

● **BECOME – THE PRACTICE OF IDENTITY**

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.”

Acts 2:42-44 NLT

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

● **BLESS – THE PRACTICE OF SERVICE**

“They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.” Acts 2:45 NLT

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10 NIV

● **BUILD – THE PRACTICE OF REPLICATION**

“They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:46-47 NLT

“Jesus came and told His disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in Heaven and on Earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”

Matthew 28:18-20 NLT

flow next week Gifts Of Grace

flow

LIVING IN THE CURRENT OF GRACE

January 21, 2018 Practices Of Grace

MARK HADLEY

Practices That Connect Us To Jesus And His Grace

● **BELIEVE – THE PRACTICE OF FAITH**

“Peter replied, ‘Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness for your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.’” Acts 2:38-39 NLT

*“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this **grace in which we now stand**. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.”* Romans 5:1-2 NIV

● **BELONG – THE PRACTICE OF COMMUNITY**

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.” Acts 2:41 NLT

“For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:26-28 NLT



This Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. Join one of our message-based Community Groups to do this study together. Visit the Groups table after service to find a group!

LESSON AIM: The aim of this lesson is to learn to practice the habits of grace.

BELONG in God's family:

CHECK IN: (optional) Let's briefly share with each other how we've been doing this week.

OPENING PRAYER

ICEBREAKER: Which of your possessions do you enjoy sharing with others? Which would you prefer not to share, and why?

BECOME like Jesus:

1. Sunday's message focused on the practices of grace. Which part of the message encouraged you or challenged you the most?
2. Let's look at Acts 2:42. What were the activities of the early church? How did the new believers approach their activities? Compare this to the lifestyle of the church today. How closely should we be following their pattern? In what ways should our church be different?
3. We are familiar with the many miracles of Moses and Aaron in the Old Testament, and of Jesus in the New Testament. Why don't miracles happen as much in our world? What did the apostles do in Acts 2:43, and how did people respond? Now look at Jesus' words in John 14:12. What do you suppose Jesus meant?
4. Read Acts 2:44-45. How were possessions distributed among the early believers, and how did this sharing invite God's grace into their lives?

What might keep today's church from experiencing this kind of fellowship? See Philippians 4:15-19. What does the last verse say about God's gracious response to generous giving?

5. How do we receive God's grace when we endeavor to be like Jesus? See Philippians 1:6 and 2 Peter 3:18.

BLESS others:

Being in community involves both benefits and demands. Think of the "communities" you might belong to – family, church, work, clubs, teams. What is the tradeoff between benefit and demand? In Acts 2:46-47, what was the spirit of the believers in all that they did? What is the result of practicing our gifts?

BUILD God's kingdom:

Go to Matthew 28:18-20. Before Jesus left Earth, what did He tell His disciples to do? How did they respond? See Acts 1:8. How does sharing the gospel invite grace into our lives?

BELIEVE God and act in faith:

Acts chapter 2 records some pivotal events in the church. The coming of the Holy Spirit to the first believers began a new era in history as God's powerful presence entered the hearts of all believers. See Ephesians 3:16-17; Romans 8:26-27; John 16:13-15. What do these verses tell us about how the Holy Spirit helps us with our faith?

PRAYER: What challenge are you facing this week? How can our group pray and support you?

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