

# THE BIG STORY: IN THE MEANTIME

## IRRESISTIBLE: ACTS 2:42-27; 7:54-8:4

### Small Group Discussion Guide

1. Have you ever had a “How did we get here?” moment—a time when you reflected on how far your life (or aspect of life) has come?

2. What are some methods that typically come to mind when you think of church growth and sharing your faith? (one-on-one evangelism, tracts, etc.)

3. Read Acts 2:42-47 aloud. How does this method of church growth (explosion) compare to the church growth methods we tend to utilize today?

4. What are some limits we place on our level of devotion in our love for people and love for God? Has there ever been a time when you pushed yourself past your normal standard? What was the result?

5. What are some examples of modern day persecution for believers in the Three Village area?

6. How is it possible that throughout history the church movement has been and continues to be accelerated by persecution?

7. In 1 John 4:19, John shares the secret to the early church’s radical love and devotion to God and one another. What implications does this have for us in our efforts to love radically today?

“There was once a community of believers who were so devoted to God that their lives together were charged with the Spirit’s power. They loved each other with a radical kind of love. They took off their masks and shared their lives with one another. They laughed and cried and prayed and sang and served together... Those who had more shared freely with those who had less until socioeconomic barriers melted away. People related together in ways that bridged gender and racial chasms and celebrated cultural differences... **This community of believers, this church, offered unbelievers a vision of life that was so beautiful it took their breath away. It was so bold, so creative, so dynamic that they couldn’t resist it.**”

Bill Hybels, *Courageous Leadership*