**

*Opening*

1. There are a lot of studies being done on the reason why people in North America are leaving the church. Why do *you* think this is happening?
2. If a complete stranger were to come up to you ask, “what does it mean to be part of a church?” What would you say to them?

*Going Deeper*

Read Acts 2:42-47

1. What stands out to you in this passage?

1. What do you think it means to be devoted to these practices?
2. Dave mentioned in his sermon that there is a movement in this passage. What is the movement? Why is it significant?
3. One writer describes these four practices as “channels of grace.” Which channels are open in your life? Which seem more blocked?
4. The first practice the early believers devoted themselves to was the apostles teaching.  
   1. Why do you think this is mentioned first?
   2. What exactly is the apostles teaching? Flips through the next few chapters in Acts, and take note of quotations (and footnotes). What do we learn about the extent of their teaching here?
5. John Stott notes that in our passage, the church was not simply known for spiritual experience, but also for clear biblical teaching. How can we keep these together in our culture, which prioritizes personal experience?
6. What do we lose if we neglect the Scriptures?   
   1. Reflect together on the following quote by NT Wright: *The God of the Bible is not necessarily the God I want; my confused desires almost certainly don’t fit in with who He actually is, and just as well. What matters much more is the God who actually made me, is the God with whom I have to do business. And he is so much bigger and greater than anything that I could imagine that I must never imagine I have got him tied down and pigeonholed. We need to be constantly looking harder at the God of the Bible. Otherwise we shall discover that gradually the picture we have of him gets domesticated, whittled down to something we can live with. And gods that we can live with comfortably are idols.*
7. What might it looks like for us, personally and collectively, to recover a posture of devotion to Scripture?
8. Often times this passage can feel guilt inducing, reminding us of the things we aren’t doing well enough. Take a moment and look at it again. Where do you see the grace?

*Close in Prayer*