



theme: Community – Acts 2 – Spirit and Community

materials: Bibles, pens and paper

The theme for the month is community. We will be looking at the early Christian community in the book of Acts to shed light on what it means to be a Kingdom of God community now.

welcome

What is the craziest group activity you've ever been a part of? (i.e., concert, mosh pit, running of the bulls, gigantic water fight, etc...)

What is one crazy thing that your cell group could do together?

interact

Write down 3-5 things that amaze you about the Lord, things you can't even fully grasp about who He is or what He has done. Share these out loud together.

read

Read Acts 2 together.

What, if anything, do you think the believers were expecting to happen when they gathered all together on the day of Pentecost?

What do you normally expect to happen when you gather for Church, or for cell? Do you really expect the Holy Spirit to show up as well?

Why do you think the believers were given the gift to speak in different tongues? Is that something we should expect to happen at our meetings?

Have you ever had such a wild prayer meeting that people outside thought you were crazy or drunk?

Try and summarize together the heart of Peter's message to the crowd.

Why did so many people choose to become believers that day? Does that kind of thing still happen today? If so, where? If not, why not?

What did this new community of believers look like? In other words, what were the key elements of their life together? How were they different from others?

Is the description in Acts 2:42-47 an ideal that is impossible to live out now? Or could we really live according to those principles in our modern world?

What would that actually look like in your community? What is stopping you (if anything) from trying to live out your faith in that kind of community way?

think

You remember that crazy thing your cell group could do together (from the Welcome section)? Go and do it, or else plan it. If (when) people ask you what on earth you are doing, tell them about your cell group, or even better still, about Jesus.



live & pray

Try and arrange to eat a meal of some kind with someone from your cell or church everyday this week. Invite cell members to dinner, or go to their house. Arrange to meet for breakfast or lunch somewhere. As you meet and eat, spend about 5 minutes reading a passage of scripture together.

useful resources

Website: http://www.accessmylibrary.com/coms2/summary_0286-9340641_ITM - An article on sacred meals and community identity

Website: www.jacobswell.ca - A website of a beautiful community formed in the heart of a downtown slum.

leader's guide

It seems the community was gathered together for prayer, but also for protection. There was still some great concern that they would be arrested and possibly executed for being followers of Jesus. They would not have known what to expect, aside from Jesus telling them that they would be baptized in the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem, and that he would send them a "Counsellor". It is likely, though, that they did not totally expect tongues of fire to land on their heads.

The believers were given tongues to speak because there were people from many different countries just outside, and it represented that the good news of Christ was not going to be limited to Jerusalem. This would be a message for all tribes and tongues.

"Tongues" are described by Paul in his letters as a gift of the Spirit, but there is no suggestion that tongues should be the result every time we worship.

People were convicted by the presence of the Holy Spirit in the believers, and convinced by the words of Peter, which spoke directly to their understanding of Hebrew history (those in the audience were all Jewish). These things do still happen in the world today though we in the West are unused to this kind of response these days. The community was devoted to the apostle's teaching, breaking bread together, prayer and to fellowshiping with one another. They met every day in the Temple and in each other's homes. They shared everything they had. And every day people were joining with them.