



## **Church: Looking Back and Growing Forward**

**Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37, 20:20-21**

### **OPEN**

What have been your thoughts and reflections as the Christ Church celebrates 50 years?

Are there any stories from the past that captures the God's grace at Christ Church?

### **DISCUSS**

As you observe Christ Church today, what do you see as the high values in the lives of the church and its people?

Read the Acts passages listed above.

- What defined the early church?
- What were the regular practices of the church? (You may also reference other Bible passages too)
- As you think about the reality of the early church (Jews and Gentiles brought together, slaves and free people now eating together, men and women having equal share...) what challenges do you think the early church had to work through?
- What do you see as the challenge(s) for the church in America today? For Christ Church??



Theologian, author, and professor Scot McKnight asks two questions in his recent book *The Fellowship of Differents: Showing the World God's Design for Life Together*.

**What is the church supposed to be?**

**If the church is what it is supposed to be, what does the Christian life look like?**

Take some time to answer these two questions. (If someone takes notes, please send your group's thoughts to Eric Camfield [ecamfield@cc-ob.org](mailto:ecamfield@cc-ob.org))

What should we affirm in our own local fellowship called Christ Church?

Where do you sense God calling us to grow and invest more intentionally?

How can (or will) your group advance the mission of God through his church?

Spend time in prayer for the church and its various ministries. Pray also for your group and opportunity God has given you to be influential in the lives of others.

**YOUR NEXT STEP...**

- Reflect on the two questions by Scot McKnight above and journal your thoughts, questions, and passions as you consider the church.
- How can YOU help the church grow forward in its next unfolding chapter?