

MOVING FORWARD

SESSION 1

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READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.

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OPEN

As you open up tonight, let's think about this past week. When have you worked with others to raise money for a worthy cause? What possessions would you be willing to part with to help a friend in need?

What jumped out at you from the message this week? What led you to really think or even better, to change your actions?

WATCH THE VIDEO

What jumped out at you from the video?

INTRODUCTION

As believers, when we think of moving forward, what should we always associate that with with?

Following Jesus! Right before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told his disciples (and us) that we needed to move forward without Him (in person). We needed to go out into a lost and dying world and make disciples for Jesus and that calling has extended to every believer since that day.

READ

READ ACTS 4:32-37

What are some of the similarities between the early church and the church of today?

Just like our church, the early church came from various backgrounds. Not just in terms of race but also socio-economic background. The richest of the rich and the poorest of the poor. There were influential people and ordinary folks from big cities and small towns. People from every political persuasion were in the church.

What does the variety and diversity in the church produce?

All of these differences in the church's makeup made it beautiful AND effective.

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If we're not careful, what might variety and diversity in the church produce?

These differences could lead to a fragmented and factious church. And, truth be told, as we read more of acts, we will see that there is a constant threat of just that just as it continues today!

What is the secret weapon that the church had and still has today?

The secret weapon that the church had was the Holy Spirit! The disciples devoted themselves to prayer and they received the Holy Spirit. It was God's presence through the Holy Spirit that covered these early believers and led them to focus on what brought them together instead of what could have divided them.

What was the result of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the church?

The result was nothing short of amazing! Despite their differing backgrounds and difficult circumstances, an amazing fellowship and a profound sense of community developed that none had ever experienced.

What does it mean to be of 'one heart and soul?' (V32)

They were unified and focused on one goal; reaching the lost for Jesus.

What is another way that the early church was similar to today's church?

Just like today, the early church faced competition for their time, priorities, and loyalty. And just like us they had a choice to make to allow the importance of the world to take them away from the calling of the gospel or, they could provide for each other, support and encourage each other.

"The church is fine, but I don't need it to follow Jesus." Have you ever heard someone say

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something like this? How would you respond to this?

This couldn't be further from the truth! There is no doubt that we can pray on our own, and read the bible on our own and we can pursue a life of faith on our own. And there may even be times in our lives where this is a necessity, but this is never the plan or expectation from our Lord.

Why do we need the kind of Christian community that the local church offers?

The truth is, we simply are not capable of understanding everything that we know about our faith in Christ all alone. We NEED others to help us grow and mature and learn. We need the accountability, the encouragement and sometimes even the hard lessons that can only come from Christian community.

“Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but

to another standard to which each one must individually bow.” What does this quote mean?

if we are in tune with God, we will be in tune with each other. If we love God, then we'll love each other. If we serve God, then we will serve each other. If we sacrifice for God, we will sacrifice for each other.

LET'S PRAY

Consider the following questions as you pray together as a LifeGroup.

- What is your response when you think about much you have been given in Christ?
- What are the places where you are missing out on Christian community?
- How can you glorify God by loving others in the fellowship of God?



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BIG IDEA

God has called us to care for each other and to love each other when life gets tough. To hurt with one another when we are hurting, listen to one another when we have lost our way, and lead one another when we have lost our way. Being a part of a church means that we all make this pledge together because we will ALL need help at some point and time. We will ALL go through moments of strife and trouble. Christian community can only come when we are all focused on the same goal; becoming more like Christ. When we become more like Christ, we will all naturally have the same priorities and desire to care for one another. Biblical unity stems from focusing on the priorities of Jesus to selflessly love each other and reach the lost!

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

READ ACTS 4:32-37

PERSONAL REFLECTION

What is one change you can make to improve your relationships with others at CrossPointe?

What can you do to show Christian generosity to someone in need this week?

How does this lesson help us keep moving forward?

