

**Sermon Title: Made to Belong**

**Speaker: Pastor David**

**Passage: Acts 2:42-47**

**Groups Guide: 8/31/25**

**Belong:**

Ice Breaker: What is your favorite food to take to a potluck meal? What item do you always look for first when you go through the buffet line?

**Believe:**

**Have someone read Acts 2:42-47**

*Leader's Note: Tradition tells us that Acts was written by Luke and often it is read consecutively because it continues the story. Luke was the physician and traveling companion to the Apostle Paul. This book emphasizes the work of God through the Holy Spirit and the lives of people who were devoted followers of Jesus Christ that God used to build the church. This early look at the church spans 3 decades and spreads from Jerusalem to Judea, from Samaria, and the rest of the world (Acts 1:8).*

1. Luke mentions 4 activities that the new followers of Jesus Christ took part in together that characterized Christians gatherings in the early church? What are they?

*Leader's Note: Teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer It would be good to explain or define these 4 activities so that everyone understands what is being referred to in the text:*

- *Teaching - this was done by the apostles who were companions of Jesus. They were the "keepers" or guardians about Jesus and the church.*
  - *Fellowship/sharing - a common meal or experience*
  - *Breaking bread - The Lord's Supper*
  - *Prayer - how Christians observed the Jewish hours of prayer*
2. As the church was meeting, growing, and experiencing the Holy Spirit among them, what was the response among them? How does Luke describe it?
  3. What did they do as a result of this move of the spirit?

*Leader's Note:* "What actually happened may have been that each person held his goods at the disposal of the others whenever the need arose." I. Howard Marshall, [\*Acts: An Introduction and Commentary\*](#), vol. 5, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1980), 90.

## **Become:**

*Leader's Note:* Though the Greek word *koinōnia* is not used here, it is being implied and is used throughout the book of Acts 1:15; 2:1, 44, 47; 4:26). "It seems to depict the gathered community, with a strong emphasis on their unity.

John B. Polhill, [\*Acts\*](#), vol. 26, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 120.

1. In verses 2:45-46 a picture of the gathered body of believers is given. The theme of these verses expresses the unity of the early church. What evidence are given that they were unified?
2. Have you been part of a group of gathered believers and experienced unity in this way? What did you notice about the way the group supported each other? Were you or someone you know on the receiving end of this type of generosity?
3. What happens when believers worship, serve, and joyfully witness the grace of the Lord in their lives? (see verse 42)

## **Challenge:**

1. Think about the four activities mentioned in this passage this week. How is our church/group participating in teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer?
2. What part are you called and equipped to play in your local church or group?
3. Who can you pray for and extend an invitation to next month to join you in your group? Make a list and pray for each other's "one" to invite.