

Encounter these verses today:

*Circle words that you identify with,
underline phrases or sentences you'd
like to remember, write questions about
the passage out to the side ...*



Acts 2:42-47 [NIV]

:: Defining Characteristics of the Church ::

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Romans 12:10-16 [NIV]

:: Defining Characteristics of the Christian::

⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹²Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. ¹⁷Do not be conceited



What is God speaking to you this morning ...



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Digging Deeper | 2010

[May 10 - May 15]

Monday: 5.17.2010

Reading: Acts 5:40-42

Have we been arrested for sharing the name of Jesus with a friend? Have we been pulled over by a police officer for playing your Christian music too loud? Have you ever been beaten up for doing the right thing in Jesus name? Would anyone have a reason to do so ... or do we live a pretty safe and comfortable life?

Think about it:

Could you rejoice after experiencing what the apostles went through? Or would you be confused and wonder why God hasn't blessed you and made life easier?

Pray for: *Directory families: Kohler to Kulchar*

Reflections: _____

Tuesday: 5.18.2010

Reading: Romans 12:10-16

Some things in the Christian journey come very naturally and seem to make a lot of sense. Other things go against the grain of our humanity. Be joyful, patient, devoted, etc are not easy traits for many of us to live by.

Think about it:

Which of the phrases in today's reading give you the most challenge to live by? Why is that?

Pray for: *Directory families: LaCroix to Lopez*

Reflections: _____

Wednesday: 5.19.2010

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10

There are just some people I can't understand ... let alone agree with them. Maybe it's a project at work, or a task to be completed at home ... disagreements just seem to happen everywhere.

Think about it:

How can you be you (with your way of thinking) and find ways to "agree with one another" as Paul appeals us to do.

Pray for: *Directory families: Lord to Maloney*

Reflections: _____

Thursday: 5.20.2010

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Who doesn't need encouragement on a regular basis? God has designed us with several needs and the need to hear good things about yourself is just part of that design. But remember, it's also part of the design of that person down the hall, in the break room, your boss and that new friend.

Think about it:

Ask Jesus who you can encourage today. Write a note, send a text, make a call, or maybe a surprise visit (with ice cream!).

Pray for: *Directory families: Marks to Maynor*

Reflections: _____

Friday: 5.21.2010

Reading: John 13:34-35

Love is what is supposed to separate us from the world. We believers are supposed to be the best at looking past others' faults and loving our neighbor. Everyone can see Jesus more clearly if he is actively helping you love everyone around you with His love.

Think about it:

Ask Jesus who you can show love to today. Might be time to write another note, send another text, or make another visit!

Pray for: *Directory families: Mazza to Minton*

Reflections: _____

Saturday: 5.22.2010

Reading: Acts 2:42-47

We finish our week by looking at the beginning of the church again. Devotion, friendship, sharing, miracles, common bonds, no rich, no poor. These are just a few of descriptive words that help us understand the church as Jesus left it.

Think about it:

What attracts you about that church? What scares you about that church? How can we become more like that church?

Pray for: *Directory families: Monroe to Novotny*

Reflections: _____
