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PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for calling us not only to Yourself, but also into a spiritual family — a place where we can be known, loved, shaped, and sent. We thank You for the gift of the Church — Your Body — and for every person You've brought into our lives to walk with. Help us to open our hearts to grow deeper in relationship with You and with the spiritual family You've planted us in. In Jesus' name, amen.

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

What's one of your favourite memories with your family, or with a group that felt like family, (Feel free to share a funny story, a tradition, or a meaningful moment.)

WORD

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42–47 (ESV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's one thing you personally appreciate about being part of a spiritual family?
2. Which of the four practices in Acts 2:42 stands out to you most right now, and why?
3. Have you ever experienced a time when church community really carried you or shaped you deeply?
4. What does "playing your part" in the spiritual family look like practically for you this week (in giving, praying, or going)?
5. What steps do you sense God is calling you to take to build deeper spiritual relationships in the church? Is there someone He is calling you to walk with more intentionally?

REFLECTION

The early church in Acts 2 paints a vivid picture of spiritual family at its best. These new believers weren't just attending religious services — they were devoted to life together. Their community was shaped by four key commitments: the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking bread together, and prayer. These weren't optional extras; they were foundational practices for a growing and Spirit-filled community.

Spiritual family invites us into relationships where we learn to trust, forgive, grow, and give. Biblical scholar Craig Keener notes that Acts 2 reflects "a radical sharing of life that displayed the very character of Jesus in the midst of human relationships." We weren't made to follow Jesus alone. The Apostle Paul uses the metaphor of the body to describe how each of us plays a unique part in the Church (1 Corinthians 12:12–27). In spiritual family, we give (generosity), pray (spiritual covering), and go (mission). That's how we live out this shared identity.

John Stott said, "The Christian life is not just a private affair of the individual. It is also a corporate reality. We are not only committed to Christ, we are also committed to the body of Christ." Our commitment to spiritual family isn't about perfect people, but about people being perfected together in Jesus. That means leaning into the grace of God, trusting His placement of us, and actively contributing to the health of the community.

In a culture of isolation and hyper-individualism, spiritual family is countercultural. Yet, it is precisely this distinct community — marked by love, unity, and mutual support — that points people to Jesus. Psalm 68:6 says, "God sets the lonely in families." This is the heart of the Gospel: not just that we're saved from sin, but that we're saved into a family, into purpose, and into belonging.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, we thank You for welcoming us into Your family. We choose today to respond to Your love by giving You our lives fully. Be our Lord, our Savior, and the center of our hearts. Teach us to walk in step with Your Spirit — not just personally, but together as spiritual family. Help us to carry one another's burdens, to give selflessly, to pray with passion, and to go wherever You send us. Let our lives point people to You and to the beauty of Your Church. In Jesus' name, amen.