

**Being a transforming Community of love**  
***Acts 2:42-47 and 1 John 3:16-24***

1. Read the above passages. What is the first thing that strikes you about the Acts 2 community?
2. Thinking about our theme of 'Right Relationships', can you see how the Acts 2 church expressed in practice their relationship with (i) God; (ii) each other and (iii) their neighbour and the world about them?
3. Look at 1 John 3 verses 17 and 18. How can we put this into practice? Or do we need to now that we have a welfare state?
4. I said that a transforming community of love was a place of
  - Trust, acceptance and belonging (Acts 2:42;46)
  - Peace (we are friends of the prince of peace)
  - Generosity (Acts 2:44-45)
  - Growth and change (Acts 2:47b)

What else would you add to these characteristics of a transforming community of love?

5. What do you think of the following statement?

"Churches must be very careful as they apply this passage [Acts 2:42-47] to congregational life. We may feel justified in reducing 'everything in common' (v.44) to 'sharing a few things' and 'selling their possessions' (v.45) to 'trying to be generous'; but we ought to note that we have also managed to reduce 'wonders and miraculous signs' (v.43) to 'no one was converted. but God really blessed us!' *Acts – Free to Live (1993), Stephen Gaukrougher, Crossway Bible Guides*

6. How do we show our love for one another in this House Group? Are there other things we can do?