

Around THE TABLE



Bloomington Campus Sermon Study - 8.23.2026

Leader's Corner

The Table

Acts 2:42-47

Main Idea: The first followers of Jesus didn't simply attend something together—they shared a life together. Around tables, in homes, through generosity, worship, prayer, and everyday relationships, they became a community where people encountered Jesus and there was always room for someone else.

Passage: Acts 2:42–47

This Week's Practice: Make room at the table. Pay attention to who God has already placed around you—and take one intentional step toward deeper community, greater generosity, or extending an invitation.

Prayer and Praise

Begin by reading Acts 2:42–47 slowly together.

As you listen, notice the words that describe the life of this first community:

Devoted. Awe. Wonders. Believed. Distributing. Glad. Generous. Praise. Favor. Added.

Opening Prayer:

*Jesus,
thank You that You never intended for us to follow You alone.
Teach us to be people who are devoted to You and devoted to one another.
Give us eyes to see the needs around us,
hearts willing to share what we have,
and lives that make room for others.
Shape our group into the kind of community
where people are known, loved, challenged, supported, and invited in.
May our life together point people toward You.
Amen.*

Group Discussion

1. START AT THE TABLE

Jesus regularly used meals and tables to connect with people. What is it about sharing a meal—or simply sitting around a table—that can create connection differently than other environments? What happens around a table that is harder to manufacture somewhere else?

2. DEVOTED

Read Acts 2:42 again. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” What stands out to you about what these first followers of Jesus were devoted to? There is a difference between attending community and being devoted to community. What do you think that difference looks like in real life?

3. AWE, WONDERS & SIGNS

Read Acts 2:43. The people were filled with awe because they could see God at work among them. Where have you seen God at work through other people or through community? Maybe it was an answered prayer, someone showing up during a difficult season, unexpected generosity, encouragement at exactly the right moment, or simply knowing you weren’t alone.

4. BELIEVED & TOGETHER

Read Acts 2:44. “All the believers were together...”

This doesn’t mean everything about their relationships was easy. The rest of the New Testament makes that pretty clear! What makes real community both meaningful AND messy? When relationships become inconvenient, disappointing, or difficult, what causes us to pull away? What might it look like instead to walk through the messiness together rather than around it?

5. DISTRIBUTING

Read Acts 2:45.

Their faith began affecting what they did with their possessions, resources, time, and lives. Why do you think generosity became such a natural expression of their community? Broaden generosity beyond money for a moment. What do people around our table sometimes need us to generously give? Think about things like time, encouragement, forgiveness, presence, meals, listening, practical help, or simply showing up.

6. GLAD & GENEROUS

Read Acts 2:46.

There is something beautifully ordinary about this picture: They ate together. They gathered in homes. They enjoyed being together. What are some of the ordinary moments where relationships in a group actually become meaningful relationships? What could we do to make our group feel less like something we attend and more like people we are sharing life with?

7. PRAISE & FAVOR

Read Acts 2:47a.

Their life together was visible to the people around them. If someone outside our group watched the way we cared for one another, what would we hope they would see? Jesus said people would recognize His disciples by their love for one another (John 13:35).

What could loving, life-giving community communicate about Jesus to someone who doesn’t know Him yet?

8. ADDED

Read Acts 2:47b.

“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” The table wasn’t closed. People kept coming. Who might God be inviting us to make room for? Who is already around your life—at work, in your neighborhood, at school, on a team, at church, or somewhere else—who may need community? What keeps us from simply saying, “There’s a seat for you”?

Practice

Acts 2 gives us a picture of a community that was deeply connected and continually expanding.

They were devoted to Jesus.

They were devoted to each other.

They shared what they had.

They ate together.

They noticed needs.

They worshiped together.

And new people continually found their way into the community.

The table was never meant to stop with the people already sitting around it.

As a Group:

Talk together: What is one way our group can make our table bigger this fall? Maybe that means:

* Inviting someone new into the group.

* Sharing a meal with people outside the group.

* Serving someone together.

* Showing up for someone walking through a difficult season.

* Becoming more intentional about life together outside your regular meeting.

Choose one tangible action and decide when you'll do it.

Individually:

Ask God: "Jesus, who are You asking me to make room for?"

Write down one name.

Then take one step this week.

Send the text.

Make the call.

Invite them to dinner.

Grab coffee.

Introduce yourself.

Ask the question.

Pull up another chair.

There's a seat for you.

Further Study

Luke 5:27–32

Jesus shares a table with Levi and people others had written off.

What does Jesus' table reveal about who He welcomes?

Luke 14:12–24

Jesus challenges His followers to expand their guest list.

Who does Jesus specifically tell His followers to make room for?

John 13:34–35

Jesus says our love for one another becomes evidence of our discipleship.

What should people learn about Jesus by watching the way Christians treat one another?

Hebrews 10:24–25

Followers of Jesus are called to continue gathering and encouraging one another.

How can we intentionally "spur one another on" rather than simply spend time together?

1 Peter 4:8–10

Peter connects love, hospitality, and using our gifts to serve others.

What has God given you that could become a gift to the people around your table?