

# WE ARE ON MISSION TOGETHER

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: LIVING ON MISSION / SERIES: ACTS

## BIG TRUTH: WE ARE ON MISSION TOGETHER

John 13:35; Acts 4:32

## BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 2:44

“...And all who believed were together and had all things in common.”

## BIG IDEAS

- Jesus followers grow together.
- Jesus followers pray together.
- Jesus followers serve together.
- Jesus followers praise together.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: ACTS 2:40-47

## KNEEL: LIVING ON MISSION

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28) and to use our influence to lead others to do the same. We know that as we pursue a life of worship, we will pursue a life of both wisdom and mission. Throughout this year we will study and pursue the wisdom of God through the book of Proverbs and the mission of God through the book of Acts, and we will learn how both of these things must inform and shape our influence as Jesus followers!

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student should know...

- The gospel has the power to turn the world upside down.
- They are empowered and chosen to be a gospel witness in the world.
- Our salvation has come by grace alone.



### Every student should feel...

- Comfort that the Lord is with them wherever they go.
- Hope in the God of salvation.
- Responsible to use their influence to live for Jesus alone.



### Every student should strive to...

- Read, study, and meditate on the entire book of Acts.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.
- Pray consistently for boldness to make Jesus known.



### Every student should want...

- To pursue faithfulness in living on mission.
- To share the gospel with people in their lives who do not know Jesus.
- To sacrifice their personal freedoms for the sake of the gospel

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



Property of Tri-Cities Baptist Church  
171 Promise Land Dr. Gray, TN 37615

**BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 2:44**

*"...And all who believed were together and had all things in common."*

---

**Believers are joined together by the Spirit.**

*"...and all who believed were together..."*

- There is a commonality that occurs among believers because of the Holy Spirit. Because the Holy Spirit indwells every believer, He connects believers all over the world to one another. This connection is unlike any other connection we know or experience because it is supernatural.
- Two people can be unrelated, have never met before, have little in common, yet both know Jesus and feel connected because of the Holy Spirit living inside of them. God joins His people together this way. It is an eternal connection that isn't broken, even by death. We are united by the same Spirit at work in each of us.

**Believers live life together.**

*"...and all who believed were together and had all things in common."*

- This connection created by the Holy Spirit draws believers to one another. It means that we desire to be together because we have a commonality. We are like-minded. This means that we think alike and have things in common.
- We share a love for Christ and His church. We share a love for one another and the things that He loves. This unites us and leads us to have a deeper fellowship with one another. We spend time with one another because we are built up and encouraged by one another.

**Believers live on mission together.**

*"...and had all things in common."*

- Believers share the same mission. God redeems His people and unites them as His family. His church has one mission which is to share the good news of the gospel in all the world.
- Believers live on mission together. Jesus followers do this together. They join together to fulfill the mission that God has given to His people. They share the truth together and help one another live for God by encouraging one another and building one another up.

**BIG IDEA #1: JESUS FOLLOWERS GROW TOGETHER.<sup>1</sup>****[ THIS ]**

In Acts 2:40-41, we see that many of the people who heard Peter's sermon responded by repenting and being baptized into the family of God. In Acts 2:41, we see this picture of people being added to the family. This idea shows us that we are on mission together. It shows us that every believer is joined to one another by the Spirit of God who lives inside of each believer. Because of this, we all grow together. Acts 2:42 shows this to be true when it points out that the Christians in Acts devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching. They didn't repent and believe and then return to their typical way of living. They were changed. Following Jesus changes us in such a way that we no longer live the way we once were living. Instead, we join with other believers to live on mission in this world together. We live for Christ with other people who have repented and believed.

**[ THEREFORE ]****Why is it important to live on mission with other believers?**

Colossians 3:14-15 and Ephesians 4:16 help us understand the truth that we are joined together, and we live on mission together. To live on mission together, we grow together. We grow together because we build one another up and encourage one another to live faithfully for Jesus.

**[ THIS ]**

In Acts 2:42, we see that believers grow in their knowledge of the Word together. Scripture teaches that believers gather to hear the Word taught and to learn the Word together. Not only that, but they also gather to encourage and hold one another accountable to God's teaching. As we gather with one another and live life with one another, we will grow spiritually. We are not meant to grow as independent of one another. We are meant to grow together as God's holy family. We do this by sharing our lives with one another. We see this in Acts 2:42-43 as the believers gathered to share their lives and to learn together. To do this, we must come humbly and not arrogantly. We must come with hearts submitted to God and open to learning and growing. If we come with the mindset that we are only teachers, we will not grow together. When believers gather ready to hear and learn, we will grow from one another because the Spirit will work in each of us to propel our spiritual lives.

