



Engaging By Connecting

Acts 2:42-47

"They ate their food with a joyful and humble attitude, praising God and having favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to them[a] those who were being saved." Acts 2:46-47

Main Point: Jesus' plan was for His people to develop community with one another, to engage the community around them that they might discover the life that He offers.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Like the young man and the future Father in Law, have you ever made plans to do something, like putting it on the calendar, but never did anything to make it happen? Share your experience with the group.

How is it possible for churches to do planning while leaving community out of the equation? Why does this tend to happen and what is the result?

Have a Volunteer Read Acts 2:42-47.

Jews from many nations gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Pentecost and as the disciples preached the Holy Spirit allowed everyone to understand the Gospel of Jesus. Thousands became followers and it revolutionized their lives and communities because of a relationship with God and with one another. Through their example we can see how VillageChurch can connect with our community.

The first way we connect with our community is thru **PEOPLE SHARING** (v. 44-45).

Read Acts 4:32-33. What does it mean for a church to be "of one heart and mind"? How would that affect how they viewed their possessions?

What do you think Luke means when he says that they "held everything in common"?

What are some examples of this unity in our church today?

Is generosity an option for a Christian? What would it look like if our church was as generous as the church in Acts 4?

The second way we connect with our community is thru **PEOPLE FELLOWSHIPING**. (v. 46)

How would you define fellowship? Looking at our text today, what are some of the characteristics of it?

For first-century Christians, what was the draw for becoming part of a local body of believers? Is it the same draw today?

Pastor Erik mentioned how there is strength in numbers for both good and evil. How have you seen this at work in the church and in the world?

What can your group do through its fellowship to impact the community where you meet?

The final way we connect with our community is thru **PEOPLE MULTIPLYING.** (v. 47)

Share a time when you or your kids came into contact with a group of people having a great time. Did you ask to join in, and why? How can Christian fellowship have the same effect in our community?

Verse 47 tells us the early church was enjoying the favor of ALL people. Taking the previous two points into consideration, why do you feel the church and Christian religion seems to be falling *out* of favor with so many?

What changed the Jerusalem community's perception of Christians? What can we do starting in our church to change the Blythewood community perception of Christ followers in order to multiply?

Look closely at the end of v. 47. Who was given credit for the increase? Why is it our attempts to reach people fall flat?

Pray:

As you close your group time pray that God will lead your group to a place of Christian Fellowship and Sharing that would attract those in your community. Ask Him to give you opportunity to share with neighbors and friends the free gift of God that is eternal life in Jesus Christ. Pray that our church would continue to be a beacon of hope and light in the Blythewood Community. Pray for our leaders to continually follow God's wisdom and stay on His agenda.

Connect:

Call the church office (803.419.0989) or email jonathan@blythewoodvillage.com or james@blythewoodvillage.com to see where you can get plugged into Community Ministry today!