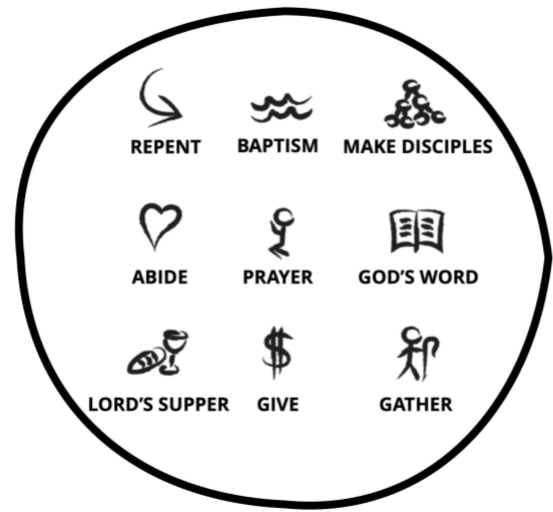


Church

Acts 2 offers a beautiful picture of what it meant for the early followers of Jesus to be a church. Read Acts 2:36-47 and identify what things they did that identified them as a church? Do you view your community as a church if you do these things also? Why or why not?



1. Repent & Believe

The first followers testified of the good news of Jesus to many people and as a result, many people repented and put their faith in Jesus.

2. Baptism

After believing, the followers of Jesus baptized them.

3. Make Disciples

Thousands were added to their numbers daily, which means the disciples were out make disciples.

4. God's Word

They devoted themselves to the apostles teachings, which have been preserved for us in the Bible.

5. Lord's Supper

They broke bread together in each other's homes. This has two significances. First, breaking bread and drinking wine is done in remembrance of Jesus as the Passover lamb which we celebrate as the Lord's Supper. Second, it meant celebrating shabbat and meals together as a spiritual family.

6. Prayer

The early followers of Jesus prayed together.

7. Abiding

They loved God and abided in Him as evident of the fruits of Holy Spirit in their lives (awe, signs, wonders...).

8. Give

They were so committed to the mission that they gave radically. They sold possessions, gave of their time, resources and more to ensure the gospel was being lived out in their communities.

9. Gather

Throughout Acts 2:36-37, we see they were committed to gathering together, as a community (church) that encouraged and cared for one another, worshiping Jesus together, and grows in their identity in Him.