



# Commitment

## What Does It Mean To Be Devoted To Community?

*The purpose of this study is to help you understand the necessity of being committed and “devoted” to God and a community that helps them love God and love others. This lesson will tie back to the first week’s study of Acts 2:42-47, and will focus on the idea that their commitment and involvement in Life Group is vital to their faith and the faith of others. As a leader, your role in leading this study will be more about casting vision than just asking questions.*

**Read Acts 2:42:** “All the believers **devoted** themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.”

We talked about this passage a couple of weeks ago, but we want to focus on one word from this verse. The word “devoted.”

### 1. What does the word “devoted” mean?

The Greek word used in this verse means: **to persist in adherence to**, a thing; **to be intently engaged in, attend constantly to**.

The word “devoted” is a strong word. It doesn’t mean just show up, but to come consistently to community meetings and be engaged and excited.

**Read Hebrews 10:24-25:** “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

### 2. What were these communities supposed to share in common?

(They met regularly)

### 3. So then, what does it mean to be devoted to this (Chi Alpha) community?

(Leader note: Press them on this answer! You are casting vision.)

Being devoted to this community means making Life Group and Large Group Gatherings a priority. It means if you are not in class or at work, then you are there. It means that you put it in your calendar, that you set an alarm if you need to, and you don’t schedule anything else at this time. It means making sure that you study before this time, and then you can go study afterwards. It means that when your study group is planning when to meet, this time is not an option. We all have midterms and finals, and this group will be considerate that you are a student and will not make extra demands on you. That being said this community will fail in encouraging and being helpful to you and each other if people are missing every other week or “1 out of 3.”

If an actual emergency happens or you get sick, that is fine and we totally understand. There is no role call or membership, but if you are going to keep missing, then our community will not be healthy. If you are having a bad day, we want you to come to Life Group so we can encourage you, pray for you, and offer to help.

For us to be a healthy community, we have to be committed to being here and actively participating. We are all at different stages of belief and understanding of what God wants for us, but as we are committed to being here and having a healthy community, then we can encourage and help one another to grow in knowledge and faith. We can’t share life, knowledge, meals, prayer, and all of the things that a Godly and healthy community is supposed to have if we don’t show up! As leaders, we will always plan something for this time and be prepared to not waste your time.

### 4. Have you ever been to a meeting where you could tell that certain people did not want to be there? What was it like?



**Let's look an example of community that we need to watch out for:**

**Galatians 2:11-13:** *“But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile believers, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision. As a result, other Jewish believers followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.”*

**5. What is going on in this passage?**

Peter was not hanging out with certain people in the church, because he was afraid of criticism, and then other people started following Peter, which formed a divide in the community.

**6. Who are the people in this passage?**

- Peter: leader of the church
- Barnabas: leader of the church
- Paul: the author of the book of Galatians, and the one who confronts Peter

**7. What do you think could have happened if Paul had not confronted Peter on this?**

If Peter, as the leader, is only hanging out with certain people and others are following him, then people are going to be left out. This could cause people to leave this church, and since there is no other church, then these people will probably go to hell.

**8. How does this passage help us understand how we are to act in this community?**

We need to be hanging out with everybody and not becoming a “clique.” We need to be welcoming to everybody, and including them in fun, in our Life Group times, and any other time we hang out. Our hope is that more people will come to this group throughout the year and that all of us will do our best to welcome, encourage, and make them quickly become part of the group. This is not the job of the leaders only, but us as a devoted community as a whole.

Most lessons are not like this one, but we wanted to talk about how important and valuable this idea of commitment is. We want our community to be healthy! No relationships will be healthy if we do not make a commitment to spend time and energy investing into them.