

MOVING FORWARD

SESSION 2

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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 you're sick, what kind of patient do you tend to be (cranky, nervous, upbeat, distracted, etc.)? If you were ill in the hospital, whose visit would probably be most comforting to you?

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

Have you ever thought about this? God has certain expectations for you, what might some of those expectations be?

One of the most important expectations that God has for us is to have a passion for the mission that He has called us! It's important to understand that His expectations, though they are difficult to live up to sometimes, they are not burdensome. Jesus said his yoke was easy and his burden was light.

READ

READ ACTS 5:12-16

Acts chapter 5 tells us that many signs and wonders were being performed and many people were being miraculously healed. What is the point of these miracles?

Over the centuries, much has been written about the performing of miracles and whether we as believers can still perform these types of miracles, whether or not we should perform these types of miracles and whether or not these types of miracles have ceased. Usually, these conversations turn into heated debates and we begin to miss the point of these miracles in the

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early church. God expects His people to make a difference in the world around them.

What is another expectation that God has for His people?

We see in our passage that many people are gathering on Solomon's porch; they all met together and in one accord, building their sense of oneness and the longer they gathered, the closer they got to one another.

V1 tells us that the early church was highly regarded by the church but there was fear. Where might this fear have come from?

This fear may have come from several sources;

1. Ananias and Sapphira had recently been struck down because of their lack of integrity in the church
2. More likely, the fear of what the sadducees and pharisees may do if they joined the church

What else does this passage teach us?

That it does matter how the world sees us! Too often, we have this mindset of "i don't care what anybody thinks" and , maybe we think this way because God also tells us to stand on our convictions and stand on His word. The truth is, we can stand on God's word and still build good, healthy, loving relationships with people that don't know Jesus. Moreover, there is an expectation by God to do just that!

What is another expectation that God has for his people?

to grow both numerically and spiritually! V14 tells us that people were believing in the Lord AND were added to the church. This growth shows that they were maturing in their knowledge of who Jesus was and they were responding in obedience by being added to the church.

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What does v14 tell us about the early church's growth?

V 14 tells us that people were believing in the Lord AND were added to the church.

What did these types of growth in the early church show us in the church today?

This growth shows that they were maturing in their knowledge of who Jesus was and they were responding in obedience by being added to the church. God certainly wants us to grow spiritually, but His plan for His church is for people to be added to it.

What is the correlation between spiritual growth and physical growth?

As we are living faithfully as Christ's witnesses in our Jerusalem, God will add more men, women, and children to His church.

Does this mean it should be all about how big we can grow?

It is not about how big our church can become. It is about another person who is lacking peace, finding peace with God and receiving God's free gift of forgiveness and eternal life!

LET'S PRAY

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

- Are you making a difference in other people's lives?
- Are you doing your part to foster community and to build a good reputation for the church?
- Are you setting goals to connect with God and with God's people through christian community?



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BIG IDEA

Over the centuries, much has been written about the performing of miracles and whether we as believers can still perform these types of miracles, whether or not we should perform these types of miracles and whether or not these types of miracles have ceased. Usually, these conversations turn into heated debates and we begin to miss the point of these miracles in the early church. God expects His people to make a difference in the world around them. Despite your thought on miracles, we can all agree that these miracles made a difference in the lives of those who received them AND the lives of those who witnessed it. We may not have been given the ability to perform miracles, but God has given us the ability to make a difference in the lives of others!

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

READ ACTS 5:12-16

PERSONAL REFLECTION

How do you think you could learn from the example of the early Christians in the way they took care of the physical and mental needs of people?

What practical help can you provide this week for a church partner?

How does this lesson help us keep moving forward?

