



THE GOSPEL-CENTERED COMMUNITY IS A GENEROUS "YES" COMMUNITY

**October 14, 2018**

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**ALG LEADER'S GUIDE**

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Acts 2:41-47

## WEEK TWO: THE GOSPEL-CENTERED COMMUNITY IS A GENEROUS "YES!" COMMUNITY

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Acts 2:41-47

**BEGIN YOUR TIME TOGETHER BY ASKING YOUR LIFE GROUP TO OPEN THEIR BIBLES TO THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE (ACTS 2:41-47). READ THE PASSAGE.**

*41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

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- ASK YOUR LIFE GROUP IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WHICH DEVOTION FROM WEEK ONE ENCOURAGED AND/OR CHALLENGED THEM THE MOST.

### INTRODUCE THE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

1. **When is a time you have done something as a member of a team? What did you like most about it? What would you say are a few of the keys to good teamwork? How does working together sometimes help us accomplish what we could never do apart from each other?**

We are designed to be in relationships with other people. From the garden of Eden, God declared that it was "not good" for man to be alone (Gen. 2:18). Just as the first relationships between man and God and man and woman reflected the image of God, our relationships with other Christians should reflect the gospel of God. Followers of Christ are pulled together from every imaginable social, racial, familial, ethnic and economic background to live together in the church. The gospel has changed us from individuals to the family of God.

## UNDERSTANDING THE LESSON THROUGH GROUP INTERACTION

Lead your Life Group in a biblical discussion by working through the following questions.

Read Acts 2:41-42.

Directly preceding this passage, Peter preached his sermon on Pentecost and the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples according to Jesus' promise (Acts 1:8). As a result, thousands of believers were added into the community of the church. In today's verses, Luke helps us understand exactly what type of community these new disciples became a part of and see how the gospel transforms our relationships with other believers.

The first aspect of community Luke identified was that the disciples were "devoted to the apostles' teachings," which refers to the teaching of Scripture.

### **2. In Acts 2:41-42, what do you consider to be the purpose of studying Scripture.**

The "apostles' teachings" are the words of Scripture. The apostles taught and wrote the Scriptures. When we read the Bible, we are being taught by God through the apostles. The Bible teaches us how to grow in our faith and how to live as disciples. Only through the study of God's Word do we know who God is and what He expects for our lives and for His church. There is no Christian discipleship or community without the Bible. God designed His church very intentionally. One of our many needs and blessings is to know God with others through the study of His Word. The Bible is foundational to gospel-centered community.

Read Acts 2:42-46.

Biblical teaching is the foundation of gospel-centered community, but fellowship, worship and mission are the goals. These are key ways we invest in our church family and its growth. Another experience of community evident in the early church is fellowship, the mutual sharing of the life of Christ between believers.

### **3. In verses 42-46, when have you felt the strongest sense of fellowship with other believers? What was the atmosphere of the early church like as they grew and fellowshiped together (v. 43)?**

### **4. What types of relationships did early believers have with one another? What contributed to this? Have you ever experienced this type of kinship? Explain.**

When you read Luke's words, it is hard not to get the sense that these people cared about each other in a way that went deeper than surface level. They lived together and were amazed at the things God was using them to do. They celebrated and worshiped together. Additionally, when there was a need, it was met. In fact, the early church could have been characterized as a community with no needs—all their needs were met through Christ and their relationships with each other.

- 5. What did the early church do to demonstrate care for each other? What is the difference between intentional fellowship and "hanging out"? What are some similar actions we could do to support members of our own gospel-centered community?**

True community is not just fellowship for the sake of gathering together; rather, we come together in body and in spirit to grow together in Christ. The word Luke used for fellowship carries a much deeper meaning than we are accustomed to in our language and culture. They saw each other as a close family, bonded together by a saving relationship with Christ. The fellowship Luke described led to worship and gospel mission.

Read Acts 2:47

Worship extended from the temple into homes, from larger corporate gatherings to the intimacy of families. The church by nature is communal; God didn't create us to do the Christian life on our own. Gathering for worship is central to the church's purpose, but worship doesn't just happen on Sunday morning. Worship takes place in our communities as we celebrate and praise God for all that He has done. In worship, we are refreshed and motivated in our mission to take the gospel to the world. Like the early church, believers should come together for worship, praising God for His power and protection and lifting-up one another's needs to the Father.

- 6. How did the community and worship of the early church fuel the mission of the church? Why is a group of people that love each other and celebrate the same thing attractive to someone on the outside? How did the community of the church influence the outside world?**

The earliest gospel community was one that gained favor with the outside world. The unity of the church was a testimony to God's presence, and "the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved" (v. 47). The early church was a growing church, but their growth stemmed in large part from the sense of gospel-centered community. When our lives are being transformed by the gospel, we reflect the values of the kingdom of God to the world, and that is attractive to people who are lost and in darkness.

## **APPLICATION**

Help your Life Group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- 7. Why is mission the natural overflow of a church community that is committed to the gospel and to each other? What are a few ways you can be involved in mission as a group? Where do you need to invest more heavily? In what ways is your own gospel community like the ones described in these verses? Are you ready to say "YES" to living the generous life?**

## **CLOSE YOUR LIFE GROUP IN A TIME OF PRAYER**

Praise God for making the church a place where all are welcomed and taught the truth of His Word. Pray that you would hold on to His Word with your heart, soul, mind and strength and live the truth of these verses out with your own community.

## **REMINDER TO YOUR LIFE GROUP**

Encourage your group to participate in the 21-day Spiritual Journey by using the booklet that has been provided for them.