



May 3, 2020

Title: *So That's How It Is in That Family*

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Introduction to Analog

Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take a deeper look into each week's Sunday morning message. *Analog* can be used by individuals, friends, couples, or small groups to further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you to connect with God as we continue on this journey of following Jesus together.

New Teaching Season

We are on the third week in a new season of teaching: *Everything and Everyone*. God exists in relationship. Relationships are central to what it means to be human. Our universe is held together by the energy of all things being in relationship. Everything and everyone exists in relationship to something or someone else. This teaches us we do not have a choice about being in relationship, but we do have a choice as to what those relationships will look like. As a spiritual collective, this is our invitation, to practice relationships with one another – to live as a family, a community.

Overview

These verses in Acts 2 are often held up as a vision for what can be and should be when it comes to relationships in the broader faith community we call the Church. It's worth noting, however, that what was peculiar about these people was not *how* they lived. What caught the attention of others was *with whom* they practiced this kind of community. In the preceding verses we discover people from all over the world were in Jerusalem for a festival. Some suggest, that after Peter's sermon they did not all leave. Rather they stayed in Jerusalem and shared life with one another – that's what is described here.

The words used to describe that early Christ-centered community would have been the same words used to describe the way a family lived back then – not the way a group of strangers would have lived. Somehow, these “strangers” came together, and practiced life together as siblings. We must realize the story begins not with having “all things in common” but with the promised Spirit coming to those who were gathered and filling them so they could live in a revolutionary way. Through this they were able to live as one – so much so that others were added to their number because of the way they lived their lives together.

Opening Question

You may want to use this Opening Question as a way to start your discussion with your group. It is the kind of question everyone can answer and points toward the theme of the rest of the discussion. *Share a time when you experienced a really positive community – a faith community, sports team, extended family, work group, etc.*

Spiritual Practice

Prayers of the People from Sunday morning

Materials Needed: Copies of the prayer.

Preparation: Take time to read through this prayer before participating in the prayer as a group. Email it to everyone ahead of time or be ready on your video conferencing call to share it so all can see and follow along.

This week's Spiritual Practice is a prayer read on Sunday morning during DCC's on line worship gathering and focuses on our connection with God. Exploring our relationship with God can have a way of stirring up thoughts and feelings that may be new to us. This prayer invites us to consider how close God really is to us, yet how hard it can be to experience that connection.

Invite everyone to sit comfortably, with their palms open and their eyes closed – asking them to notice what words or parts of the prayer seem to stick out more than any other.

- *Read through the prayer the first time slowly. When finished, ask the group to spend a few minutes in silent conversation with God about the words or parts of the prayer that stuck out and why.*
- *After a few minutes of silence, ask if anyone would like to share with the group the words or parts of the prayer that are the most meaningful or helpful.*
- *Close by inviting the group to say the prayer aloud together.*

**Sovereign Lord, infinite and personal, God in three persons,
The universe is a relational universe because you are a relational God.
You created us, in your image, as relational beings.
Yet in this broken world and in our broken selves, relationship with you can be
illusive.
Giver of life, may we experience your life and your Spirit within us.
Shepherd of our souls, may we hear your voice and know your leading.
God who hears, may we know you hear us.
God who sees, assure us you see and care.
God who loves, may your boundless love flow in and through us.
God who is with us always, no matter what, let us experience your presence.
May we encounter you, the living God, more this day and in the days to come.
Amen.**