

LIFE GROUP GUIDE – Week Beginning Sunday 21st September 2025

KEY SCRIPTURES – Acts 2:42 / 2 Timothy 3:14-17 / Ephesians 4:11-16

This Week's BIG IDEA

The Early Church was devoted to the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's this message of good news that the original twelve apostles were uniquely qualified to teach about. We weren't there, and neither can we catch up online or on Soundcloud, nor even read their sermon notes. However, God has graciously provided us with a trustworthy and sufficient set of documents that allow us to understand what "the apostles' teaching" was and be as equally devoted to it as they were in Acts 2:42. My hope is that this topic will begin to stoke a passion for the Bible and what it teaches about Jesus.

The second big idea (if I'm allowed two!) is that God still appoints apostles today, albeit of a slightly different type to the initial Twelve. Not only do they exist, but the contemporary Church desperately needs apostles (along with the other ministry gifts listed in Ephesians 4) if it is to mature and be equipped to complete the Great Commission.

Focussing on God (5 mins)

I'd encourage you to spend some time thanking Jesus for the gospel. Give everyone a bit of time to think of one thing they'd like to thank Jesus for, then invite them to pray a short prayer of thanks one after another.

Missional Feedback and Prayer (10 mins)

Invite people to share any small missional actions, conversations or encounters they've had over the last week. It doesn't matter how big or small it was, or whether it went well or not, as we're keen to celebrate obedience as well as perceived success.

Spend a few minutes praying for your Lost Lists – i.e. the names of those you'd like to respond to the gospel from within the four Kingdom arenas: workplace etc, family & friends, church community, and personal community.

Getting into Scripture (30 mins)

Feel free to pick and mix from these questions or use them as a springboard for discussion and application.

Read Acts 4:42 and 2 Timothy 3:14-17

- What was Paul referring to when he encouraged Timothy to "continue in what you have learned and become convinced of"?
- How does knowing those you've heard the gospel from add credibility to the message? To what extent does the New Testament provide us with that credibility today?
- Why does our Bible bother to include the ancient Hebrew Scriptures? And how is the Old Testament "able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus"?
- Why is it important to believe that the whole Bible is inspired, authoritative and sufficient? And to what extent do you believe the Bible is each of these things?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

- Do you believe there are apostles today? And why do you say that?
- Can you think of stories or passages in the New Testament that might help us understand the role of apostles today?
- What do you think churches miss out on without the influence of an apostolic gift, if anything?

Pastoral Prayer (10 mins)

Leave space to pray for one another about specific pastoral issues in the group or issues that have arisen during the evening.

Missional Task for the next week (5 mins)

This week seek to be a bringer of peace: be quick to smile at others, say hello, ask people how they are and mean it. God can and will use our small offerings in ways we could have never imagined.

Communion next week

I'd encourage you to plan to take communion as a Life Group next week. Therefore, you might want to ask one person to bring the bread and wine, and another to lead that time.