

11.17.19 - Big Story of the Bible: Acts & Letters - The Church - Christian

Leader Prep Section

- Prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select a **few** questions that are best suited to your group.
- Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.
- When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

The week's summary statement:

- After his resurrection, Jesus joined God the Father as the King of the Cosmos. At which time, they gave the Holy Spirit, God's presence, to dwell within any who trust in Jesus. God's Rescue Mission People, which began in Abraham, now continues as the global multi-ethnic, Spirit-empowered community of all Jesus Followers called the Church. This is where we find our place in God's story. Together we center our lives on the love of God, grow to reflect God's character, share life, and care for the world by announcing his good news and healing broken places. As the church, we keep our identity centered on God through worship and teaching, baptism and communion.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

- What are some things that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
- Have you ever had a group of friends who felt like family? What was that like?

Background / Reading

Acts 4:31-35

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

- What are some things that happened to the believers after they were filled with the Holy Spirit? Can you think of other things that happen to people who are filled with the Spirit--either from Acts or even the Old Testament? (tongues, Spirit-empowered artistic abilities or strength, prophesying, wisdom?)
- Like the above question, but slightly different: What are some of the elements present in the early church in this passage? (prayer, Holy Spirit, speaking the Word, sharing possessions, sharing truth, etc.)

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

- What had to happen in the believers' hearts before they could share all they had with each other? (trust God would provide for them? Compassion for one another? Shifting their love and trust away from material possessions? Empowered by God to make sacrifices and love even when it hurts)
- Why is it important to study the example of the early church?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

- Does your small group / friend group look like this group of believers? What's similar or different?
- How do you think Jesus wants to grow you into deeper community with others?
- Do you know what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Is that something you'd like your group to pray for you right now?