Devoted to the Word: Acts 2:42–47

HOUSE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE — **IN** (LOOKING BACK) · **UP** (LOOKING UP) · **OUT** (LOOKING FORWARD)

Before You Meet: There is a difference between enjoying God's Word and being devoted to it. The early believers pressed into the apostles' teaching with persistence and purpose. Five marks of that devotion: it flows from relationship, gains knowledge, requires persistence, embraces obedience, and shifts our priorities.

UP (Gospel) is about one third of the night. Give real time to IN and OUT too.

1 IN — Looking Back

Community

Care · Worship · Celebrate Faithfulness · Motivation & Encouragement

Care. Check in: highs, lows, and needs for prayer or practical help.

Worship. Praise together with a song, silence, or naming one thing you are thankful for.

Celebrate Faithfulness. Follow up on last week's step and celebrate it out loud.

Motivation & Encouragement. Encourage someone by name for growth you have seen.

2 UP — Looking Up

Gospel — Sermon Discussion Guide

Reword or skip questions as needed. Pray first and aim for genuine conversation.

Key Takeaways

1. **Enjoying is not devotion.** The early believers were devoted to the apostles' teaching, not casual appreciators.
2. **It starts with relationship.** Devotion flows from knowing Jesus; without that, Scripture becomes duty.
3. **Knowledge deepens love.** The more you know of an infinite God, the deeper your joy can grow.
4. **Expect resistance.** The Greek for "devoted" means pressing forward and not giving up.
5. **Obedience is the evidence.** Devotion shows up in everyday life, not only during Bible reading.
6. **Priorities shift.** Say no to good things to say yes to the best thing. This rests on Jesus' perfect devotion to us, not our performance.

Opening (Choose One)

- The sermon distinguishes enjoying the Word from being devoted to it. Which category would you honestly place yourself in right now, and what specific evidence in your daily life supports that?
- Think of something you are truly devoted to (a sport, hobby, or relationship). What does that look like day to day, and how is it different from casual enjoyment?

Read Acts 2:42–47. *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

Digging In

1. **Relationship.** How does seeing Bible engagement as relational rather than obligatory change how you approach it? When has Scripture felt like duty, and what helped shift that?
2. **Knowledge.** Like attending a hockey game without knowing the rules, where do you feel you are still learning the basics of Scripture? What has held you back?
3. **Persistence.** The enemy, our flesh, culture, and busyness work against us. Which is most disruptive for you right now?
4. **Obedience.** What is the connection between devotion to the Word and obedience in everyday life? Is there something God has put on your heart that you have been slow to act on?
5. **Priorities.** When have you been like Martha in Luke 10, doing good things that crowd out the one necessary thing? How does "I chose not to make time for that" land when you look at your past week?

Going Deeper

6. What does it look like to hold the Word like a weapon rather than a decoration on the wall?
7. Without pressure to share details, what has obedience to the Word cost you, and what has it produced?

Closing Reflection

8. Of the five marks, which is your greatest gap right now? What is one concrete step toward closing it this week?

3 OUT — Looking Forward

Mission

Preparing for the Mission · Going on Mission · Praying for the Mission

Preparing for the Mission

- **Name your gap.** Identify which mark (relationship, knowledge, persistence, obedience, priorities) is weakest and bring one observation to share.
- **Set a time.** Choose a specific time and place to meet with God in his Word daily, and tell someone in your group. If you miss a day, return the next without condemnation.

Going on Mission

- **Choose one step.** Relationship: ask after each reading, “What did I learn about who Jesus is?” Knowledge: tackle one confusing passage with a commentary or trusted person. Priorities: remove one lower-priority thing crowding out time with God.
- **Obey one thing.** Write down what God has been calling you to do, share it with a trusted person, and ask them to check in.

Praying for the Mission

Share your gap with a partner for check-in, then pray together with gratitude that our devotion rests on Christ’s perfect devotion to us, honesty about the gaps each person named, and dependence on the Holy Spirit to produce a devotion that effort alone cannot sustain.

Closing

Devotion is not performance; it is a response to being loved. Pray for hearts that press into the Word because they know the One it points to.

Group Notes & Prayer Requests