

The Shared Life

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Big Idea: Church life is a shared life.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 (English Standard Version)

The shared life involves sharing our time.

Tony's Relationship Rhythms:

- 1) Big Church: weekly Sunday service at 8 am
- 2) Small Community: weekly Home Group
- 3) Friend-to-Friend: hang with 1-3 friends
- 4) Family-to-Family: dinner with another family
- 5) Informal irregular connections between the regular rhythms

TIP:

Shrink the change . . .

The shared life involves sharing our stuff.

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. Acts 2:44-45 (ESV)

TIPS:

- 1) Personal needs have communal solutions.
- 2) Start with food.

The shared life involves sharing our thoughts about Scripture.

Tony's Scripture Practices:

- 1) Big Church—sermon
- 2) Small Community—Home Group Mark study
- 3) By myself—morning Psalms study

TIP:

Think in thirds.

The shared life involves sharing our hearts in prayer.

“As a father, I spend most of my life in a routine that focuses only on my family and work. Most of my struggles are processed internally without help from others. This group gave me opportunity to share some of my struggles, without being judged, and be prayed for. Like sunlight in a magnifying glass, there is a focusing effect of praying with others that is more powerful than praying alone.”

“To put it simply, the group gave me a place to become comfortable with the uncomfortable. I am 33 years old and have never had even one Christian Friend in my life that I thought I could be real with and this group gave me 4 of them. There were a lot of positive things that I got out of this group but having a place to share things that "men" don't usually talk about and then praying for and being prayed for seemed to fill a massive gap I have had in my spiritual life.”

Tony's Prayer Rhythms:

- 1) Big Church: corporate prayer and worship
- 2) Small Community: 3rd week of Home Group
- 3) By myself: night walk

TIP:

Everyone is a mess.

When we live a shared life, good things happen.

Good Things in Acts 2:42-47

- 1) God did awesome stuff.
- 2) Every need was met.
- 3) Gratefulness abounded.
- 4) People were attracted.

TIP:

Just show up.