



I'd like to know what exactly they devoted themselves to. It must have been powerful (Acts 5:28). It must have been interesting. It must have been centered and focused (Acts 13:12).

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breaker idea:

Talk as a group about the famous illustration "big rocks first" (rock, pebbles, sand). When you need to fill a jar with rocks, pebbles, and sand, you always start with the big rocks first. Then the pebbles will find their place. Then the sand will fill the crevices. Share the applications of this story.

DEVOTED TO TEACHING. Read Titus 1:9 (God's Word Version) and Acts 2:42 (ESV). Why is teaching important? Consider things to which we might assume they would have devoted themselves. They didn't devote themselves to their gut instincts and assumptions. They didn't devote themselves to their shared experience of the Spirit. They challenged these and tested these by teaching. **Follow up: Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-9 & 19.** Why is teaching (prophesying) more important in the assembly than experiences?

THE TEACHING OF THE APOSTLES. Read 1 Cor. 11:2; 2 Thess 2:15; 2 Tim 2:20). The teaching of the Apostles was "handed down" from Christ to the Apostles, then from them to us. Discuss what this means. Read Matt 7:28. How was the teaching of Jesus—the teaching handed down—full of authority? Read Ezekiel 37:1-14. How does the preached word, through the Spirit of God, bring life?

"APOSTLES' TEACHING" IN ACTS. Read Acts 5:28; 13:12. The Apostles' teaching was powerful and focused. In the context of Acts 2:42, it can't refer to the whole New Testament (it was not written yet). Discuss this point. To what were the early Christians devoted?

THE 7 ONES. Read Ephesians 4:4-6. Pick any sermon in the book of Acts (Acts 2 or 10 might be good choices) and see if you can find all 7 of the 7 "ones" listed in Ephesians 4. The sermons and speeches in Acts seem to use these 7 as bullet points. This implies that the central teachings the apostles' gave the early church was a story that contained these basic truths.

THE GOSPEL. Read Acts 8:25; 15:7. Notice how "the apostles' teaching" in Acts is simply the gospel. Discuss what the gospel is.

BIG ROCKS FIRST. How can well-meaning Christians major in minors? Is it possible to be "devoted" to things the Apostles' said and end up reading the New Testament the way the Pharisees read the OT? Discuss the importance of majoring in the gospel.