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Small Groups: The Beginning of a Healthy Church

Acts 2:36-47

I. Proclaiming the Gospel Message (v. 36)

A. The specific _____ of Peter's sermon
[Acts 2:22-36]

B. The _____ point of small group
[Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 1:16]

II. Responding by Repenting and Receiving (vv. 37-41)

A. The _____ of the listeners (v. 37)
[Jn. 16:8]

B. The _____ by Peter (vv. 38-39)
[Matt. 4:17; Matt. 3:2; Acts 3:19; 8:22; 17:30; Matt. 28:19-20;
Eph. 2:13]

C. The _____ of the Spirit's work (vv. 40-41)
[Acts 2:21; Rom. 10:9-13]

III. Devoting Yourself to Spiritual Truths and Practices (vv. 42-47)

1. _____ yourself to the Apostles' doctrine (v. 42a)
[Eph. 2:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:2]

2. _____ time in true fellowship (v. 42b)
[1 Jn. 1:3, 6-7]

3. _____ the bread of communion together (v. 42c)
[1 Cor. 11:27-34]

4. _____ with sincerity and dependence (v. 42d)
[1 Thes. 5:17; Lk. 18:1; Jn. 14:13-14]

5. Being in _____ of the work of God (v. 43)
[Acts 4:30; 5:12; 6:8; 8:6; 14:3; 15:12]

6. Being _____ in living your life (v. 44a)
[Eccl. 4:9-12]

7. _____ your possessions and sharing with
others (v. 44b-45) [Acts 4:34-35]

8. _____ worship together to exalt Christ (v. 46a)
[Heb. 10:24-25]

9. _____ meals together in your homes (v. 46b)
[Acts 5:42]

10. _____ all things with thankfulness (v. 46c)
[Phil. 4:4]

11. _____ God (v. 47a) [Eph. 5:18-20]

12. Having _____ with all the people (v. 47b)
[Jn. 13:35]

TAKE HOME

- Do you see the _____ of how joining a small group will help you grow in your faith and practice?
- Do you see how while small groups are not the answer, they do _____ spiritual growth and development?
- Would you be willing to _____ to a small group for this year so that you can bless and be blessed?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. Read Acts 2:36. How is this verse a summary of everything that Peter has preached in Acts 2:22-35? How is it that this is the starting point of small groups?

2. Read Acts 2:37. What was the response to Peter’s sermon? How does John 16:8 help us see the Holy Spirit’s role in this response? How does the Holy Spirit still work in the same way in your life today?

3. Read Acts 2:38-39. What is Peter’s reply? How important is repentance? (Matt. 4:17; Matt. 3:2; Acts 3:19; 8:22; 17:30) How does repentance work in your life?

4. Read Acts 2:40-41. What were the results of the Spirit’s work? How important was it that those who got saved were baptized? Why was and is baptism so important?

5. Read Acts 2:42. What are the four things mentioned in this verse? How are each one of them vital to a new Christian? How are they vital to someone who has been a Christian for many years?

6. Read Acts 2:43-45. What was the effect of the Holy Spirit on the believers in these verses? Is there such a thing as Christian Communism? Why or why not?

7. Read Acts 2:46-47. Do you see how these last five practices of the new believers gives us a sense of meeting in each other’s homes for small group type gatherings? How can this be beneficial to your small group?

8. Read the take home challenges/questions. Which one challenges you or encourages you the most? How will you benefit from this message and apply what you are learning in your small group?

“The Christians you meet in the Book of Acts were not content to meet once a week for ‘services as usual.’ They met daily, searched the Scriptures daily, and increased in number daily. Their Christian faith was a day-to-day reality, not a once-a-week routine.”

- Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*