

**60-Day New Testament Journey**  
***Can People Really Change?***  
**February 2/3, 2013**

**Memorize**

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. – Acts 2:42, NIV*

**Connect With Others** (*choose one*)

1. **God never intended the Christian life to be lived in isolation from other Christians. Do you think that things like Facebook, Twitter and Foursquare have helped or hindered in our God given need for connection?**

Have fun with this one! Let us know what you guys think on your *GroupFinder* reports! :0)

2. **What are some hobbies and interests that you tend to devote yourself to?**

Like it or not, our actions clearly reflect what we are committed to. Hobbies are not bad in and of themselves, but if they tend to trump other God given priorities, then we likely have an issue. It might even be fun to help people begin to consider how their passions and interests can be used to God's glory!

**Commit to Growth**

***Read Acts 2:36-47***

1. **What words would you use to describe the atmosphere in this passage? What made the early church so appealing to others?**

This was an exciting time in the life of the church. It was vibrant, energetic, caring, life changing and probably unpredictable. And because of its spiritual vitality and the love shown for others, it was a magnetic force. Talk about what it must have been like to be part of this type of community.

2. **What were the things that the early church was “devoted” to? Break it down and talk about how each one of these things, modeled by the early church, are important aspects to becoming God’s best version of you.**

Based off of Acts 2:42-47, we see that the apostles “devoted” themselves to:  
1) Bible study; 2) Fellowship; 3) Celebrating the Lord’s Supper; 4) Prayer; 5)

Supporting One Another; 6) Socializing Together; 7) Singing/Praising God; 8) Outreach. Discuss how each of these commitments helps people to change. For example, you might want to ask, "How does \_\_\_\_\_ help you become God's best version of you?" Fill in the blank with each of the 8 points above. You could possibly spend a lot of time on this question, so manage your time well.

**3. What barriers and obstacles tend to prevent us from being "devoted" to the same priorities of the early church? How about for you personally?**

There are no right or wrong answers on this. Just share openly about the things that trip us up from committing to the things mentioned in question two. Things like technology, over commitment, greed, fear, insecurity, or pride. Help the members of your group to personalize what it is for them.

**4. According to Acts 2:47, what happens when God's people devote themselves to change and to live in unity with one another? What did Jesus say about this in John 13:35?**

This unity and expression of praise to God was leading many people to Christ, as Jesus said it would in John 13:35. Ask, "How could this be true for our group as well?" Could it be that the same parallel could lead to the health and growth of your small group!

**5. How is this picture of biblical community still a good goal for us today? How would you like this picture to shape what your group becomes?**

This is a great unity builder question! Unpack the expectations that the members have for the group. We all have a need for belonging. Many want to experience the wonder that the early church experienced. Discuss what it might take for you guys to exemplify this sort of biblical community.

**6. In considering the example of the early church, what commitments will you make individually and collectively to become God's best version of you in 2013 and beyond?**

Some may need to make a commitment or a recommitment to Christ. Others may decide it's time to publically proclaim their faith. Others may want to be more faithful in Bible reading and prayer. Help the members to be specific and then take time to pray for each other's commitments!

### **Celebration & Prayer**

In living out this passage, I want to encourage you to take some time and celebrate communion together! Read 1 Cor. 11:23-26 and take of the bread and drink from the cup together.