

# Go deeper with God discussion guide

based on **Acts 2.42-47** (Linked to sermon of 28/4/24)  
which can be accessed at [www.stjamesbythepark.org/talks](http://www.stjamesbythepark.org/talks)

Intro: What do you think would happen to our church if 3000 new believers suddenly arrived?! What would it feel like? (see Acts 2.41)

*Dan reminded us of our ‘discipleship triangle’ – Up (love God), In (love each other), Out (love your neighbour) – based on the 3 love commands that Jesus gave.*

Read Acts 2.42-47

How do you see Up, In and Out at work in the life of this first church?

*This sermon (and discussion guide) focused on Up (love God); the following two sermons will focus on In and Out. Hence not everything in Acts 2.42-47 is looked at in this guide.*

Why do you think the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching?

Get different people to look up and read out: Acts 4.29-31; 6.2-7; 8.4, 14, 25; 11.1; 12.24; 13.5, 49; 19.20. (And there are lots more relevant verses as well!!) Why such an emphasis on ‘the word’?

Why do you think the believers devoted themselves to prayer? Given that they were all from a Jewish background at this point, how do you think their prayer life changed?

Get different people to look up and read out: 1.14, 24; 3.1; 6.6; 8.15; 9.11, 40; 10.9, 30; 12.5; 13.3; 14.23. (Again, there are lots more relevant verses as well.) What do you notice about the variety of references to prayer?

‘Breaking bread’ was the way the first Christians described what we call ‘communion’. If you were at the church lunch on Sunday, what reflections did you have on how we ‘broke bread’ as part of the meal?

*“Too many Christians assume their spiritual growth works in the same way as salvation, that we just do nothing and expect God to transform us. In effect, we have made grace into something that paralyses us, rather than something that should spur us to change our lives. In fact, our character is mainly changed over time through patterns, relationships, activities, and disciplines that point us towards God's kingdom.” (Matt Hatch, “Metamorphosis”) Discuss!*

Dan used the analogy of physical disciplines (to help us get physically fitter) being similar to spiritual disciplines (to help us get spiritually fitter). Do you find that a helpful analogy? Why / why not?

Dan urged us all to ‘go deeper with God’ by developing the two key spiritual disciplines of Bible reading and prayer. What would it look like for you to develop those spiritual disciplines in your life, from your current starting point?

How could you help each other develop these spiritual disciplines more?

Spend some time praying for us as a church – that we would go deeper with God.