



SECTION 1: PREP IT

LESSON OVERVIEW

Let's eat. It's really hard today, as it was back then, to separate church and meals shared. Think about all the functions of the local church and how they are connected to breaking bread with one another. Potluck dinners, Friday fish fries, wedding receptions, and funeral wakes are just some of the examples of churches connecting fellowship and food together. In the early church the body of believers would gather together to participate in the practice of breaking bread with one another.

Now was this just a mentioning of the Lord's Supper in Acts 2 or just typical, everyday meals? (1 Corinthians 11:17-34). It was most likely a combination of both. These meals took place in regular homes or in areas surrounding the temple. There is a strong connection between the practices of Christ and His final meal with His disciples. Looking back, the disciples would see the symbolic importance of the events of the Last Supper and would instruct the early church to mimic these practices. The

remembrance of Christ's death, the ability to serve one another in love, the opportunity to demonstrate humility toward one another regardless of class or birth, would all be opportunities for the Church to live out a full expression of Christ through their fellowship with one another.

Prayer would also be a very important and essential function of the local church. Prior to this time and place, prayers were executed with a routine precision. Corporate prayer was limited in Jewish religious practices. However, the Church placed an elevated importance on prayer. Throughout the book of Acts Luke gave examples of the Church and its leadership praying on a regular basis. The practice was significant and today is still a mark of Christ's Church. These essential functions of the local church made up a great portion of life and ministry in the early church.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

ACTS 2:42

SECONDARY SCRIPTURES

**ACTS 1:14, ACTS 2:46,
HEBREWS 10:25, MATTHEW 14:19**

KEY WORD:

FELLOWSHIP | 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

KEY THOUGHT:

A vital part of church life is fellowship, especially eating and praying together.

KEY VERSES:

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.

Acts 2:46-47

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will know that eating (fellowshipping) was a regular practice of the early church.
- The students will know that prayer was a regular and important practice of the early church.
- The students will know that these practices were frequent and instrumental to the progress of the early church.

YOUR OBJECTIVES

You know your students. Following the lesson, what learning objectives do you want to accomplish tonight?

1.5 SECTION 2: PLAY IT (INTERACTION)

Use the following space to plan and prepare for your game time. The top of the page has games and ideas that have been preselected to correspond with the lesson content. Use the bottom half of the page to plan your own games. You know your students. You know what will work best.

Game 1 – Through the Hoops (See AwanaYM Game Book, page 103, for materials list and how to play.)

Game 2 – Ball Hawk (See AwanaYM Game Book, page 11, for materials list and how to play.)

Service Project – Most likely your church celebrates the Lord's Supper regularly. Have your students stand in for those who usually serve. Have them pass the plates and serve the bread and cup. Have your students lead worship. Perhaps even you or one of your students could give the message. Keep it sacred but also include creative ways to invite others into this experience. When the Lord's Supper is finished, have your students up front, to read Scripture, sing songs, and be available to pray with anyone who might want to pray. Make it a regular habit to get your students involved in serving in this way.

YOU PLAN IT - WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TONIGHT?

TIME:

TRANSITION

How are you going to get them from sweaty and messy to ready to learn and engage God's Word?

IDEAS:

Video Clip –

Skit –

Mixer –

Worship –

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What one or two important things do the students need to know before they leave tonight?

NO MORE THAN TWO!!!

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FROM DAY 1 OF THE BIBLE STUDY

Let's eat! Work with one of your parents to help prepare a meal for your family. You don't have to do every thing but you should participate in cooking, setting the table, and serving the food. Also, before you begin eating, say a prayer of blessing over the food. If possible, take a picture of the food and the table before you eat together.

Draw or paste a picture of the meal below.

Briefly describe your experience , including what you did and what you ate.

YOU PLAN IT - LARGE GROUP TEACHING

TIME:

Introduction:

1.5 SECTION 3: TEACH IT (LARGE GROUP)

TEACHING OUTLINE

They (the church) devoted themselves.

And they devoted themselves ...

Acts 2:42

To the breaking of bread

... to the breaking of bread ...

Acts 2:42

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

KEY VERSES:

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.

Acts 2:46-47

And prayer

... and the prayers.

Acts 2:42

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy.

Colossians 1:9-11

YOUR TEACHING OUTLINE

APPLICATION

The early church saw the importance of being together and doing life together. They made space for the sacred and took time to stop and remember the Christ who gave them new life. How do you start and end your gathering? The next time you meet together as a group plan to have a meal together. Spend time thanking God and expressing thanksgiving to the Lord who saved us. Spend time at the end praying for one another and commit yourselves to praying for one another on a regular basis. Find ways for your students to come together and meet specifically for the purpose of praying for your church, the lost, the leadership, and our world. Spend time devoting yourselves to breaking bread and praying. This is church life.

KEY WORD:

FELLOWSHIP | 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

KEY THOUGHT:

A vital part of church life is fellowship, especially eating and praying together.

YOUR APPLICATION

1.5 SECTION 4: DISCUSS IT (SMALL GROUP)

GETTING STARTED QUESTIONS (TAKEN FROM THE ESSENTIALS)

TIME:

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

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

Taken from Days 3-7 of the Bible Study

DAY 3

READ: ACTS 2:42-47

The early Christians didn't go to church. They did life together in all kinds of ways. They thought of themselves as belonging to Christ and to each other. They rearranged their schedules and their finances and their relationships to be there for each other.

WORK IT OUT:

How is your experience of church life like the early church? Do you wish it could be more like that? What would have to change?

DAY 4

READ: 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-25

At the meal we call the Last Supper, Jesus showed the disciples — and they later showed the rest of us — how to use a meal to remember His death for our sin and to tell other people about it. The earliest Christians made a habit of doing this together. We now call this practice *Communion*.

WORK IT OUT:

How does participating in Communion help you to remember what Jesus sacrificed to pay for our sins?

DAY 5**READ: MATTHEW 6:5-15**

Jesus' command didn't mean Christians should never pray together, though prayer is often something we do alone in private. But Jesus was clear that we should never use praying together as a way to make ourselves look spiritual or important to each other. Prayer shouldn't be a performance.

WORK IT OUT:

Are you ever afraid to pray with others because of what they will think of you? Are you afraid you won't pray well enough? How could you make praying with the people you care about less about you and more about God and others?

DAY 6**READ: ACTS 12:11-12**

Acts 12 tells the story of Peter's rescue from prison. It happened while the Christians were praying together. That's what we do when there's a crisis: We pray together.

WORK IT OUT:

Whom would you call to pray for you if something terrible was going on in your life? Who would call you?

DAY 7

What is one truth that you learned this week? What are you going to do about it?

1.5 SECTION 5: EVALUATE IT

FACILITATION HELP

Pray for your students. Just as the early church prayed for one another, commit to praying regularly for your students. Lift them up to the Lord by name. Have a long discussion with God about your students. Talk with God and ask Him to share His plans for their lives with you, that you might partner with God to grow and mature their young faith. Write their names in the cover of your Bible. Make a list on an app and pray through their names. Keep the names of your students in front of you and frequently in the constant discussion between you and God.

EVALUATION

What went well ... what didn't go so well? Record how the night went and spend some time as a leadership team discussing this on a regular basis. Continual evaluation helps to refine what you do and continues to help make this the best night of your students' week.

Prep It —

Play It —

Teach It —

Discuss It —

FOLLOW UP

Sometimes it's hard to remember all the prayer requests and things going on in the lives of students. Use this space to record prayer requests, students' contact information, meeting times, and information. Or use it for your students to copy down when their next game or concert will be.

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