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CHURCH

Prayer | Breaking Bread | Teaching | Fellowship  
ACTS 2:42

# the series...

1. What JESUS said...
2. What the EARLY CHURCH did...
3. What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did...
4. What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...



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BREAKING  
BREAD

# What JESUS said...



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# What JESUS said...

Luke 19:1-10

[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him...



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# What JESUS said...

Luke 19:1-10

...for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” ...



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# What JESUS said...

Luke 19:1-10

...And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord,  
“Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to  
the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of  
anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said  
to him, “Today salvation has come to this  
house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For  
the Son of Man came to seek and to save the  
lost.”



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# What JESUS said...

## Explained / Luke 19:1-10

- Chief-tax collectors
- He could not see...
  - “small in stature”
- Jesus makes the first move
  - “[Jesus] looked up and said...”
- Guest of a sinner...
- Generosity (half -> poor ; fraud -> 4-fold)
- Changed heart - salvation



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# What JESUS said...

Luke 22:14-20

...And when the hour came, he *reclined* at the table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”



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# What the EARLY CHURCH did...



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# What the EARLY CHURCH did...

Acts 2:42

“...they devoted themselves to the apostles’ *teaching* and the *fellowship*, to the BREAKING OF BREAD and the *prayers*.”



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# What the EARLY CHURCH did...

Acts 20:7

“On the first day of the week, ...we were gathered together to break bread...”



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# What the EARLY CHURCH did...

## 1 Corinthians 11:17-22

“But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. For the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you...When you come together, it is not the Lord’s Supper that you eat.”



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# What the EARLY CHURCH did...

## 1 Corinthians 11:17-22

“...For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, and other gets drunk. WHAT! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing?...”



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# What the EARLY CHURCH did...

## Breaking Bread

### Church in Corinth (54 – 57 A.D.)

- There are at least 3 letters to this church; 1 Corinthians is letter #2. We don't have the first. (1 Cor 5:9-11)
- Issues with observing the Lord's Supper
  - Unity (1 Cor 11:18)
  - Despise the Church & humiliate the poor



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# What the EARLY CHURCH did...

## Unity of Breaking Bread

### Church in Corinth (54 – 57 A.D.)

#### – The Meal

- Passover meal
- Exodus 24:11 – eating together after the blood sacrifice
- “He took the cup, after supper, saying...”

#### – “Coming together” (1 Cor 11:18, 33)

### Hospitality

- OT principle that carried into the NT (Gen 18/Heb 13)



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# What the EARLY CHURCH did...

## Eucharist

Gradual Turning Point...

Eucharist – replaced “breaking of bread” (2<sup>nd</sup> century)

“giving thanks” or “celebration”



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# What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did...



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# What EARLY PENTECOSTALS did...

## Eating Together

### *Meals within the fellowship*

- No organization: focused on spreading “good news”
- Focus: Social and relational

### *Eating in the Spirit (Divine Hospitality)*

1. Celebration with God
2. Celebration with the faithful
3. Celebration of the invitation



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# What **THE CHURCH TODAY** needs to do...



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# What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...

## Eating Together

Why do we eat together?

1. Unity
2. Sacred time
  - Celebrating with God, the body, invitation
3. Social and relational



# What THE CHURCH TODAY needs to do...

## Practical Thoughts

### 1. *Communion*

- *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month*

### 2. *Evening Bible Study (Sunday evenings @ 6pm)*

- *We eat together before/during the study*

### 3. *Summer Camp Fires*

- *Sunday evenings in July & Aug*

### 4. *Eating with friends*



The early church was devoted...  
Are We?



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