



Real Community

Life Group Study On Acts 2:42-47

This study is meant as an introductory study, not an in-depth study. We typically suggest 15–20 minutes for the study. It can easily be expanded with more discussion questions and is great to use as your first study of the school year.

Read Acts 2:42–47

- What are your first impressions of this passage? What stands out to you?

This passage gives us a glimpse into what the 1st century church was like. What did they do when they were together?

- They shared their lives—how much of their lives did they share?
- They ate together and prayed together; fellowship literally means to share the substance of your life. They learned together. They worshipped together. They were full of joy and sincere—we need to have sincere community, not superficial.

Questions:

- How often were they together? How often do you think people have to be in contact with each other in order to experience *real community*?
- What was the result of their time together?
 - They were filled with an awe of God (Encouraged), God did works among them (Power), and the Lord added to their number daily (Fruit).
- What do you think are some of the keys to having a sincere community rather than a superficial one? Why might this be challenging?

How do we accomplish it?

- What are some things that stand in the way of experiencing this kind of community in our own lives?
- What can we do purposefully to see *real community* happen in our Life Group and be able to experience the awesome blessings that come with it?

After discussing the above questions, go over the following *Key Ingredients for a Healthy Life Group*. We would encourage you to provide copies of these key ingredients to your Life Group members and return to them periodically throughout the year.

Key Ingredients for a Healthy Life Group

Commitment—The backbone to a healthy Life Group is commitment: Commitment to Jesus and commitment to one another that results in a commitment to the Life Group.

Openness and honesty—For us to get the most out of Life Group we need to be real with one another. We need to be able to say when we are doing well and when we are not.

Confidentiality—In order for people to be real and open we need to be able to trust one another and have confidence that what is shared in Life Group is confidential to the group.

Affirmation—A healthy Life Group is a place where people feel valued and accepted. There is nothing you have done or can do that will make us not love and care for you.

Accountability—A healthy Life Group is a group in which people are accountable to one another.

Prayer—A healthy Life Group is a group that lifts each other up before the throne of grace and asks Him for the blessings they need.

