

A COUNTERCULTURAL COMMUNITY

BLUEPRINTS
OF THE CHURCH
SERMON RESOURCE

Our Liturgy

The Lord is here — His Spirit is with us.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is — there is Freedom!

CONNECT

— 15 MINUTES

How have you experienced Walking in the Way this week?

How has Jesus responded to your prayer, "I am at your command, what do you want your servant to do?"

REVIEW

— 30 MINUTES

The Church is formed as a Community — Acts 2:42-47

- What four things were the believers devoted (persevering in, diligent) to?
- What does diligence in these things look like in your life?
- What was the effect of this diligence? (Hint—there are five unique things identified!)
- What would it look like to experience this in our context?
- What price are you personally willing to pay to see something like this happen in your sphere of influence? It's okay to be honest about the challenges!

The move of the Spirit created incredibly unity in diversity. People of different cultures, preferences, political viewpoints, and socio economic statuses came together in an incredible expression of love and unity.

- How do you see that diversity around you?
- What are the challenges to unity?
- What overcame these challenges in the early church?
- John 10:10 —what does this say to us about what's happening around us?
- Romans 12:2 — how does transformation take place?
- Ephesians 4:1-6 —how do we walk worthy of our calling in the unity of the Spirit and bond of peace?



APPLICATION

— 20 MINUTES

A countercultural community looks like—

- Devoted to, persevering in, diligent:
 - Apostles' teaching
 - Fellowship
 - Sharing meals and communion
 - Prayer
- Resulting in:
 - Awe — worship and wonder
 - Miraculous signs and wonders
 - Gathering together
 - Extreme generosity
- Walking worthy of our calling:
 - Humble and gentle
 - Patient with each other
 - Making allowances for each other's faults
 - United in the Spirit
 - Bound together with peace

This seems like a tall order! But we are simply required to step forward in obedience by the power of the Spirit

- Pray—invite the Spirit to speak to you about any area requiring repentance.
- Receive His forgiveness and grace.
- Ask Him what obedience looks like for you in this matter.
- Invite the Spirit to fill you afresh to live in courageous obedience.

Going Deeper:

The unity of the Spirit and bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1-4) can only happen among a group of people who walk in forgiveness and reconciliation.

Is there anyone who has hurt you or caused offence in your life? Do business with that right away. Don't let it stay and fester.



You can use this tool to help you process:

Forgiveness

Thank You, God, for Your love.

As an act of my will, I choose to forgive (offender) for (name their actions).

This made me feel (name the cost and feelings: afraid, unable to trust, abandoned, ashamed, insignificant, hopeless, rejected, etc.).
It caused (name any fallout in your life).

I give all of this pain and loss to You, Jesus, and I put all my hope in You to restore everything that has been lost and broken.

I now release (offender) from any obligation to make things right with me and I release them from the judgments I have made.

I bless them with (knowing they are deeply loved, etc.).

Ask Jesus if there are any steps you need to take toward reconciliation and ask Him to give you strength to follow through!
Pray that Jesus will protect the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace at Westlife.

