



## Acts 2:42 Small Group Study Guide

**“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”**

Week of 10/05/14 – Stop Judging One Another

### **Food and Fellowship:**

Take time to enjoy some food and fellowship together. Afterwards, move the discussion to where you can all sit together.

**\*\*Upper Room Gatherings\*\*** Take opportunity to get to know one another. Each person should be given opportunity to share a little bit about themselves.

### **Prayer:**

Take a few minutes to share prayer requests individually. As each person shares, give opportunity for someone in the group to commit to pray for the requests that were just shared. After all of the prayer requests have been shared, take a few minutes to pray over the requests. One person should begin praying with a person designated to close after everyone who desires to pray out loud has prayed. One person can pray for all of the requests also...the goal is to feel comfortable sharing and to have opportunity to open up with prayer.

### **Reflect:**

Take a few minutes to reflect on the Sermon from the most recent Sunday.

- What sticks out in your mind?
- What principle/principles did you glean?
- How do you plan to apply some of the principles personally from the sermon? Please share.

### **Looking In:**

#### **Matthew 7:1-5**

**“Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup> For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup> Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.**

#### **Romans 14:4-5**

**<sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.**

**<sup>5</sup> One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why, in your opinion, is a judgmental and critical spirit so detrimental to the health of Christian community?
2. According to Jesus, what are the consequences when we judge and measure each other's lives according to a judgmental and critical spirit?
3. What are some practical ideas of how to approach a brother or sister in Christ who is struggling with a particular issue? How can we be helpful?
4. What are some areas that are disputable in nature but can also become very divisive? (In the sermon pastor Chris mentioned alcohol, music, food, styles of worship; can you think of any others?) How can we provide an environment that accommodates differences and provides room for different expressions of the same faith?
5. What are some ways that we can be more understanding of another person's shortcomings and failures? How does grace create an environment that promotes wholeness?

**In preparation for next Sunday's message: Encourage One Another**

**1 Thess. 5:11**

**<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.**

Close:

Take a moment to close with prayer (please pray for the other life groups and the Upper Room Gatherings that are meeting).