

THE PLACE TO BE

Acts 2 Community

Week 4

Where People Truly Care

The Acts 2 church spontaneously did whatever was necessary to meet the needs of its people. They sold possessions and property, and organized themselves to provide fair, hands-on care. They were one in heart and mind which flowed out of powerful gospel teaching, and in turn led to sacrificial giving. Astoundingly, there wasn't a needy person among them. And the word of God spread, and the number of disciples increased rapidly. That's the place we want to be as a church...Where People Truly Care.

1. Share how someone in your life shows that they really care about you.
2. Have someone read Acts 4:32-37. What caught your attention in this passage? What do you learn about God?
3. In the early church there was a oneness in heart and mind that united the believers and enabled the spread of the gospel. Where is this unity lacking today? How can we as a church listen and learn and love the body of Christ better as we enter another political season?
4. Great power and great grace defined the gospel of Christ for the Acts 2 church. They knew what they had been freely given by Jesus. Spend a few minutes recalling what Christ has freely given you. Why is this so significant?
5. Awe for Jesus Christ through the powerful gospel message spurred the early church to lives of sacrificial giving. Where have you witnessed sacrificial giving in our church?
6. In the early church, generosity wasn't out of their excess. It was sacrificial. It meant giving up something they wanted for themselves. And it wasn't easy because they were a relatively poor community. Where might God be calling you to sacrificially care for the body of Christ? What might sacrificial giving (possessions or time or money) look like in your life?
7. Have someone read Acts 6:1-7. What caught your attention in this passage? What do you learn about God?
8. It was stated that pastors alone cannot do everything, nor are they called to. We the church care for the church. What does this mean to you practically?
9. Is Willowdale a church where people truly care? How could we improve?
10. Spend some time praying for:
 - a. Unity in our church...that we'd be better listeners and learners and lovers of the body of Christ as we head into another political season.
 - b. Generous hearts...that God would unclench our hands from our money and possessions and time and be open to meeting needs that God sends our way.