

**The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – January 8 - 13**  
***Doing Life Together – Personal Reflection***

**MONDAY:** Acts 1:14, Acts 20:7, Hebrews 10:16

**KEY VERSE:** Acts 2:42

**OBSERVATION:** Here's an obvious starting point: A church built to the Master's plan will begin with the right raw material—a saved congregation. Verse 41 identifies the church as being made up of “those who had received [Peter's] word,” and “were continually devoting themselves.” The church at Jerusalem was filled with true Christians — those who continually adhered to apostolic teaching.

**TUESDAY:** Acts 4:32, Acts 5:2

**KEY VERSE:** Acts 2:44

**OBSERVATION:** The early church was full of love—they “had all things in common” (Acts 2:44). There was ownership in the early church—believers didn't live in a commune—but no one owned anything to the exclusion of someone who had a need. The Greek verbs in verse 46 translated “began selling” and “were sharing” show that they were continually selling and sharing their resources as needed. That kind of sacrificial love is the result of the Lord's work in obedient believers who follow His blueprint.

**WEDNESDAY:** Acts 5:21, John 8:3

**KEY VERSE:** Acts 4:6-7

**OBSERVATION:** The Lord blesses those who labor according to His plan. First, He fills the obedient church with gladness (Acts 2:46) and praise (Acts 2:47). How can you not be happy when you see God at work in your midst? How can you keep from rejoicing when you watch God use your church to make an eternal impact in the world? Second, He adds to their number. Acts 2:47 concludes by saying that “the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

**THURSDAY:** Matthew 7:24, John 1:42

**KEY VERSE:** Matthew 16:18

**OBSERVATION:** God never intended the church to be like that. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus says, “I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.” Notice the Lord's one condition to that great promise: “I will build My church” (emphasis added). Christ's guarantee is valid only when He builds the church His way. When you follow His blueprint, you can be sure that He is doing the work through you and that nothing, not even the gates of hell, can stop Him.

**FRIDAY:** 2 Thessalonians 1:1, Acts 15:22

**KEY VERSE:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1

**OBSERVATION:** The phrase “ekklesia of the Thessalonians” would have had an established, commonly-understood meaning in this city. It denoted the gathering of citizens to govern the city. But Paul qualified his use of this phrase and therefore limited misunderstanding by adding “in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” The Christians gathered in Thessalonica were not equivalent to the civic ekklesia. Rather, they were an alternative assembly, one that met “in God and Christ.” “In” means something like “by the work of” or “under the authority of” or “for the sake of.”

**SATURDAY:** Isaiah 56:8, John 10:4

**KEY VERSE:** John 10:16

**OBSERVATION:** Unity does not need to be created; it simply needs to be protected. How do we do that? How do we make every effort to keep the unity? Does that mean we compromise our convictions? No. Does that mean we abandon the truths we cherish? No. But it does mean we look long and hard at the attitudes we carry. Unity doesn't begin in examining others but in examining self. Unity begins, not in demanding that others change, but in admitting that we aren't perfect ourselves. Unity grows as we learn to accept others differences and to forgive when wronged. Unity continues as we humbly serve those who are different. Unity is fulfilled as focus on who we believe in rather what we believe in. Unity is favored as we loving take the message of Jesus Christ to a divided world.

Portions of this study are taken from studies from Grace to You and Life Way Studies