

COMMUNITY Acts

CONNECT

1. What is your favorite thing to do with a group of friends? Have you ever tried to have that same experience on your own? If so, what was different about it than being with other people?

CELEBRATE

2. Based on what you know today about the book of Acts, how important was community to the people in the early church? Why do you think they put so much emphasis on doing life together?

Read Acts 1:1-8

3. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to wait in Jerusalem? What did the Israelites expect from Jesus in this passage? What were they hoping He would do? Whose authority does Jesus reference?
4. In your own words, what was Jesus' mission and to whom (v.8)? What purpose does the power of the Holy Spirit serve? How does the scope of the task Jesus issues relate to this power?
5. What is the significance of the places named in verse 8? From where we are today, what places might correspond to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria?

On the Day of Pentecost, as the disciples were together in community, the promised Holy Spirit was poured out on them. Peter preached the gospel and "those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls" (2:41). The church was born!

Read Acts 2:42-47

6. Why was belonging to a community of believers so important to these first Christians? What made these believers want to get together?
7. According to these verses, what are five purposes of the church? Why is each one vital? Would you describe these as individualistic or corporate in nature? Explain.

Read Acts 7:57-8:8

8. What is the connection between Jesus' command in Acts 1:8 and the events of Acts 8:1-8? Identify the two groups who were scattered and with whom they shared the gospel. Why is this significant?

Read Acts 11:19-26

9. What happened as a result of persecution after Stephen's death? Identify the two groups who were scattered and with whom they shared the gospel. Why is this significant?
10. Even amid persecution, God's people still spread the gospel. What does God do when we go (v.21)? What does this truth remind us about our purpose in life? How does it impact your view difficulties and challenges?

CONTRIBUTE

11. An important way the church thrives is by loving and supporting one another through difficulties. What needs to change for you to be more aware of the needs of those around you (Acts 1:8)?
12. What are some of the unique challenges we face as a church in engaging deeply with each other? What could each of us do to make our church a closer community? For those in our local community?