



## DEVOTIONAL

### How to Spark an Ordinary Revival | Welcoming the Stranger

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#### RECEIVE

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Slowly. Prayerfully, read **Acts 2:42–47**, twice through. Before and after each reading, pray that the Holy Spirit would speak to you through the reading, revealing what God would have you hear, understand and apply to your life.

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#### REFLECT

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1. Consider the distinct practices of life in the early church that are listed in the passage. Which practices are part of your church experience today? Which ones aren't?
2. What is the impact of the practices that you are currently practicing? Who benefits from those practices and how?
3. What might be the impact—on ourselves, our community, our world—of adopting those practices you are not yet exercising?
4. This year's Domestic Mission Fest focused on our call to "Welcome the Stranger" as Jesus articulates in Matthew 25. Read Matthew 25:31–46. How do Jesus' words continue to expand your understanding of the role of a disciple?

5. Examine the emotions that arise as you think about what this different kind of life might be like. Are there facets of this lifestyle that you find challenging or daunting? Exciting? Are you feeling fear, resentment, curiosity, eagerness? Pray that God would reveal the source of your emotional response and cultivate a more Christ like response in your heart and mind.

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## RESPOND

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1. Share or journal about the “ordinary adjustments” you could make this week that might help evoke an “ordinary revival” of the sort that Rev. Brooks described in his sermon. Consider how you might put yourself in the position to respond to Jesus’ call in Matthew 25.
2. Visit [ChristChurch.us/serve](http://ChristChurch.us/serve) to explore the many opportunities that exist for us to serve others—both in our church and in our broader community.

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## RESOURCES

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1. You can explore the growth of the early church in further depth via this fascinating study from [The Bible Project](#).
2. Discover how one Christ Church small group has leaned into Jesus’ call in Matthew 25 by befriending a refugee family through an opportunity with World Relief, our domestic mission partner. You can find that video [here](#).

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## SCRIPTURE

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### **Acts 2:42–47** | New International Version

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

### **Matthew 25:31–46** | New International Version

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.

“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.’

“Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? When did we see You a stranger and invite You in, or needing clothes and clothe You? When did we see You sick or in prison and go to visit You?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.’

“Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and His angels. For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite Me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after Me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help You?’

“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.’

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”