



# joyful momentum

BY  
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**STUDY GUIDE**



# INTRODUCTION

Today's passage to ponder is from Acts 2:42-47:

*They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

1. This passage describes the nascent Church in Jerusalem. How does this community resemble the Church today? How can our parishes more closely strive for this community?
2. Think of a woman who has helped you grow in your relationship with Jesus. How did this person encourage, instruct, or model the faith for you?
3. Do you help other women grow in their faith? If so, how do you share your faith with them?
4. Have you ever participated in a women's ministry? If so, describe your favorite experience in women's ministry. How did this experience resemble the Acts 2 community? How did this community enhance your life and the life of the parish?
5. Have you ever experienced the gift of receiving from a "Nicole" in your own life? In what way can you extend Christian charity to someone else today? Do it.

# CHAPTER 1

Today's passage to ponder is from *Sirach* 6:5-10, 14-17:

*Pleasant speech multiplies friends,  
and gracious lips, friendly greetings.  
Let those who are friendly to you be many,  
but one in a thousand your confidant.  
When you gain friends, gain them through testing,  
and do not be quick to trust them.  
For there are friends when it suits them,  
but they will not be around in time of trouble.  
Another is a friend who turns into an enemy,  
and tells of the quarrel to your disgrace.  
Others are friends, table companions,  
but they cannot be found in time of affliction....  
Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter;  
whoever finds one finds a treasure.  
Faithful friends are beyond price,  
no amount can balance their worth.  
Faithful friends are life-saving medicine;  
those who fear God will find them.  
Those who fear the Lord enjoy stable friendship,  
for as they are, so will their neighbors be.*

1. What does this passage from *Sirach* say about true friendship? How are you a good friend? How have your spiritual friends blessed you?
2. Are those you spend the most time with during the day spiritual friends? If so, how do they lead you toward living a life of virtue? If not, how can you be more intentional about investing in Christ-centered relationships?

# CHAPTER 1

3. Consider the role of the pastor in women's ministry. How do you seek guidance from your priest and include him in the women's ministry? How can you show your priest that you appreciate him?
4. Each parish ministry is a bit different, reflecting the needs and gifts of your particular group: How would you describe your parish's women's ministry now? What do you envision it becoming in the future?