

sermon discussion

LISTEN TO THIS MESSAGE

Live stream at OBCC.online.church; access a video of the service on Facebook or YouTube.

MAIN POINTS & KEY SCRIPTURES

Acts 2:42-47

Disciple making happens in groups.

- Acts 2:46

Your group's value is set by the cost you pay.

It will cost you convenience.

- Acts 2:46
- Try a group for 6 weeks.

It will cost you to curate your group.

- Acts 2:42

It will cost you comfort.

- Luke 6:46
- Proverbs 27:17

It will cost you your cover.

- Acts 2:43-45
- James 5:16

Paying costs opens us up to receiving benefits.

You'll find the benefit of blessing.

- Acts 2:46-47

You'll find the benefit of acceptance.

- John 4:39

You'll have a support system before difficulty comes.

The benefit of influence from a changed life..

- Acts 2:47

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Describe a time when you felt deeply known and accepted by others and how it impacted your life and your faith.
2. In what ways can we ensure our church is not merely a collection of individuals pursuing personal growth but a true community where members are actively helping each other on their journey of becoming like Christ?
3. **Read Acts 5:42.** How do you think the dynamics of large gatherings (temple courts) and small gatherings (house to house) contribute differently to a person's spiritual growth?
4. **Read Acts 2:42-27.** The early church curated their gatherings around the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. If you were to curate a perfect gathering for your small group, what elements or activities would you include to foster spiritual growth and community?
5. In small groups, it's important to move beyond just being a Bible study or support group to being a group that pushes each other to keep growing spiritually. What are some obstacles that prevent this from taking place? What are some practical ways this group can encourage or push you forward in your spiritual growth?
6. **Read Hebrews 3:13, 10:22-23.** Being part of a small group provides external feedback and encouragement, preventing self-deception and isolation. Share an experience where the input or encouragement from a group member helped you in your faith journey or personal life.
7. Vulnerability and openness are essential for deepening relationships within a group. Why do you think people often struggle with being open about their weaknesses or sins? How can a group create an environment where members feel safe to confess and seek support for their struggles?

GOING FURTHER

MEMORIZE: *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. **Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)***

ASK: If you don't already have one, find a close Christian friend and ask them to be your accountability partner. Don't be afraid! This is nothing more than a friend with whom you'll share your life and pray together once a week.