

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

EMPOWERED – Session 2

What Kind of Church Are We Becoming?

Acts 2:42–47

SESSION FOCUS

After Pentecost, the early believers did not simply attend religious gatherings. They became a community shaped by prayer, worship, generosity, learning, and shared life together.

This session explores what Spirit-formed community looks like and how the Holy Spirit shapes not only individuals, but an entire people.

The goal is to reflect honestly on:

- belonging,
 - spiritual formation,
 - community,
 - and what it means to become a Church shaped by the presence of God.
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OPENING REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments before beginning.

- What has shaped your experience of church community?
- When have you experienced genuine spiritual belonging?
- What makes healthy community difficult?
- Do you tend to approach church more as participation or observation?

Personal Notes:

SCRIPTURE READING

Read Acts 2:42–47 slowly.

As you read, notice:

- repeated rhythms or practices
- emotional tone

- descriptions of community
 - and what stands out most strongly.
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KEY IDEA

The Holy Spirit forms believers not only into faithful individuals, but into a people shaped together by worship, prayer, generosity, and shared life.

PART 1: DEVOTED TO FORMATION

(Acts 2:42)

The early Church devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, prayer, and worship.

Formation happens through repeated participation in practices that shape the heart and mind.

Reflection Questions

1. What currently shapes most people spiritually today?
2. Why is spiritual consistency often difficult?
3. Which spiritual practices most help you remain grounded?

Personal Notes:

PART 2: THE HOLY SPIRIT FORMS COMMUNITY

(Acts 2:44–46)

Christianity was never meant to be lived alone.

The Holy Spirit forms people into relationships marked by support, encouragement, and shared life.

Reflection Questions

4. Why is vulnerability often difficult?
5. How does isolation affect spiritual life?
6. What makes people feel genuinely welcomed and safe?

Personal Notes:

PART 3: GENEROSITY & SHARED LIFE

(Acts 2:44–45)

The early Church lived open-handedly toward one another.

Generosity grows from trust in God rather than fear or scarcity.

Reflection Questions

7. Why are generosity and trust connected?
8. What fears often make generosity difficult?
9. In what ways can generosity become part of spiritual formation?

Personal Notes:

PART 4: A VISIBLE WITNESS

(Acts 2:47)

The life of the Church became visible witness to the surrounding world.

People noticed how believers lived together.

Reflection Questions

10. How does the way Christians treat one another affect witness?
11. What characteristics make a church spiritually healthy?
12. What kind of church do you believe God is forming us into?

Personal Notes:

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a few quiet moments to reflect honestly.

- Where do you most long for deeper community?
- How might the Holy Spirit be inviting you toward greater connection or participation?
- What would healthy spiritual community look like in your life?

Personal Response:

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for:

- healthy community
- deeper connection

- openness to spiritual formation
 - and greater love for one another.
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OPTIONAL PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

This week:

- Re-read Acts 2:42–47 daily
 - Reach out intentionally to encourage someone
 - Practice one act of generosity or hospitality
 - Reflect on ways isolation affects your spiritual life
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FINAL THOUGHT

The Holy Spirit does not merely form isolated believers.

The Spirit forms a people.

Healthy Christian community becomes one of the clearest witnesses to the presence of God in the world.

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