



## OPENING PRAYER

Father, we thank You that You are building Your Church. As we gather tonight, quiet our distractions and soften our hearts. Help us to see not just what the early church did, but who they were becoming. Teach us how to live with a healthy rhythm — gathered in Your presence and scattered on Your mission. In Jesus' name, amen.

## WELCOME AND CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

### Opening Question

Think about something in life that depends on rhythm — breathing, sleep, training, music.

What happens when that rhythm is healthy? What happens when it is disrupted?



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## 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)**

| <b>INHALE (Gathering – Ekklesia)</b> | <b>EXHALE (Scattering – Mission)</b> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Apostles' Teaching                   | Evangelism                           |
| Prayer                               | Generosity                           |
| Worship                              | Public Witness                       |
| Temple Gathering                     | Daily Mission                        |
| Table Fellowship                     | Community Impact                     |

## REFLECTION AND COMMENTARY

Acts 2:42–47 gives us more than a snapshot of the early church; it gives us a Spirit-shaped pattern. The believers were devoted — not casual — about their formation. They gathered as ekklesia, a called-out assembly anchored in the apostles' teaching, prayer, worship, and shared meals. Their faith was not individualistic; it was embodied and communal. Through koinonia, they shared life deeply enough that possessions became secondary to people. Awe marked their gatherings because God's presence was central. This was their inhale — breathing in truth, unity, reverence, and joy.

But their gathering did not terminate on itself. What they inhaled internally overflowed externally. They had favor with people, met tangible needs, and witnessed daily additions to their number. Generosity was visible. Worship was public. Mission was natural. The rhythm of the church was not static but dynamic — inhale and exhale, gather and scatter. When the church forgets this rhythm, it either turns inward and insular or outward and exhausted. Acts 2 reminds us that sustainable mission flows from sustained devotion.

| <b>Acts 2 Practice</b> | <b>What It Meant Then</b> | <b>What It Means for Us in 2026</b>         | <b>Scripture</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| Apostles' Teaching     | Doctrinal formation       | Intentional Bible pathways and discipleship | 2 Tim 2:2        |
| Fellowship (Koinonia)  | Shared life               | Strong LIFE GROUP rhythms                   | Heb 3:13         |
| Breaking Bread         | Meals + Communion         | Hospitality across generations              | Luke 22:19       |
| Prayer                 | Corporate dependence      | Weekly prayer rhythms                       | Col 4:2          |
| Signs & Wonders        | Spirit demonstration      | Faith-filled prayer ministry                | 1 Cor 12         |
| Generosity             | Meeting needs             | Practical community support                 | 2 Cor 9          |
| Temple Worship         | Public gathering          | Strong Sunday gatherings                    | Heb 10:25        |
| House Meetings         | Intimate discipleship     | Missional homes                             | Acts 20:20       |
| Favour with People     | Public reputation         | Serving Brisbane intentionally              | Matt 5:16        |
| Daily Additions        | Evangelistic fruit        | Culture of personal witness                 | Rom 10:14–15     |

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (pick one from each section)

### Observation

1. What practices in Acts 2:42–47 stand out most to you?
2. Why do you think Luke highlights both temple gatherings and home gatherings?

### Reflection

3. Where do you see the “inhale” rhythm in this passage?
4. Where do you see the “exhale” rhythm?

### Application

5. As a LIFE GROUP, are we stronger in gathering or scattering? Why?
6. Personally, where is God inviting you to grow — deeper devotion or bolder mission?
7. Who are two or three people you can intentionally pray for and engage this year?
8. What is one practical step toward deeper koinonia in this group?

## RESPONSE & MINISTRY

### Prayer for Renewal

Lord Jesus, forgive us where we have drifted into comfort or routine. Restore in us a devotion to Your Word, a hunger for prayer, and a love for one another that reflects Your heart. Teach us to gather with expectancy and to value the shared life of Your Church.

### Prayer for Mission

Holy Spirit, breathe courage into us. Help us not to keep what we receive to ourselves. Open our eyes to the needs around us. Make us generous with our time, resources, and witness. Let our lives carry favour in this city, and add to Your Church as people encounter You through us.

### CLOSING PRAYER

Father, make Every Nation Brisbane a church that breathes well — inhaling Your presence and exhaling Your mission. Shape us into a people devoted to You and visible for You in our city. In Jesus’ name, amen.