

B.R.E.A.D

Meeting # 4

The Bible Reading Part: We are the church - meeting together and

Note: Tonight's text comes at the end of a long sermon delivered by Peter and it describes the beginnings of the early Christian church that developed as people came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah.

Acts 2:40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The Discussion Part:

1. What are your favorite activities in the church? Do you enjoy sitting back or digging in?
2. Think back to earlier days in your life and your involvement in the church in those days. How has your level of involvement changed? How have church activities changed? Look specifically at the Bible text listed above and try to describe what the first Christian church must have been like. How are we different? Should we be like the early church? Why or why not?
3. List some of the things that are most important in your life - things that take significant amounts of your time and energy. Do you devote the time that you devote to these

activities joyfully or begrudgingly? Why? Is there a correlation between the time that you spend on something and the importance you assign to that thing?

4. Why is the church important to you? Why is God important to you? Is the answer the same in responding to the above question? Should it be? Of the ways that the church is described above, which part is most important to you in keeping your faith and commitment strong.