

## Home Group Reading for November 12-19

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 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, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

### Excerpts from the Message

"When we make church attendance necessary for the Christian life, or for our salvation, we twist the community of faith into a superficial body of earning and merit." Christianity.com

"In my struggle to find church, I've often felt that if I could just find the right denomination or the right congregation, if I could just become the right person or believe the right things, then my search would be over at last. But right's got nothing to do with it. Waiting around for right will leave you waiting around forever." Rachel Held Evans

"This is the church. Here she is. Lovely, irregular, sometimes sick and sometimes well. This is the body-like-no-other that God has shaped and placed in the world. Jesus lives here; this is his soul's address. There is a lot to be thankful for, all things considered. She has taken a beating, the church. Every day she meets the gates of hell and she prevails. Every day she serves, stumbles, injures, and repairs. That she has healed is an underrated miracle. That she gives birth is beyond reckoning. Maybe it's time to make peace with her. Maybe it's time to embrace her, flawed as she is." Barbara Brown Taylor

### Reflection Questions

1. What are some other reasons you've observed that account for "The Great Dechurching"?
2. Have you ever struggled going to church for a season? What was behind this?
3. What are some of the big failures of the church historically that stand out? Do you think work has been done or is being done toward addressing this?
4. In anticipation of upcoming messages, why do you personally continue to attend church?
5. Do you think our community's "liturgy" (i.e. order of service) needs to be tweaked? How would you adjust it?