

7. How is your church or small group like and unlike what Luke describes in 2:42-47? Are there any ways in which you would like it to change? What action can you take (including prayer) to begin putting this change into practice this week?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Brian Thorstad – Church Leadership Catalyst, EFCA Forest Lakes District

Pray for the sale of a home in Hastings, MN and their move to central WI, and for God's wisdom as he learns his new ministry helping pastors become more effective in their leadership.

Thank God for giving us stories about the early Church to be examples for us to follow. Ask for wisdom and discipline to apply these examples properly. Thank God for the apostles' teaching, the Lord's Supper, prayer, and fellowship. Ask for guidance in devoting yourselves to these.

Sermon Notes

"Birth of a New Community"

Acts 2:41-47

October 7, 2018

Introduction

1. The actions

a. A _____ community

b. A _____ community

c. A _____ community

d. A _____ community

e. A _____ community

2. The attitudes

Conclusion

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 10-07-18

Questions adapted from Phyllis J. Le Peau, Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action, A LifeGuide Bible Study, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2002, pp. 13; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 190; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 65-67.

Getting Started:

1. How would you describe your life-style: Self-centered, family-centered, or others-centered?

Digging Deeper:

Read Acts 2:41-47.

2. How can we devote ourselves to "the apostles' teaching" today? Why is it important to do this together, as well as while we are alone?

Fellowship (2:42). The Greek word *koinonia* had rich meaning: sharing, participation, communion, partnership. It could mean the sharing of goods as a family, partnership in a business or other enterprise, and shared religious or other experiences. It implied a degree of community, intimacy, and interdependence. (Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 65)

3. How can you devote yourself to "the fellowship"? How is fellowship more than just friendliness on Sundays or getting together midweek? What else does it include?

How can you share and participate with other Christians as partners? Think of some specific ways.

4. When it appears in Acts, "the breaking of bread" may refer to both the sharing of common meals with one another, as well as to the Lord's Supper. It is the symbolism of broken bread in connection with the Lord's broken body in death that makes this referent significant. Why is sharing in the Lord's Supper important (consider Luke 22:14-23; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-26)?
5. Why should you devote yourself to prayer with other Christians?
6. These early believers expressed their oneness – their fellowship – by taking responsibility for each other's needs. To what extent do you believe this is a model we should follow? Explain why your view is consistent with Scripture and sensible. (Consider 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15, 1 Timothy 5:3-16, 1 John 3:16-18)?