



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE SPIRIT

SPEAKER: Russell Joyce

DATE: October 12, 2025

TEXT(S): Acts 2:42-47, with Rom. 12:2,
Phil. 2:12-13, Prov. 4:23, & Luke 24:30-32

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: *This resource is designed to help you, or your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. Our goal is to help you better understand and apply B4's teaching.*

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

The early Church demonstrated embodied faith, lived out through devotion, community, and shared practice. That's important because Jesus' disciples are spiritually formed by much more than *simply believing* the right things. Each of us needs to invite the life of Jesus to "hit our body." That's crucial for discipleship. And, like almost anything else, we learn by doing, which requires imitation and practice. The Church's practices, such as teaching, prayer, generosity, worship, shared meals, and deep friendships, help us express the deep, heart-changing work of the Spirit. The rhythms of these practices are not meant to feel like endless religious chores. They are beautiful spaces where God meets us. At the table, in community, and in daily imitation, as we embrace the life of a devoted disciple, we reveal the one who loves us and gave Himself for us.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What's something you've recently tried to learn that took more practice than you expected?
2. When do you feel most distracted during your day, and what helps you refocus?
3. If you could share a meal with any three people, living or dead, who would you choose, and why?
4. Describe a time you realized that doing something together was more meaningful than doing it alone.
5. What's one small practice that makes a big difference in your relationships or spiritual life?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) from the message. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. What stands out to you most from Acts 2:42-47 about how the early believers lived and worshiped together?
2. Why do you think "devotion" was such a key word for Luke to describe the community in Acts?
3. What do you imagine the daily gatherings described in Acts 2:42-47 felt like? What might we learn from their rhythm of worship and meals?
4. What are some patterns of this world that Paul has in mind in Romans 12:2? Why is it easy to conform to them without realizing it?
5. In Philipians 2:12-13, how do you see human effort and God's work partnering in spiritual growth?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. How does our culture's growing isolation and obsession with screen time compare to the Acts believers? Are we better off, and why or why not?
2. What might the early church's generosity look like if practiced in your culture's economy amidst rising costs and materialism?
3. Social media gives us constant imitation opportunities. How might we become more intentional about who we're imitating?
4. The early church gained "favor with all the people." How might today's church regain credibility and goodwill in a skeptical world?
5. How do recent studies about loneliness and declining community reflect the opposite of what Acts 2 shows?

LOOK IN: *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. What is one daily habit or rhythm you could adjust to give more focused attention to Jesus?
2. How might imitation and practice help your faith become more embodied and real, not just intellectual? Be specific about yourself.
3. What "cultural liturgies" shape you most, anything from work routines to entertainment and social media?
4. How might you create more space for silence, slowing down, and being with God amid constant distraction?
5. What does "devotion" look like for you right now, given your schedule, priorities, and relationships?

LIVE IT OUT: *These practical action steps help you apply this message to day-to-day life. Choose one prompt and talk it over for 5-10 minutes:*

1. Engage one of the five practices listed above (teaching, prayer, generosity, worship, shared meals, and deep friendships) with fresh intentionality this week!
2. Choose someone in your life who models the kind of spiritual maturity or presence you want. Pray about the best way to approach them to ask how you could learn from them, then decide on a way and do it.

You can find more on [our series resources page](#).