**[ THEREFORE ]****Why is it important for believers to gather to study God's Word together?**

Acts 2:42 shows us that believers grow together. When believers gather and study God's Word, they will grow together. This is important because believers are connected to one another and share the same mission. If we are to fulfill our mission together, then we should grow together.

**How have other believers helped you to grow spiritually? How can you help other believers grow?**

1 Corinthians 14:12 and 26 show us that when we use our spiritual gifts within the body of Christ, we build one another up and help believers grow. Other believers help us grow when they use their spiritual gifts within the body. Ephesians 4:16 also shows us that when we work together, we grow together. As we seek pursue Christ individually, we use this knowledge to build others up collectively.

1. Acts 2:42: *Those who share the Holy Spirit will devote themselves to gathering together and growing together in the knowledge of God.*

**BIG IDEA #2: JESUS FOLLOWERS PRAY TOGETHER.<sup>2</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Prayer is the way we communicate with God. Prayer is how a believer communes with God, expressing his or her feelings of adoration, praise, thanksgiving, and petitions. It is our conversation with God. While prayer should be done in private, there is a needed time when believers pray together. In Acts 2:42, we see this example set for us. The early church prayed together. Here, believers who had just received the Holy Spirit were gathered over the apostles' teaching and they prayed together. There is a unity that comes when a group of people join to communicate to God as one group. When we come together as God's people to petition Him, praise Him, worship Him, or thank Him, we are revealing the power of the Holy Spirit who joins unrelated people together for the purpose of glorifying God.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Read Acts 2:42. What example does the early church in Acts set for believers today? How can we follow this example of gathering to pray?**

The early church received the Holy Spirit and gathered as a group to study and pray. They were joined together and lived on mission together. They opened their lives to one another in a way that allowed them to pray together as fellow followers of Christ.

**[ THIS ]**

Prayer is an intimate and personal thing. To pray, we must submit ourselves and acknowledge that we need God. The believers in Acts 2:42, understood this and submitted themselves to God. They also submitted themselves to one another. Praying individually is often easier than praying with others because it can feel odd to pray to someone we cannot see. Praying with others also opens us up to revealing our personal feelings and emotions. The beauty of praying with fellow believers is doing this together. As we pray in a group, we get to hear one another's heart, and this encourages us and connects us. It's helpful to know that others feel the same way we do. It's encouraging to know that others struggle as we struggle. It's also may produce a heart of thanksgiving in us to hear others thank God for all that He does. As we pray together, we grow in our prayer life. We learn how to pray and how to interact with God from more mature believers. We grow closer together as we share our praises and petitions with one another.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Why are some barriers that keep people from praying together with other believers?**

In 1 Samuel 16:7, we see a truth about God: He looks at man's heart and not at his outward appearance. What we know is true about people is that we look at the outward appearance. This produces a fear of what people might think of us and this can serve as a barrier to keep us from speaking or acting in certain ways in front of people. Proverbs 29:25 reminds us to not fear man, but to fear God. Besides fear, we often feel pride and do not want to be seen as weak or in need of anything.

**What benefit have you experienced from praying with other believers?**

James 5:16 speaks to the benefit of praying for one another and confessing our sins. Matthew 18:19 also speaks to the connection that believers have and the power of their joint prayers. Believers benefit when they join together to pray.

2. Acts 2:42: *When the early church gathered, they gathered to pray together. Believers gather to pray together.*

**BIG IDEA #3: JESUS FOLLOWERS SERVE TOGETHER.<sup>3</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Living on mission together requires sacrifice. To live on mission for Jesus, we must first sacrifice our own idea for our lives. We must die to ourselves and willingly submit to living for Him and His purpose for us. We must then live on mission with our fellow believers. This means that we serve Jesus by serving one another. In Acts 2:45-46, the early church served one another because they lived life together. They were joined together by the Holy Spirit and their common mission to bring God glory. They served one another by sacrificing their time and resources to support one another. They shared what they had with one another because they had a common goal to carry the gospel to the world and to help one another live for Christ. They attended worship gatherings together and ate together. They were personally involved in one another's lives which enabled them to serve one another in their times of need. If we want to serve one another, we have to live this way with one another.

