

GROUP NOTES

N O M A L
R A D I C A L

WEEK 3

OPENING QUESTION

What's the biggest change you've ever seen in someone's life?

SCRIPTURE

Read Acts 5:12-16

BIG IDEAS

Today's big idea is this: **Radical change is the fruit of normal discipleship.** Reading this passage of Acts 5 seems so amazing that it's almost unbelievable. In four short verses people are getting saved, healed, added to the church, and it's all being done in public! When we study these words today, we're tempted toward a few different reactions: cynicism, humanism, or simple, normal discipleship.

>> *What is your reaction to Acts 5:12-16? How do you feel when you read it? Do you want to experience the radical change you see spoken of here? Are you committed to the practices of daily, normal, discipleship?*

Most of us want to experience what we read about here, but few of us want to follow Jesus as his disciples. We want healing, blessing, and radical change. We just don't want to commit, in faith, to the daily practices of studying truth and relying on grace.

The first radical change we find is that people are coming to faith. Speaking to some Christians, you'd think that conversion was a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence for us to see ... a bit like finding an endangered species. But for the early church, salvation was normal. A radical normal.

>> *Have you ever seen someone come to faith? Tell that story.*

The next radical change that is spoken of here is the way the power of the Holy Spirit was poured out in healing, signs, and wonders. Most of us long to see God move in this way, but we have barriers to belief that something like this can even happen in our day, much less that it should be normal.

>> *What is keeping you from trusting God for miraculous things? Does God always have to heal? Why not? Does that mean we should not ask?*

Another radical change that the early church saw was the disparate and different being united together in spiritual family. You'd think that after Pentecost, or perhaps after the dramatic healing chapter 4, the church would have welcomed the whole city of Jerusalem into their midst. Yet, there were still some who sat on the outside of the burgeoning Christian community, as Luke notes in v. 13.

>> *What does your relationship with the church mean for your relationship with God? What group of people does Luke note in v. 13? Does this relate to your experience with church?*

A final radical change we see in this text is this: leadership. Read v. 15. Believers were so struck with the power of the gospel that they were actually dragging their fellows to Solomon's Portico, just to hear and experience the gospel community. May we all be such leaders – those who are willing to do whatever we can to see many brought to Jesus.

>> *What would it take for you to go from passive participation in normal discipleship to leading others to Jesus?*

PRAY

Pray for each other, especially that God would change us to be more like him.