

Bible Summary - Acts 2:42

What is/are the minimal requirement(s) for church? The answer can be found in Acts 2:42. This is not an exhaustive list; there can be more, but it seems like the mandatory minimum. First is the Apostles doctrine. We get a snapshot of what this is by listening to the Apostle Peter's sermon in the same chapter. He quotes Scripture and his topic is Jesus. Second is fellowship. The believers could not get enough of each other and met daily. Third is breaking bread. They, like Jesus, had meals with people and got to know them around a table. Fourth is prayer. Prayer is a theme in Acts and rounds out the big four. Many churches do these four and yet lack Acts-like vitality. The secret ingredient appears to be their devotion to these four and it was God's presence that led them to be devoted. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount states that we can pray, give, and fast for the wrong reasons and there is no reward. Conversely, we can do these four because we love Jesus and want His presence because that is the reward.

Scriptures: Acts 2:42; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:12; 1 Corinthians 14:25; Revelation 4:11

Bible Questions and Application

(These are here as an aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through every question listed.)

1. Acts 2:42 describes the early church devoting themselves to the Word, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. The word "devote" implies perseverance through hardship.
 - a. Why did the church devote themselves so radically to these things? What was their end goal?
 - b. What can Edgewater learn from the Acts 2:42 church?
 - c. If these are the areas we want to grow in, how are we (you) doing in each of these individual areas? (the Word, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer)
2. The Acts 2:42 church was "ALL IN" and this made a significant impact on those around them.
 - a. Why do you go to church?
 - b. Would you consider yourself "ALL IN?" If not, what steps do you need to take toward becoming ALL IN?
 - c. If each of us were fully devoted in this way, what kind of impact could we have upon our community?
3. 2 Timothy 3:16 says God's word instructs, rebukes, corrects and trains us. Share recent examples of how scripture has changed your life in these ways.
4. In contemporary culture, community is fracturing while loneliness is a growing epidemic. What can we be doing better to foster gospel friendships within the body? What can we be doing better to invite outsiders into our gospel friendships?
5. God chooses to use the church as a catalyst to transform the world, and even in simply gathering and devoting ourselves to Him, nonbelievers can see that God is real (1 Cor 14:25). Let's pray this week, that our lives, families, and church will proclaim His presence.

A month ago Matt challenged each of us to be able to share the gospel in 60 seconds or less. Have you practiced doing that in the group? Or have you had an opportunity to share the gospel recently?