

## Discussion Guide

June 1, 2025

# The Early Church Week 1

## Delivered to Devoted

Pastor Brandon Barber

### Main Idea

Jesus doesn't just want to set you free—He wants you to live free. Deliverance is a gift, but devotion is a decision. The early church wasn't just amazed by what God did; they were devoted to who He is. True transformation happens not when we get a miracle, but when we walk in lifelong obedience.

### Anchor Passage

**Philippians 4:8 (AMP)**

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."*

Read James 1:22–25; 1 Corinthians 9:24; 2 Corinthians 10:5–6

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### 1. Devotion Releases Purpose

**Read: 1 Corinthians 9:24 (NLT)**

- **Key Insight:** You're not just saved to survive—you're saved to run your race and win.
- **Question:** What areas of your life are calling for more intentional devotion to fulfill your purpose?

## 2. Deliverance & Devotion Work Together

Read: *James 1:22–25 (NIV)*

- **Key Insight:** Deliverance is a moment; devotion is a lifestyle.
- **Question:** Have you ever experienced freedom from something, only to struggle again because devotion wasn't in place?

## 3. Devotion Takes a Fight

Read: *2 Corinthians 10:5–6 (KJV)*

- **Key Insight:** You must actively fight for your focus, your peace, and your spiritual growth.
- **Question:** What's one area you've had to "take captive" in your thoughts to stay devoted?

## 4. Devoted No Matter What

Read: *Daniel 3:17–18 (NIV)*

- **Key Insight:** Devotion isn't dependent on outcomes—it's rooted in trust.
- **Question:** Can you say, "Even if He doesn't..." in your current situation? What would that kind of faith look like for you?

## 5. Devotion Sets a Reservation

Read: *John 14:2–3 (Implied)*

- **Key Insight:** Jesus has already secured your place—now live like it.
- **Question:** How does knowing Jesus has prepared a place for you change the way you live devoted now?

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# SUMMARY

Pastor Brandon reminded us that devotion is the difference between getting free and staying free. Many people receive miracles but return to old cycles because they never build habits of obedience, prayer, and fellowship. The early church was marked by this kind of deep, consistent devotion and so should we be. Our daily decisions determine whether we wander in freedom or walk in purpose.

# CALL TO ACTION

**Write down** what God has delivered you *from* then write down what He's calling you to be devoted to.

**Pick one area** of your life this week to deepen your spiritual discipline (e.g., prayer, Word, worship, fasting, accountability).

**Declare daily:** "I'm not just delivered I'm devoted."

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## GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

### Activity: Delivered or Devoted? (Game Show Edition)

#### How to Play:

Tell your group you're hosting a *mini game show* called "Delivered or Devoted?" and they're the contestants! You'll read out different life scenarios some silly, some serious and group members will respond with either:

- **"Delivered!"** – If it sounds like a *one-time breakthrough or moment of freedom*
- **"Devoted!"** – If it sounds like a *daily discipline or ongoing commitment*

Encourage dramatic responses, game-show voices, or even use fun props like buzzers or handheld signs if available.

#### Sample Scenarios:

1. "I deleted all 12 of my exes' numbers last night."
2. "I read one Proverb every day even on vacation."
3. "I survived a week without coffee... on purpose."
4. "I lifted my hands in worship for the first time and bawled like a baby."
5. "I tithe every paycheck even when it stings a little."
6. "I binge-watched four sermons in a row and called it 'rest.'"
7. "I forgave someone who never apologized."
8. "I went to church once and felt something!"

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### **Bonus Round – Lightning Round (Optional):**

Say a word or phrase, and participants shout “Delivered!” or “Devoted!” rapid-fire.

- “Fasting”
- “Breakup”
- “Tithing”
- “Altar call”
- “Worship playlist”
- “12-step recovery”
- “Forgiveness”
- “Spiritual discipline”

### **Wrap-Up Questions:**

- What’s something God has delivered you *from*?
- What’s something you’re still learning to be *devoted to*?