

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Read **1 Timothy 3:15** and **Ephesians 2:19**. The church is described as a "household" of God. Consider the parallels between a household and the church. What would it look like for the church to behave as a perfect household?
3. Derek said about the church "framily", "There is something powerful that happens when we are treated like family by people who aren't our family- despite all our flaws and failures. It's what shows the world that Jesus is real." Look at Jesus' words in **John 13:34-35** and **John 17:20-23**. What should the world see when they look at the church? How is the church to reflect Jesus?
4. Read **Acts 2:42-47**.
 - a. Verse 42- Derek pointed out that devotion means "ferocious dedication. It means putting the object of your devotion at the top of your list, and then dislodging other activities and commitments that might stand in the way, reorienting everything in your life to accommodate the object of this devotion." Who is the object of our devotion? What must we do in order to reorient our lives to truly live this way?
 - b. Verse 42- To what four things were the early church continually devoting themselves? How can we, as a Life Group, grow together in these four areas?
 - i. How can we hold each other accountable to not just be hearers of the Word, but doers (**James 1:22-25**)?
 - ii. What does real fellowship look like in our group? Derek reminded us that "all attempts at true fellowship and unity will come under attack." How do we stand firm against disunity and shallow fellowship?
 - iii. God promises His presence when we meet in His name (**Matthew 18:20**). Are we inviting Him in? How are we seeing Him change us?
 - iv. How do we pray together? How can we be more fervent in prayer? (**John 16:24; Matthew 7:7-8**)
 - c. Verse 43-47 What was God doing in and through the believers in the early church?
5. The big idea from Derek's sermon was "We must be devoted to circles, not just rows." He explains that "in rows we see the backs of heads, but in circles we see face to face." If you have "found your couch" and committed to a Life Group, why have you chosen to be part of a circle? What has God done in your life through this group? How has God used you to bring Him glory within this group? Who in your life can you encourage to get into a Life Group?

Prayer Thought: Follow Derek's pattern for a time of silent, guided prayer on your knees. Say to your group, "take a minute and praise God for one of His character qualities that amazes you." After a couple of minutes say, 'now confess something that you did, said, or thought today that was outside his will.' Then, "now thank God for three blessings in your life." And, finally, "now intercede for someone in your life who is in need." Pray for those who need to get connected to "family."

Series Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:19 *You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household*