

STUDY GUIDE

Oco 11 2026

START WITH PRAYER

Use this Prayer Prompt



Heavenly Father, we thank

You for calling us to be the church and for inviting us into communion with You and one another. Forgive us for the times we hold tightly to our traditions, methods, and comfortable structures instead of holding tightly to Your mission. Give us open hearts and wisdom to discern what is core to our faith and the courage to change what needs changing so that we may faithfully unite, grow, and inspire. May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done in and through our community. We ask all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Think through and discuss your reactions as you read through Scripture:

- Acts 2:41-47
- Matthew 12:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
- Hebrews 10:23-25

STIR UP DISCUSSION

How does this week's teaching affect me personally?

1. Pastor Kevin introduced terms like *ontology* (what something is), *teleology* (what is its purpose), *function* (what it does), and *form* (what it looks like). How would you explain the difference between the purpose of the church and its forms/methods?
2. In Acts 2:41-47, the early believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship (*koinonia*), breaking of bread, and prayer. Which of these practices do you naturally lean into, and which one might God be inviting you to cultivate more deeply?

3. While the core purpose of the church remains unchanged, forms and methods must adapt to stay faithful to the mission (e.g., cell phones evolving over time). Have you ever found yourself attached to a specific church method, program, or tradition? What made it hard to let go or adapt?
4. The early church sold excess property to share with those in need as a form of *koinonia*. Today, sharing life and gospel generosity can look like starting a business to serve the poor, volunteering time, or hosting others. What is one practical way you can display the gospel through *koinonia* this week?
5. Southgate's mission is summarized in: Unite, Grow, and Inspire. How can our group or you individually keep our eyes fixed on this core mission rather than getting distracted by the "programs" or "structures" we use to get there?

STEP INTO ACTION

Let's try to apply this by taking some Next Steps.

1. Examine Purpose vs. Method:

Take 10 minutes this week to evaluate an area of your life or ministry involvement. Ask: *"Am I clinging to a specific method, routine, or preference, or am I focused on the purpose behind it?"* Invite God to give you an open hand toward change where methods are no longer serving His purpose.

2. Practice *Koinonia* (Common Sharing):

In Acts 2, believers shared life deeply with one another. Identify one concrete way you can practice fellowship this week—whether that looks like sharing a meal with someone, offering excess time/resources to help someone in need, or opening your home for intentional conversation.

3. Align with Unite, Grow, and Inspire:

Choose one of our three core focal points to lean into this week:

- **Unite:** Reach out to someone outside your normal circle or invite a neighbour/coworker into community.
- **Grow:** Commit to a daily rhythm of reading God's Word and spending time in communal or personal prayer.

- **Inspire:** Look for an opportunity to serve someone local or support a mission that displays the fruit of the gospel.