

In this, the final week for Small Groups gathering, it seems only fitting that our study be based upon this beautiful passage from the book of Acts, Chapter 2, which describes the formation of the church and the dawning of the age of the Spirit breaking out into the world in a very evident way. As we wrap up our series about the church "Family," we will look at the birth of the church and the idealistic picture that was painted regarding both its function and form.

### **Monday, May 21, 2018**

#### **Read**

Acts 2:1-41

This passage give us a background context of what is going on before we dive into the main focus of the week, which will be Acts 2:42-47.

The church is taking off and crazy things are happening. Take a moment to reflect on this Acts 2:1-41 passage and write down all the different things you notice that are taking place.

Re-read Acts 2:14-36.

What is the main focus of Peter's sermon?

Why, in 2:36 does Peter say that Jesus is both Lord and Messiah, and what do those titles mean?

Why do you think Peter refers back to the Old Testament so often? What is he attempting to do for his audience?

Read Acts 2:37-41. Take a moment to reflect on people's responses to Peter's words.

Reflect on your own response to the time when your eyes were opened and you came to know Jesus.

#### **Pray**

Father, thank You for the dawning of the church age, for the giving of Your Spirit. May it continue to have its way in Your church and may You allow me to be a part of that process.

### **Tuesday, May 22, 2018**

As we reflect back on yesterday's reading of Acts 2:1-41, we continue to see what happens next in the birth of the church.

#### **Read**

Acts 2:42-47

In Acts 2:42 what are the four things that those who were a part of the church committed themselves to do?

Try to articulate what each of those things means, and what it might have looked like.

How do you see these things taking place in the church today?

Which of these areas do you need to work on and grow in, in your own walk with God?

**Pray**

Father, help me to grow in this area that the early church held up and prized so greatly. Soften and mold my heart so that I may be more aware of the movement of Your Spirit in my life.

**Wednesday, May 23, 2018**

**Read**

Acts 2:42-47

Take a moment to focus on Acts 2:43-45. This all takes place within the church because of what was happening in Acts 2:42.

In verse 43, what do you think was the deep sense of awe that came over them?

Have you ever had such an experience in your walk with God?

Read verses 42, 44 and 45 again. What do you notice to be the characteristics of the early church in these two verses?

Why do you think the early church functioned in this manner?

Why do you think the church today does not?

What do you feel like God is inviting you to do, in light of this understanding of what the early church looked like in verses 43 and 44?

**Pray**

God, mold my heart to be like Yours. Help me to be willing to meet the needs of those around me within my church community.

**Thursday, May 24, 2018**

**Read**

Acts 2:42-47 once again.

We're going to focus on Acts 2:46, which tells us that the early church worshipped together at the Temple every day.

Why do you think the early church met every day to worship?

Why don't we do that today?

The second half of verse 46 tells us, in the NLT translation, that they “met in homes for the Lord’s Supper and shared their meals with great joy and generosity.”

I invite you to take a different way of looking at this passage. In most versions that you will read, it seems clear that there’s a discrepancy between the time at the Temple of worship and the time at the homes when they shared meals together. However, in the Greek there is no discrepancy and the word “and” is missing. Let me explain what I mean. In the NLT we have a comma instead of an “and” but in the Greek, the phrase essentially would say “They worshipped together at the Temple each day, sharing in the Lord’s house the Lord’s Supper.” This is a much different way of reading this text, which means that the Lord’s Supper, or the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus, was now being celebrated in the Temple itself.

Why would this be such a radical way of reading the Scripture?

Why would this not be too farfetched of a way of understanding the scripture, given the early church’s radical sense and nature?

What radical things do you think the church needs to be doing in today’s context?

## **Friday, May 25, 2018**

### **Read**

Acts 2:42-47

Today we are going to focus on 2:47, which summarizes 42-46 by saying that everything they did was done “all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.”

Praising God and enjoying the goodwill of people seemed to be the two great focuses that summarize how the church and the community should function and look like. How does your church community function and look like? Are these an accurate description of it? If not, what is God inviting you to do to make it more of a reality?

The final part of verse 47 tells us that God added to their fellowship those who are being saved on a daily basis.

Why do you think so many were being added to the fellowship on a daily basis?

Read John 13:35 for some great insight.

### **Pray**

God, help me to be so devoted and passionate about Your church that I will continually praise You and enjoy the goodwill of the people around me and if I’m not, break my heart and soften it so that can, in fact, be a true description of me.