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**We Do Hard Things – Apostles’ Teachings**  
**Acts 2:42-47**

**Feb. 12, 2023**

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**DAILY DEVOTION**

Find a rhythm in God’s word this week! Follow this 5 day plan on your own or with your group!

<https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/22186>

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**INSPIRATION**

“Fans don’t mind him doing a little touch-up work, but Jesus wants complete renovation. Fans come to Jesus thinking tune-up, but Jesus is thinking overhaul. Fans think a little makeup is fine, but Jesus is thinking makeover. Fans think a little decorating is required, but Jesus want a complete remodel. Fans want Jesus to inspire them, but Jesus wants to interfere with their lives” – Kyle Idleman  
In our lesson this week, we will learn about being remade based on Jesus’ teachings.

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**ICE BREAKER**

1. Using the supplied paper and pens, make a list of as many words as you can from the word “devoted.” In your group, who came up with the most words? If completing this by yourself, how did you do?
2. What is something to which you are devoted and why?

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**DEEP DIVE**

**Read this out loud**

An excerpt from the message this week:

“They were devoted...so today we are starting a new message series called – we do hard things. Following Jesus is hard. It is much easier not to. It is much easier to develop our own theology – whatever fits today’s culture – or my own preferences – it is much easier to say –It is my life and leave me alone. If it feels good..., do it. I can’t believe in a god who would.... SO, what does it look like to do hard things?”



**Read Acts 2:42-47 and then answer the following questions:**

3. From these verses, we learn Jesus' disciples devoted themselves to the Apostles' teachings. Let's think about it. Did the disciples have a Bible? Yes or No? What did they have to refer to for learning how Jesus wanted them to live? Why would they have to devote themselves to the Apostle's teaching to accomplish this?
4. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What do you learn about the Bible from these verses? Why is this important when you are studying the Bible? What ways have you tried reading your Bible and what barriers have you come across?
5. The Old Testament describes the creation of the world, man's part in the history of God's plan through his covenant. What parts of the Old Testament have you read? Do you have any favorite books? Of what value is the Old Testament to Christians today?

**Read this out loud**

An excerpt from the message this week:

"The Old Testament – has to do with the old agreement – or old covenant. God had several covenants or agreements with the nation of Israel – there was an Abrahamic covenant – – Noah – David. None of those apply to us. We are under a new covenant – a new agreement. This one is better."

**Read Hebrews 8:6, Luke 22:14-20 and Jerimiah 31:31-32 and then answer the following questions:**

6. According to verses in Hebrews, Luke and Jerimiah, what is the new covenant based on and why is it better?
7. Mark pointed out in the sermon that there are three parts to a covenant: Parties, Terms and Promises. What does each one of these terms mean? In the covenant, Christ followers are the "parties." The "Terms" are what we agree to. As Christ followers list as many things as you can that we have agreed to do or be as Christians. Promises are what God will do. What has God promised us? What promises have you already experienced as fulfilled?
8. How does being devoted to the apostles' teaching or reading our Bible help us with understanding the new covenant, our role in the covenant and the promises God offers and fulfills?

**Additional Study**

If you have time during your Small Group or you want to study more about the message topic, read and consider the following passages:

- Acts 2:38
- John 10:10
- Ephesians 1:19-20
- Philippians 1:6



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## **NEXT STEPS**

9. What steps can you take this week to devote yourself to studying God's word?
10. For a week, have someone in your group be an accountability partner to share what you are learning from your reading.

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## **PRAYER**

1. Pray for the person who is your accountability partner for this week.
2. Pray that God will show you what he wants you to learn through your Bible reading this week.

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## **SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY**

Establish a regular rhythm of serving together! Below are some service opportunities.

- BENSON - Local Mission Partner is ABIDE. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- MILLARD - Local Mission Partner is Heartland Hope. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- FREMONT - Local Mission Partner is LifeHouse. Contact Campus Pastor for more information.
- OMAHA - Local Mission Partner is Open Door Mission. Contact Lyndsey Deyoe for more information.
- Or get to know your community! Seek out service opportunities in your area.