

Acts 2:42-47 “Framework for the Future”

As we grow we look to the Bible for guidance. Here are the blueprints for a successful Church. Here are the things we will continue to do at The Bridge

1. We will prioritize the foundational principles: The Word, Fellowship, Communion, & Prayer (Acts 2:42)
 - A. God’s Word
 - i. The Word of God Instructs Us
 - a. *2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*
 - ii. The Word of God Helps us Grow
 - a. *1 Peter 2:2 “as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”*
 - iii. The Word of God Cleanses Us
 - a. *Ephesians 5:26 “that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word”*
 - iv. The Word of God is Our Weapon
 - a. *Ephesians 6:17 “And take... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”*
 - b. “The Devil is not afraid of the Bible that has dust on it”
 - B. Fellowship
 - a. “The ancient Greek word koinonia (translated here as fellowship) has the idea of association, communion, fellowship, and participation; it means to share in something. The Christian life is meant to be full of fellowship, of sharing one with another. We share the same Lord Jesus. We share the same guide for life. We share the same love for God. We share the same desire to worship Him. We share the same struggles. We share the same victories. We share the same job of living for Him. We share the same joy of communicating the gospel.” – DG
 - b. *1 John 1:3³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.*
 - C. Communion
 - i. Remembering the Lord’s death
 - a. *Luke 22:19 (ESV) And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”*
 - D. Prayer
 - a. *Mark 11:17 (ESV) And he was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’?...”*

- b. *John 14:13 (ESV) Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*
 - c. *“Whether we like it or not, asking is the rule of the kingdom” – Charles Spurgeon*
- 2. We will reach out so that God’s power will be seen in the community. (Acts 2:43)
 - a. *Matthew 5:16¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*
 - b. *“It is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighbor.” --Martin Luther*
- 3. We will contribute to the Church and care for one another. (Acts 2:44-45)
 - A. Give generously and cheerfully
 - i. This is not mandatory, but a response of God’s work in your life.
 - a. *2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV) Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*
 - b. *Proverbs 11:24 (ESV) One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.*
 - ii. *Nehemiah’s revival was evidenced by a renewed financial concern for God’s house*
 - a. *Nehemiah 10:39³⁹ For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are, as well as the priests who minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers. We will not neglect the house of our God.”*
 - B. Help others in need
 - a. *1 John 3:17–18¹⁷ But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*
- 4. We will continue to meet regularly, and build relationships (Acts 2:46)
 - A. They met regularly
 - a. *Hebrews 10:25²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*
 - b. *Acts 20:7⁷ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.*
 - B. They met for relationship with God and one another
 - a. *Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (NLT) Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.*
- 5. We will see the results: Worship, Relatability, Addition (Acts 2:47)
 - A. Worship

- a. *The perfect church service, would be one we were almost unaware of. Our attention would have been on God. – C.S. Lewis*

B.