

Small Group Discussion

Week 22



Chapter 22 – The Early Church

Remember, teach what you learn and share life, not just information.

Coaching Conversations:

As the remaining chapters continue to be more and more externally focused (fellowship with believers, reaching all nations, etc.), you might consider inviting a “special guest” to come share with and answer questions for your group. Pertaining to fellowship, is there someone you know who is very active in meeting the needs of the people around them? Invite them to your group and ask them what motivates them to serve from day to day. Have them share about their personal experiences and allow your group members to ask them specific questions. Do you know someone who has served in missions overseas? Invite them to your group next week and have them share about who they are reaching and what they’ve had to endure to serve the Lord in that way. Depending on the needs and spiritual maturity of your group members, consider if it might be beneficial to have someone join your group for an evening to give them a practical example of someone else who is being faithful in following the Lord in the ways we’re talking about. This will give them a personal model to look to and maybe even emulate.

How HIS-story becomes My Story:

GOD’S STORY - God uses His Church to transform lives and to accomplish His will.

OUR STORY - As believers, we are no longer individuals, but members of Christ’s body; the Church.

MY STORY - As a member of Christ’s body, I should fully embrace what it means to live in Biblical community.

Starting the Conversation:

Based on our discussion last week, are you more aware of the Spirit’s presence in your life? In reflecting on the previous week’s events, would those around you say you were “walking by the Spirit” or would they say you were “grieving the Spirit?”

Additional Recommended Resources:

- “A Picture of Biblical Community” – An article by CruPress
- “What should be the mission of the Church?” – GotQuestions.org article

Life Group Questions

1. Read Acts 2:42–47 slowly. What characterized this group of people? What stands out to you?
2. Why do you think the early church devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching? What implications does that have for the church today?
3. Why was fellowship so important for the early church? Why is it important for the church today?
4. Why the Lord's Supper is significant? Does communion carry this significance in our church? Why or why not?
5. Explain why prayer is essential to the life and mission of the church. What would a devotion to prayer look like in the life of your church?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 12. How should Paul's analogy of the church as a body affect the way we think about the church?
7. Does the life of our church look anything like the body that Paul described in 1 Corinthians 12? How so? If not, why do you think this is?
8. What do you find most compelling about the way the book of Acts describes the life of the early church?
9. Does our church possess these compelling characteristics? If so, briefly describe them and thank God for them. If not, why do you think these characteristics are lacking?
10. What do you think the Holy Spirit would want our church to do in an effort to fulfill the church's mission in your unique setting? If you don't have an answer for this, make it a priority to pray and seek the Spirit's guidance on this issue.

Prayer Assignment:

Ask God to guide and empower our church for the mission He has given you. Pray that the church today would be everything that God designed it to be.