



TIME OF GRACE®

Roots and Fruit: Get a Group

Study Notes

Summary

Even pastors know that 60 minutes on Sundays have their limits. Some fruit only comes through personal, vulnerable, doing-life-together community. The early church knew that, and their Group root produced the fruit of love and generosity and kindness. When we personally know and are personally known in a spiritual community, we find our spiritual and physical needs being met.

- **Galatians 5:22,23:** ²² The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.

“If a large portion of the root system is destroyed, a corresponding portion of the leaves and branches will die.”—Thomas Perry

- Want _____? Get a _____!
- **Acts 2:42:** They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- 4 keys to a good group:
 1. Devoted to the _____.
Acts 2:42: They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching.
 2. Devoted to _____.
Acts 2:42: They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship.
 3. Devoted to _____.
Acts 2:42: They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread.
 4. Devoted to _____.
Acts 2:42: They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- **Acts 2:46:** They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

Points to Ponder

1. Read the apostle Peter's teaching in Acts 2:14-41. Name at least three of Peter's main points. How do those points affect the way that we do Group today?
2. **Agree/Disagree:** Passion for the 5 Roots is only possible when you think of your future and not just your present.
3. Evaluate the current strength of your Group root. What small step could you take to strengthen that root so that your future might include more spiritual fruit?

Homework for Next Week

Read Deuteronomy 5:12-15 and Psalm 92.

*"[Life] Groups are like retirement savings. If people wait until they need it, they won't have it when they need it."
—Andy Stanley*