

Let's eat! Briefly describe an experience of preparing a meal to enjoy with family, including who you were with, what you did, and what you ate. Was prayer a part of that experience?

O----- KEY VERSES: ACTS 2:46-47

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.

READ: ACTS 2:42-47

Remember J.R.R. Tolkien's first book in the Lord of the Rings series? It's called *The Fellowship* of the Ring, and it's the story of nine very different people on a journey together to accomplish a specific and dangerous mission.

The first group of Christians was kind of like that. They thought of themselves as a fellowship. Their sins had been forgiven! They had the Holy Spirit's power with them. God was going to use their lives to accomplish something enormous. We already talked about how the apostles' devoted themselves to the Word, but now we see that they also devoted themselves to each other – the fellowship – in two specific ways. They ate together and they prayed together.

Eating together — or breaking bread together — probably meant two different things for those early Christians. On the one hand, you eat with the people you hang out with, and these Christians did everything together.

They also started using some meals together to remember Jesus' death on the cross for their sins. Peter and the other apostles would have told them about that meal we call the Last Supper where Jesus broke the bread and said, "This is My body," then poured the wine and said, "This is My blood." (See Matthew 26:26-29.)

But those in the fellowship didn't just hang out and eat together. Every family and group of friends does that. They also prayed together.

Prayer — talking to the God who has forgiven our sin and given us a brand-new life in Christ — should become as normal for Christians as eating is.

Everybody eats. It's just what healthy humans do. And praying is just what healthy Christians do. It's normal and good to pray in private; it's also normal – and powerful – to pray together with the people you care most about.

Unfortunately, not every church feels as close and connected as the description of these early believers. It's easy to just go to the building once or twice a week without it ever getting to feel like a family or a community.

They were devoted to the fellowship. How can we be more devoted to our own fellowship of believers who are on this journey with us?

G----- KEY THOUGHT: G------ KEY WORD: FELLOWSHIP

A vital part of church life is fellowship, especially eating and praying together. The gathering of Christians who share a faith in Christ, a desire to be more like Him, and a mission to tell the world about Him

QUESTIONS:

Describe the best meal you have ever eaten. Why was it good?

Do you find the practice of praying strange? Why or why not?