

LifeGroup Discussion Guide

October 25, 2020

PRAY

Begin your time together with an opening prayer and praise reports from a past prayer time. Choose someone from the group to pray for your time together if possible. Acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit, who serves as our Teacher. Matthew 18:20, *“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”*

Prayer Activity: Take some time as you pray to ask yourself what steps you’ve taken or would like to take in the future to grow spiritually.

OBSERVE

Read your selected passage out loud as a group. While the group reads, take note of any details, words, or phrases that stand out to you. Use the space provided on the side to write down your observations.

Observation Tips: As you read through these passages, take special note of what is said about Jesus. If possible, each time you spot something describing Jesus, underline it or write it in the space provided.

SELECTED PASSAGES

Acts 2:37-47: 37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” 38 Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” 40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” 41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Acts 2:38, Peter says, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." After repentance, Peter quickly suggests baptism as a next step. Why do you think Peter suggests this so quickly? Do you feel that the Church today takes baptism as seriously as Peter does in the book of Acts?
2. Acts 2:43-47 is an excellent description of how the early church's vibrant faith looked (take a moment to reread those verses). Their faith was so vibrant that it attracted many others to join their community. Why was their faith so vibrant and active? Why did it have such a massive impact on the people around them?
3. Do you feel the church today has the same kind of vibrant faith as the early church did? Do you feel our faith is a draw for people that don't know Jesus?
4. Emmanuel's vision says that "together we make it easy for anyone to discover the real Jesus." Is there an aspect of our corporate vision statement that Jesus is asking you to take a next step in? What have you personally been most challenged? What do those next steps look like practically?
5. During Jori's message, she asked, "what personal next steps is Jesus calling you to? Do you have a sense of what that looks like right now in your life? What does that look like practically?"
6. During Jori's message, she raised concerns about the number of young people leaving the church. What do you think is making this happen? Is there a strong connection between the older and younger generations? What can we do as a church to help young people have a vibrant faith into their adulthood?

MAIN IDEA

In one to three sentences, summarize your main take-away from this lesson. You can write it down in the space provided or verbalize it to the group. Include anything that you would like to put into practice this week as an application. James 1:22, *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take time to pray as a group. Record any prayer requests in the space below. 1 John 5:14-15, *"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him."*

LOOKING FORWARD

Take a moment to plan the location and time of your next gathering. Will anyone need to prepare anything before, like a snack or refreshments? This is a good time to ask if anyone would be open to lead the next eGroup time or even just a portion of it, like prayer.