

Acts 2:1-47 That was Then, This is Now

Questions and Scriptures for your Life Group meeting and further personal study.

For discussion in your Life Group:

Before you begin your Life Group have someone read Acts 2:42-47 out loud.

This great mass conversion (3,000) and outpouring of devotion to God is not just emotion and enthusiasm or a one-time pep rally. The converts don't just wander off and having had a soul-satisfying experience. Their experience was channeled in very specific ways:

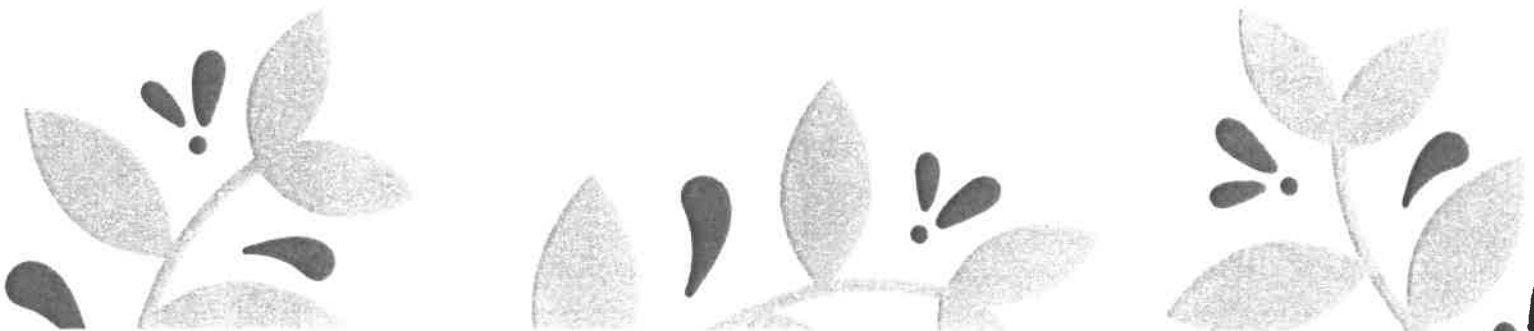
They devoted themselves to Apostle's teaching. There is a specific content to Christianity. I hope your Life Group has a desire to delve more deeply into the knowledge of God. The Scriptures are shallow enough that no one will drown but deep enough that no one can touch bottom. And certainly there is instruction on what it means to be the Church...the joys, the mission, the obligations and the organization.

The church experienced fellowship. A number of diverse people come together to be one people. Bill defined fellowship from the Greek language as "koinonia". Do you recall what he said? They also had things in common. Someone said that sounds like Communism. The difference is this: Communism says, "I want something you have and I'll take it from you." Christianity says, "I have something you need, and I'll give it to you."

They participated in the breaking of bread. Often in the early church meals were sacramental in nature. They saw eating together as an opportunity for the Lord's supper. But isn't it true that some of our greatest fellowship is around the table. Do you have regular times of gathering for meals with your Life Group?

And they prayed together. As a community they approached God as one. They no doubt prayed for each other. This is a picture of a well-ordered Christian community: study God's Word, fellowship, break bread together, and pray. How does your Life Group measure up? How does New City Church measure up?

Did you study any foreign language as a student? Say a few words in that language if you can remember any.



As followers of Christ there should be evidence of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. But have you ever been confused as to what that looks like or how you recognize the work of the Holy Spirit? How does Ephesians 4:17-32 help you answer this question?

As you read 1 Corinthians 2:9-15, what other roles does the Holy Spirit play in the lives of those who are committed to following Christ? Have you found this to be true in your life?

Bill mentioned in this week's teaching that we all too often get tripped up in thinking that it's just "God and me." We forget that our regular connection with believers is essential to tuning into and being led by the Holy Spirit. How does Hebrews 10:24-25 describe and emphasize this point?

These kinds of connections usually don't happen by accident and often need to be intentional. Are there any steps you need to take to make a better connection with other believers?

Have you ever experienced an empowering from God to witness about Jesus? What could you do to be better prepared for God to use you?

Have you been baptized? As an infant or since coming to know Christ or both? Share your baptism experience with your Life Group.

For Personal Study:

Why did God wait until Pentecost (Deuteronomy 16:9-10) to give the Holy Spirit?

Compare Peter and the disciples in John 18:25-27 and 20:19 with their actions in Acts 2. What accounts for the great difference?

Why do you think Peter used so many quotes from the Old Testament?

How would you use Peter's answer in Acts 2:38-40 to explain to someone what it means to be a Christian? What is required? What is promised?

How does being filled with the Spirit relate to bearing witness to Jesus?

Using a Concordance or Bible Dictionary (both available on-line) research the beginnings of Christian baptism. Compare what you discover with your understanding of baptism and the New City Church statement on baptism which was in your bulletin.