Christians Care for One Another

Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

A Powerful Commitment

After Jesus' ascension to heaven, the Holy Spirit came upon the believers at Pentecost. Jesus' followers were empowered to speak boldly for Jesus. About 3,000 people became new followers of Jesus in one day, and the days following that dramatic event are the context for today's passage.

The teaching of the apostles mentioned in Acts 2:42 is likely the reiteration of the things Jesus had done and said while on earth. In fact, the teachings of the apostles comprise much of what became the New Testament. The apostles taught with authority because they had spent three years learning from and living with Jesus.

Focused on Their Unity

The Christians' breaking of bread was more than simply eating together, although eating together was likely part of their fellowship. The breaking of bread most likely refers to the regular meeting to celebrate the Lord's Supper, as the disciples had been commanded to observe during their last meal with Jesus.

The believers apparently developed in themselves a true sense of unity and concern for one another. Their sharing with each other to meet needs was a demonstration of that unity seldom seen in the history of the world.

Committed to Their Mission

These believers met daily and were dedicated to their mission. And their example apparently attracted more and more followers as God blessed what they were doing!

The early Christians' love made their faith something that others wanted to learn more about. Jesus had told his disciples, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). As we treat one another with love, people around us will see that we're followers of Jesus and will be drawn to him, too!

The Jesus Connection

It's impossible to grow in faith—or help others come to faith—without the influence of Christian community and genuine love for others. Our relationships with other Christians reflect our relationship with Jesus.

Read Psalm 23 slowly, pausing after each phrase. What kind of life is the psalmist describing? This is the life Jesus offers you and everyone you know. How can God use you to help others experience this kind of life? Ask God to help you show others God's abundant life by taking care of them. You can write your prayer here.