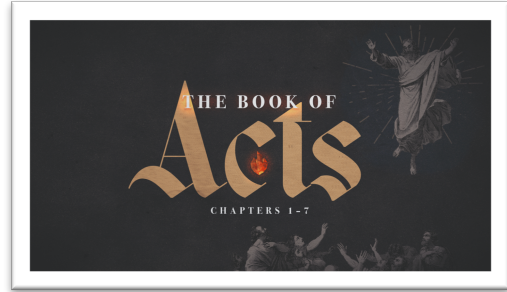


ALL THINGS IN COMMON

ACTS 2:42-47 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
OCTOBER 20, 2019



When I'm saved and join with God's people in the local church, I'm committing myself to unapologetic preaching (2:42a), unashamed worship (2:43, 46a, 47a), unceasing prayer (2:42c), unafraid witness (2:47b), and uncommon community (2:42b, 44-45, 46b).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When Pastor Todd opened the sermon he asked, “What is your ideal life?” Without fearing judgement for your response, how would you have answered that question before hearing this sermon? How does being part of a church fit with, or challenge that ideal?
- This message described the biblical ideals we strive toward in our uncommon community. We called four pillars of our uncommon community. As you consider each one, how do you in a given week practically approach these ideals personally and with other believers?
- We know from studying Genesis chapter 3 that awareness of sin in our lives introduces tension and shame into our relationship with God. In sin, we'd rather hide from God rather than run to him. This is a problem for worship! Has there been a sinful activity in your life that has resulted in shame for you and keeps you from fully worshipping God in an ideal way? What does Romans 5:5-8 say to you about God's love that can help you respond to God when shame has kept you away? (Write down 2-3 ideas that can encourage you to worship God instead of fear him or fear condemnation from others.)
- Pastor Todd shared the idea that prayer is the hardest thing we do. Why might some people find it difficult to pray to God? How do you get stronger at praying?

- It is typical of us to bring a list of requests to God in prayer, but praying isn't about the list of requests. Prayer is about the relationship with God that works out redemption in you as *you pray*. What is something you've prayed for but not yet received from God? How can you keep talking with God and remain open to his leading when he isn't answering your prayer requests according to your desires?
- One thing we should pray for is increased opportunities to talk about Jesus with other people. Do you ever find yourself hesitating to share biblical teaching because others view it as foolish, offensive, or unscientifically supported? What do you need to focus on (rather than other people's potential negative responses) so that you take greater advantage of Spirit led opportunities to share Jesus with others?
- Jesus said that love for other disciples is proof that we follow him sincerely (see John 13:35). We get a picture of what this means through the passage we've read today. So that it stands out more clearly in your mind, write down the activities that showed these believers loved one another.
- Love for one another is motivated by the work of the Holy Spirit in your heart as you follow his teaching. One sign of growing love is an uncommon level of generosity and life sharing with other believers. Have your recent actions with people from church made it obvious that you sincerely follow Christ? What aspects of generosity or life sharing should you make a personal emphasis on as you head into the months ahead? (Consider ideal generosity with your time, your food, your possessions, your money, etc.)