**[ THEREFORE ]****What are some challenges to serving others?**

Hebrews 10:25 raises one of the challenges to serving others and serving together. When we fail to meet together, we cannot serve one another or together. Proverbs 29:23 and 18:12 also show us the challenge that pride brings. When we are prideful, we don't acknowledge our need for others, and this prevents us from serving others and serving with others.

**[ THIS ]**

Being a part of the body of Christ also means serving together. God's people are on mission together and this means that we fulfill this mission together. Acts 2:45-47 shows us believers serving one another and living on mission together. The entire narrative of Acts 2 reveals the way God's body is joined together to live on mission together. We serve together by recognizing the need in the body and meeting that need. When someone in the local church has a need, we should meet that need. We also serve together by seeing the needs of people in our community and joining together to meet those needs. The local church serves together by meeting the needs of people in the world. When we hear of people or people groups who are suffering from natural disasters or tragedies, we can serve together by joining our resources to help those in need. We do this because we share the common mission of making the love of Christ known to the world through our actions and words.

**[ THEREFORE ]****How have you had needs met by the local church? How has this impacted your spiritual walk?**

1 Timothy 6:18-19 shows us the benefit of sharing what we have with others and of having the riches of others shared with us. When we share with one another, we build one another up and store up treasures in heaven. This can help us grow spiritually and increase our love for one another.

**How do selfishness and self-reliance keep us from serving with fellow believers?**

Luke 6:38 and Proverbs 3:9-10 teach us about honoring God with our wealth and how He has blessed us. Our selfishness and self-reliance can keep us from doing this. These sins can cause us to not even realize that it is God who has given us wealth to share and serve others with.

---

3. Acts 2:45: *The early church sacrificed for one another and lived on mission together.*

**BIG IDEA #4: JESUS FOLLOWERS PRAISE TOGETHER.<sup>4</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Praise is a pivotal part of loving God and living for Him. Praise reveals that we have a right understanding of our position before Him. When we praise Him daily, we show that we understand who He is and who we are in relation to Him. To praise God with fellow believers is a remarkable thing. It serves as part of our spiritual journey, and it builds our faith. When we gather as a body, worshiping God together, we grow in Him. Our love and appreciation for Him grow. We can't help but mature spiritually when we are praising Him with like-minded believers. In Acts 2:40-47, we see a beautiful picture of believers who had been transformed by Christ and were praising Him together because of this transformation. They were changed and the result of this change was that they gathered to praise the One who transformed their lives. Corporate praise results in corporate growth that leads to outward action.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**Read Acts 2:40-47. What outward action occurred because of the corporate gathering and praising of God?**

In these verses we see a beautiful picture of God's people gathering because they were on mission together. They praised Him and the result was an outward action. They acted on what had happened to them inwardly. They told others and lived in a way that brought others into the family of God.

**[ THIS ]**

Praising God together serves as a boost to believers' spiritual morale. Living life in this fallen and broken world is difficult and challenging. To gather with like-minded people who are also experiencing the same things as you are is encouraging. To have others join with you in praising God will buoy your spirit and fill you with joy. Doing this on a regular basis will increase faithfulness because it strengthens your resolve to live on mission. When we are involved in something with others, we are more likely to remain faithful because we know others are depending on us. The same is true of our spiritual journeys. When we praise God with others, we are joining together to give God the glory we were created to give Him. This connection is deeper than any other connection we experience on earth. This encourages us and serves as a catalyst for us to carry out the mission God has given each believer.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**How have you been personally encouraged by corporate praise?**

Psalm 95:6 and Ephesians 5:19 teach us the significance of worshiping together. We are changed and encouraged when we gather as a body to praise God. The joining of our voices and hearts together to praise God results in our spirits being strengthened.

**How can distractions keep us from really praising together with our local church?**

Often when we gather with the local church, we gather with our minds full of distractions. We are thinking of issues and concerns from the previous week or things that are bothering us. This can keep us from truly praising together and growing together. 2 Corinthians 10:5 and Isaiah 26:3 remind us that we can take our thoughts captive to God and that God does keep us in peace when we think about Him.

4. Acts 2:47: Believers gather together to praise God for His goodness and His grace in their lives.