

# Where to from here?

church on the “other side” of crisis

CRISIS → → → CHANGE

Cut  
back  
to  
the  
CORE

Sometimes  
the *new thing*  
is rediscovering  
an ***old thing***

**Acts 2 v 42-47**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2 v 42

This new community, gathered  
around King Jesus, were marked  
by a set of habits / practices

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2 v 42

*“The apostolic teaching was authoritative because it was the **teaching of the LORD communicated through the apostles.** In due course this apostolic teaching took written shape in the NT scriptures.”*

F. F. Bruce

**LEARN**

*“The gospel is a **world-creating message**... it creates a whole different story for you... and it takes a lifetime to learn how to live in this new story.”* - Tim Mackie (paraphrase)

Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey** everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28 v 19-20

Disciple = learner

That, however, is not the **way of life you learned** when you **heard about Christ** and were **taught in him** in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, **to put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires (past); to be **made new in the attitude of your minds** (present); and to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness (future).

Ephesians 4 v 20-24

# Discipleship

=

all the ways we're learning to do  
the things Jesus said and did,  
(together and individually)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2 v 42

***Fellowship = Koinonia***

**SHARE**

**Unity**

=

deeply

connected

in Christ

'common life'

All the believers were together and had **everything in common**. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

Acts 2 v 44-45

What would inspire this kind of sharing???

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had... And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Acts 4 v 32-35

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Acts 4 v 32-35

## **Grace (charis)...**

-Gift (Eph. 2 v 8)

-Power / Presence (Acts 4v33)

-Generosity (2 Cor. 8 v 1-9)

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the **grace that God** has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in **rich generosity**. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

2 Corinthians 8 v 1-4

And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you — see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 Corinthians 8 v 5-7

I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. **For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.**

2 Corinthians 8 v 8-9

*“We ought to seek to excel in [generosity] too, because if we’re not it means that we’re actually neglecting the very presence of the generous, giving God in our lives who [wants us] to become more like Him.”*

Tim Mackie

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Acts 2 v 42

Meals  
or  
Lord's Supper  
or  
Both

Eating Together

**RELATIONSHIP**

**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, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

Acts 2 v 46-47a

*They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, **every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God.** People in general liked what they saw.*

Acts 2 v 46-47a (MSG)



shared their meals with **great joy**  
**and generosity**  
(NLT)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2 v 42

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.

Acts 2 v 46-47a (ESV)

They **worshiped together at the Temple each day**, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity - all the while **praising God** and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.

Acts 2 v 46-47a (NLT)

**WORSHIP**

Temple = structured worship  
("the prayers")

Home = spontaneous worship  
("praising God")

*“Worship is the arena in which God recalibrates our hearts, reforms our desires, and re-habituates our loves. Worship isn’t just something we do; it is where God does something to us. Worship is the heart of discipleship because it is the gymnasium in which God retrains our hearts.”*

James K. A. Smith

**day by day**

And the Lord added to their  
number **day by day** those  
who were being saved.

Acts 2 v 47

**LEARN  
SHARE  
RELATIONSHIP  
WORSHIP**

**(LEARN)**

**SHARE**

**RELATIONSHIP**

**WORSHIP**

**LEARN**  
**(SHARE)**  
**RELATIONSHIP**  
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**LEARN**  
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**(RELATIONSHIP)**  
**WORSHIP**

**LEARN  
SHARE  
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(WORSHIP)**

**LEARN  
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Acts 2 v 42

And **the Lord added to their number** day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2 v 47

“...**I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Matthew 16 v 18