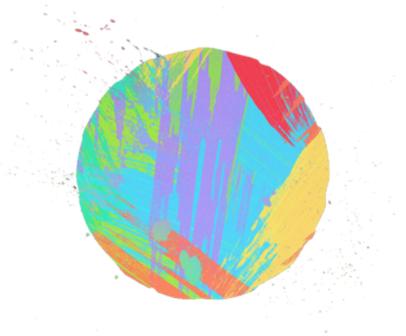
Pastor Ben



And they devoted themselves to the breaking of bread

Discussion Questions

1. What are the four different names Christians use for the remembering of the Lord's death through eating bread and drinking juice and what truths does each name bring out about the meal?
2. What are the differing thoughts in Christendom on what exactly happens during communion? Which of these do you believe and why?
3. Why does Jesus call us to regularly partake of communion?
4. How often should we take communion?
5. Share with the group a meaningful communion experience.
6. Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-33. In what ways did the church in Corinth partake of the meal in an unworthy manner?
7. What are some ways the church today might be guilty of partaking of the meal in an unworthy manner?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 11:28. How can someone examine themselves before eating the meal?



And they devoted themselves to the breaking of bread

Prayer & Praise

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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



PRAYER

Acts 2:42-47

May 22

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Prayer

Acts 2:42-47

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# Prayer

PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Since I was a young boy growing up in church, I heard the saints say, “Prayer changes things” or “Pray until something happens” and “God hears you when you pray.” I began to understand prayer is essential for the believer to walk in the victory of our Lord Jesus.

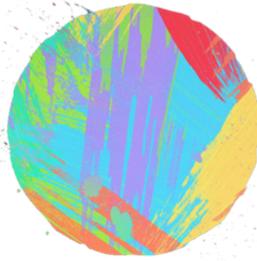
In fact, it was our Lord who said, “Men should always pray and not faint” (Luke 18:1). Jesus would rise a while before morning and go unaccompanied to a place where He would pray for hours to the Father (Mark 1:35).

Why did Jesus believe prayer was so important that He would not only teach about it but demonstrated it to His disciples? Without prayer the spiritual life of the believer would be in danger. In prayer, God has the opportunity to strengthen, fellowship, and guide believers in sustaining their position as overcomers through Jesus our Lord! Prayer is not a religious activity for us, but it is how we fellowship with our Father, the God of the universe.

In today’s study, we learn the importance of prayer in the life of the believer and the church, who have this honor thanks to our Lord Jesus.

Many Blessings,

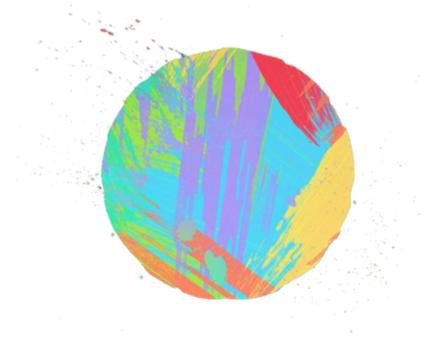
Rico Corporal



*And they devoted themselves to the prayers*

## Discussion Questions

1. What is prayer? What does it mean to have a prayer life?
2. Read Acts 1:14 and 2:42-47. How does prayer help with church growth and unity?
3. Why do you think the apostles stressed the importance of them devoting themselves to the teaching of the Word and prayer? Read Acts 6:4.
4. In Acts 12:5, Peter is released from prison because of the prayers of the saints. What do you think is the reason God answers prayers? Do you have to pray in a specific way for God to answer prayer? Explain.
5. Do you believe God can work miracles through prayer today? Do you have a story to share? If you do please share with your group.
6. Read Luke 18: 1-14. Why do you think God wants us to be persistent in prayer? How should we go before God when we are praying?



*And they devoted themselves to the prayers*

## Discussion Questions

7. Read Luke 11:1-2, Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray? Why do you think Jesus commands His people to pray?
8. Why do you think many Christians do not participate in the practice of prayer if Jesus commands it?
9. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11 and James 5:16. What are some reasons Christians should pray for one another? What are some things we should be praying for one another?
10. Think about how much time you spend with God in prayer. Is this a weak area for you? If so, what do you think you need to do to strengthen this area of your walk with God? (Someone can pray for the group)



*And they devoted themselves to the prayers*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports