

DEVOTION

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Introduction

- A. How would you define the word “*devotion*”? (Allow for a couple of responses).
“*Devotion*” according to Merriam-Webster dictionary:
1 a : strong religious feeling **b** : religious exercise or practice *other than* regular worship of congregation
2 a : the act of devoting or the quality of being devoted **b** : strong love, affection, or dedication
- B. Name the most *devoted* person you have known. Briefly tell us why. (Allow 3-4 people to share).
- C. *Devotion* inspires our admiration! Consider these individuals:
1. Michael Jordan (*devotion to excellence*)
 2. Mother Theresa (*devotion to the poor and needy*)
 3. Joan of Arc (*devotion to a cause*)
- D. Our first century brothers and sisters were known for their *devotion*. Let’s learn some practical ways to apply their devotion in Acts chapter 2 to our lives in December... Read Acts 2:36-47.

I. APOSTLES TEACHING

- A. What do you think that the apostles taught them about? (discuss).
Look back at verses 36-41 and point out the basics of the apostles teachings:
1. *Personal responsibility for the crucifixion of Jesus*
 2. *Maintaining a soft heart (“cut to the heart”)*
 3. *Repentance and baptism*
 4. *Forgiveness and the Holy Spirit*
 5. *Salvation from a corrupt generation*
- B. We must be devoted to the “apostles’ teaching” today!

II. FELLOWSHIP

- A. Consider the additional elements of the disciples’ relationships in verses 43-47.
1. *Awe at God and his mighty deeds*
 2. *Sharing and meeting of needs*
 3. *Daily encouragement*
 4. *Meals together*
- B. Who has been a good friend to you in the Kingdom? How? (Discuss)
- C. Define the word “*fellowship*”? (Allow for 2-3 responses).
“*Fellowship*” according to Merriam-Webster dictionary:
1 : the condition of friendly relationship existing among persons
2 : a sharing of interest or feeling **3** : a group with similar interests.
- D. What activities could you participate in this month with another disciple? (Discuss examples and ideas).
Discuss how to remain in fellowship with disciples if you leave town to visit family or friends.

III. BREAKING OF BREAD

- A. What makes a meal in the home more meaningful than a dinner at a restaurant? (Discuss)
- B. “Breaking of bread in their homes” in verse 46 – referred to above. Let’s get more detailed:
1. Name a memorable time you have had with another disciple over the holidays. (Discuss)
 2. Challenge: Decide to initiate with another disciple this month to encourage them!

IV. PRAYER

- A. “They *devoted* themselves to ... prayer” (verse 42).
1. Last week we talked about “Great Quiet Times”. Did anyone have a great quiet time with another disciple that they would like to share about? (Allow a few to share)
 2. Is there someone in your Bible Talk or zone that would benefit from having a prayer time with you this next week? *Make every effort to call them tomorrow* and set it up.
- B. Close in prayer on knees together. (Everyone should be encouraged to pray a short prayer.)