

Lessons in how to do 'church'



Acts 2:41-47



Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

They devoted themselves to the apostles` teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

All the believers were together and had everything in common.

Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Things 'then' and other things 'later'



The church was a community of believers in Jesus

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

They were counted among the body of believers



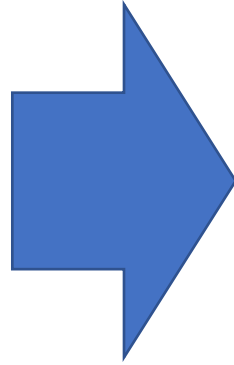
They were enthusiastically involved

They devoted themselves to the apostles` teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.



They had things to learn from the Bible

They devoted themselves **to the apostles` teaching** and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.



"All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." John 14:25-26

They spent time together

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and **to the fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.



It is essential to be together as God's children

They ate together and celebrated communion

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, **to the breaking of bread** and to prayer.

The term “break bread” can mean “to eat” and is mostly used of the communion meal in the New Testament



Fellowship Meal



Communion

In the early church gatherings, both took place in the “agape meal” cf. 1 Corinthians 11:20-22

They prayed together

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread **and to prayer.**



There's a place for joint prayer and private prayer

They experienced a real sense of God's presence and blessing

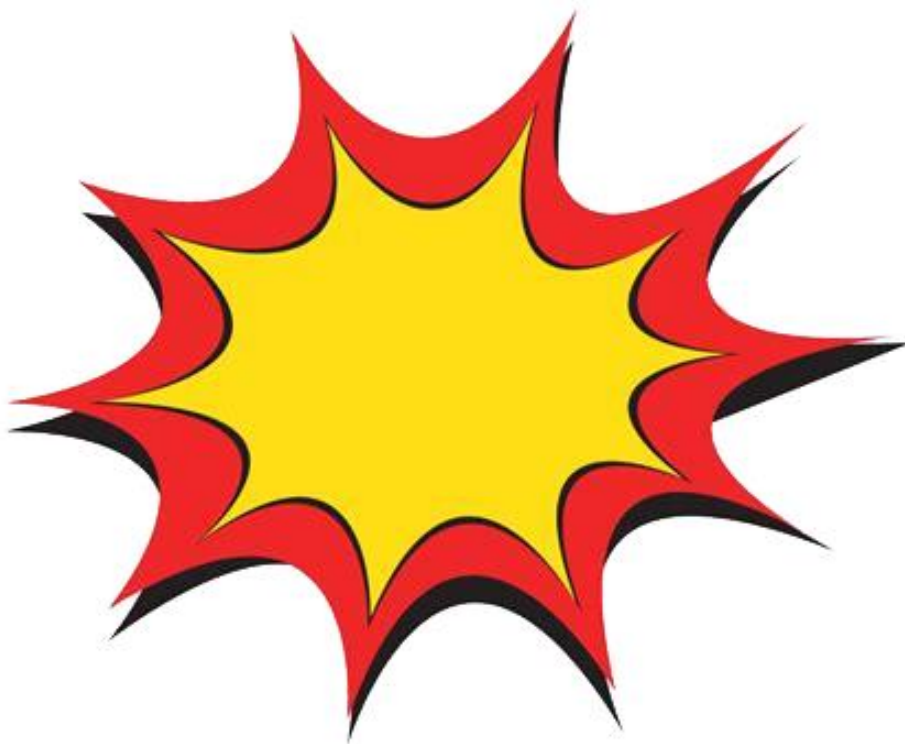
**Everyone was filled with awe,
and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.**

The word translated as 'awe' is 'fear'.
It was reverent worship.



They saw the supernatural activity of the Holy Spirit

Everyone was filled with awe,
and **many wonders and miraculous signs** were done by the apostles.



And these signs will accompany those
who believe.. Mark 16:17



Everyone was filled with awe,
and many wonders and miraculous signs **were done by the apostles.**



The apostles were the initial agents through whom the Spirit worked.
This was showing their authority as leaders of the community.

They were united

All the believers were together and had everything in common.

In the city of Jerusalem they met in the temple courts.

There was a sense of unity in their common faith in the Messiah.

This was in the early days during the feast of Pentecost



I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one.

John 17:22

They shared their resources together

All the believers were together and **had everything in common.**

They personally shared of what they had.

This is not communism!

It was voluntary,

They were the owners of the goods etc.
that they were willing to share.



What do you really need?

**Selling their possessions and goods,
they gave to anyone as he had need.**



They had compassionate and generous hearts

Selling their possessions and goods,
they gave to anyone as he had need.



And do not forget to do good
and to share with others, for
with such sacrifices God is
pleased. Hebrews 13:16

Was this in general or primarily
among fellow believers?

It was a holiday time in a public place.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.



Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today,"

They also met in 'private' - home groups

They broke bread in their homes
and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,



They practised hospitality in their homes

They had a lot to praise God for!

praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.



Those outside liked what they saw

praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.



It was good while it lasted!

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.



They evangelised BUT God made it work

They had the joy of seeing people saved

And the Lord added to their number **daily** those who were being saved.

Those who heard and accepted the message were people who had a bible knowledge rather than from a pagan background and in some ways were more prepared to receive the message.



Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour. John 4:38

They were saved in three tenses!

And the Lord added to their number daily **those who were being saved.**



Past

Present

Future

SAVED?

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being **saved**.



**Rescued from sin's penalty, power
and ultimately sin's presence**

Halleluiah!

Remember all this was as a result of
the working of the Holy Spirit in them.



His working is still necessary.

THEN AND NOW



How does the church compare today?

What changes are needed?