

# The Fellowship of the Believers

## Ice-Breaker

1. How did you feel about going to church when you were a kid?
2. What do you like best about your church?

## Scripture Passage

Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## Bible Study

1. Why do you think these people got together?  
 They loved to eat.  
 They were excited about their new life and wanted to talk about it with each other.  
 They had a lot of needs.  
 They had a lot to learn.  
 They were anticipating Christ's soon return.  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_
2. What word best describes the atmosphere in this passage?  
 chaotic  
 life-changing  
 fun  
 close  
 caring  
 exciting  
 warm  
 unpredictable  
 noisy  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_
3. What made the early church so appealing to others?  
 their spiritual vitality  
 their love for each other  
 their openness to others  
 miracles  
 great preaching  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_
4. If you had been invited to be part of this community, what would have been your reaction?

- too much like a cult to me
- too "touchy-feely" for me
- I might give it a try.
- Where do I sign up?
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the closest you have come to experiencing the kind of close fellowship described here in Acts?

- on a sports team
- in my family
- in the military
- in a sorority or fraternity
- in a support group
- at a job where I worked
- with some friends in high school
- in a church-related group
- I've never had this experience.
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. What keeps the church from experiencing this kind of fellowship now?

- We don't have time.
- We don't know each other.
- We don't want to know each other's needs.
- too many differences
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. What aspect of life in the early church do you most desire for your church or this group?

## Reference Notes

**2:42** The four components of the church's life here may represent what occurred at their gatherings. **teaching.** The foundation for the church's life was the instruction given by the apostles as the representatives of Jesus. **fellowship.** Literally, "sharing." While this may include the aspect of sharing to meet material needs (v. 45), it most likely means their common participation in the Spirit as they worshiped together (1 Corinthians 12). **the breaking of bread.** The Lord's Supper in which they remembered his death (Luke 22:19) and recognized his presence among them (Luke 24:30-31). **to prayer.** Literally, the "prayers." This may refer to set times and forms of prayer as was the practice of the Jews.

**2:43-47** The picture of the church is one of continual growth (v. 47b) marked by generous sharing (vv. 44-45) and joyful worship and fellowship (vv. 46-47a). The worship at the temple continued as before, since the line dividing Christianity from Judaism had not yet been drawn. Christians simply saw their faith as the natural end of what the Jewish faith had always declared.

**2:44 everything in common.** While this was a primitive form of socialism, it certainly did not include the oppressive totalitarianism or denial of God found in many modern forms. It was simply an outgrowth of the intense love people had for each other through Jesus Christ. They believed that in Christ each person's need must in some sense become everyone's need.

**2:47 And the Lord added.** Growth in the church was a natural result of the love, fellowship and

commitment to the apostle's teaching which this section describes.

## **Caring Time**

What needs do you have right now? How can this group pray for you?