



Week of May 3, 2020

Acts 2:42-47 (NRSV)

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common;

⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,

⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. Name some of the labels that were attached to kids in your high school. Which labels were attached to you? Were you fond of any? Did you dislike some?
- B. What's the best question you ever asked of someone?

Bible Study Questions:

1. Verse 43 refers to the "awe" people felt at the miracles they were seeing. How important do you think the miracles were? How important was the fellowship described in verse 42? Which would have the greater impact on bringing people to faith?
2. In verse 43, the word "by" is actually *dia* in Greek which means "through". When do you feel that God is working "through" you?
3. Verse 47 speaks of the growth of the church. Every literary section of Acts ends with a "growth notice." There are at least five other references in Acts to numerical growth. Do you think the modern church places enough (or too much) emphasis on numerical growth?
4. In verse 47, the word translated as "goodwill" is the Greek word *charis*, from which we get the word "charity". *Charis* is usually translated as "grace." How do you see the relationship between the concepts of grace, goodwill, and charity?
5. In verse 46, the word translated as "generous" also means "simplicity" in Greek. How is generosity related to simplicity? Where do you need more simplicity in your life?
6. In verses 44-45, it describes a way of being that is somewhat at odds with our culture. How do you feel about that? If you felt that Jesus really did want you to sell everything and live communally, would you? Why or why not?
7. Whose concerns do you think are being least thought of in this crisis? What can we do to help?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about how ways in which our concerns can leave no one behind