



WEEK 1

Introduction

ICEBREAKER

2018 is here! Discuss with each other your hopes, plans and possibly any resolutions (that you will be resolute about) that you have for 2018.

SCRIPTURE READING

Read together as a group: **Acts 2**. Take turns reading a verse at a time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

• We can find it a challenge to be devoted to what we are being asked to be devoted to here in Acts 2:42-47. But here is the good news... God never intended for us to do the Christian life alone. We were built to be connected with one another. We are designed in such a way that we function best when we are in healthy relationships in a healthy community.

Discuss your communities - the places that you interact with others on a regular basis.

What is it about your interactions that you enjoy? - that you dislike?

How do you contribute to being part of those communities?

• **Read:** 1 Kings 2:2-3

Take, Do, Follow, and Keep. These words have at least two things in common with one another: firstly, they are all action words. They are verbs in that they speak of motion being taken. Secondly, all of them are decisions or choices we make.

Consider the action words in 1 Kings 2:2-3. Which instruction do you find that you can do with little effort and why?

Which instruction is a challenge and why? Discuss a situation that you found challenging to follow the instruction of Take, Do, Follow or Keep.

• As we are devoted to God in our faith journey and others are devoted to God in their faith journey we draw closer to God and we also draw closer to each other in our relationships.

What are some things we can intentionally do to draw closer to God - to be devoted?

What are some things we can intentionally do to draw closer to each other to build strong relationships?

• **Read:** Acts 2:42-47

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.

⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.

⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—

⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Underline the text that indicates how this community worked and served together.

What stands out to you in particular that the early church did that had an impact on their community?

What can we as a body of believers, the Church, do in 2018 that could impact each others lives and the lives of those around us in our communities?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Are you engaging with those around you at home, in the workplace, where you shop, where you worship to be part of community? As Christians, we have a list of verbs that we have been instructed to follow through God's Word. What is God speaking to you to become engaged in to become fully devoted unto Him? And an even tougher introspective question to ask yourself - what are you not willing to sacrifice for the sake of others coming to know Jesus?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

To reach people no one is reaching, we'll have to do things no one is doing. Read Acts 2:42-47 daily and meditate on these verses. Take a step of faith and follow in obedience as the Holy Spirit guides you to do something you have never done before to build community with one another.

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