

# Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of March 15 - 21, 2020

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## Main Thought and Scripture:

After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the early church faced an existential crisis as persecution threatened believers with imprisonment and even execution. Acts 2:42-47 records how the early Church responded giving us guidance in whatever crisis we face including this one. From their example we learn several important truths that we need to apply in order to BE the Church during crisis.

*"And they devoted themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and the **fellowship**..."*  
(v. 42)

### 1. Be devoted to God's Word.

Believers found their strength and guidance from the Word of God which gives birth to faith and gives us the strength to live as disciples in the midst of crisis. Therefore, we must continue to meet together live or online to hear the Word, and in small groups to strengthen and encourage one another in the Word.

*"And they devoted themselves...to the breaking of bread and the **prayers**. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles..."* (v. 42-43)

### 2. Be devoted to prayer.

Believers prayed together and for one another and their communities, and miracles happened as they did. Therefore, we must activate the engine of prayer in all of our small groups as well as in special prayer meetings that salvation will result.

*"...And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and **distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need**..."* (v. 44-45)

### 3. Be devoted to sacrifice and service.

Christians shared what they had with each other and to unbelievers serving them and meeting their needs. As a result, multitudes came to faith in Jesus. Like them, we too must not focus on self-preservation, but to sacrifice and service to others, truly being the Church to the world.

*"...And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."* (v. 46-47)

### 4. Be devoted to fellowship.

Fellowship best happens in smaller gatherings like small groups where love for one another can be expressed and reaching out to friends and neighbors can happen organically.

The result of the Church's continued faithfulness in the midst of crisis led to thousands of people coming to faith in this instance and millions throughout history. This is our time to truly be the Church and bring hope to our world!

**Reflection:** *Break into groups of 3-4.*

- Which of the points above do you find particularly challenging to practice during crisis? Which do you find easier? Why do you think that is?

**Application:**

- How can you practically serve your neighbors and loved ones in the midst of this crisis? Who is someone you can serve at this time and what will you do?

**Prayer:**

- Pray for friends and loved ones specifically that God will use us to love and serve them during this crisis and introduce them to Jesus.
- Pray for God to intervene and eradicate the virus by His power. Pray that He would give wisdom to the scientists as they work towards a cure. Pray for our world leaders for wisdom. Pray for medical professionals on the front line.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update:**

Beginning this weekend, we're meeting online for Pearlside at Home. Following the recommendation of our national and local authorities to cancel large gatherings and prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), we will no longer be meeting at any of our physical locations until further notice. We will continue to monitor the situation week by week.

**• HOW DO YOU ACCESS OUR STREAM ONLINE?**

We will be streaming our services using YouTube and Facebook accounts. You can access the streams here:

**[youtube.com/pearlsidechurch](https://www.youtube.com/pearlsidechurch)**

**[facebook.com/pearlsidechurch](https://www.facebook.com/pearlsidechurch)**

**• WE WILL GATHER ONLINE:**

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 7:30am | 9:15am | 11:15am | 6:00pm | 7:45pm

We encourage you to gather your families, small groups, and friends to watch our services. Please subscribe if you haven't already done so. The sermon will also be available to view on Monday.

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As information evolves, we want to make sure you have the most up to date information. Our website, App, and Social Media (Facebook and Instagram) will become places to access the most up-to-date information. Visit **[pearlside.org/updates](https://www.pearlside.org/updates)** for answers to commonly asked questions regarding COVID-19.