

Small Group Discussion Guide

"I love my church" (pt. 3) – 1/17/2015

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Bottom Line: The Church glorifies God by sharing life and worshipping together.

INTRODUCTION: What comes to mind when you think about the church? Do you think instantly about a church building, an institution, a middle school? What about the way the church functions? Do you think about a rock concert, a drama, a business meeting, a picnic? Today let's look at one of the clearest passages in Scripture regarding what the church is and how it functions.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read Acts 2:42-47

The church began with just a few people that Jesus commissioned to make disciples of all nations. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, it grew rapidly. One of the first sermons of the church given by Peter saw 3,000 people become Christians.

List some of the things the disciples were devoted to from this passage?

- The apostles' teaching – which is basically the teachings of Jesus
- Fellowship – more than just hanging out, this involves caring for one another
- Breaking of bread – more than communion, this involves sharing meals together
- Prayer – Praising God, Thanking God, Confessing to God, Requesting of God
- Sacrificial giving – the disciples sold their personal possessions to bless others in need

What did their devotion look like?

- They gathered in large group settings to worship in the temple.
- They scattered throughout the city to meet in small groups for fellowship/discipleship

What was the result of the church meeting?

- Those who worshipped together viewed themselves as equals (all things in common)
- They were in awe of God and praised him for his mighty work
- They had favor in the community. They were trusted and appreciated
- People believed in Jesus and became Christians

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

Which area of devotion listed above does the Holy Spirit need to develop in your life?

How can you submit to the Holy Spirit's leading to pursue him in church ministry?