

The Book of Acts: God in a Multicultural Movement

Week #2 / September 29—October 5 / Acts 2: 42-47

“What a Community of God Looks Like”

Introduction – Last week we watched Jesus’ Movement called the “Church” go multicultural and explode in displays of power, anointed preaching and conversions with baptisms on a mass scale. This week we get a snapshot of the initial organization and commitments of the early Christians, still residing within the bounds of Jerusalem.

You’ve heard the sermon for this week. (If not just go to <http://fpcdowney.com/sermons/> and click on the sermon for Acts 2: 42-47.)

Let’s remind ourselves of our commitment from last week’s study, “. . . while we do seek to better understand the passage we want to make sure we give at least equal time to: 1) sharing with the group what God is currently doing in our lives – especially as the message of Acts starts getting under our skin; and 2) coming up with a simple, doable, concrete action we will commit to taking this week as an application of something this week’s passage is directing us to do; 3) prepare to report on how that action step went when you all reconvene for next week’s group meeting.”

Getting Started

- **Please begin by reporting** on how it went with your commitment to step out and do something in response to last week’s study. What did you commit to do and what happened? (And if you did not follow through, please share why.)
- **Read the passage aloud**

What Does It Say?

1) Review the passage together and make a simple but exhaustive list of every distinguishing action/commitment/feature Luke makes note of as he describes this community

2) Discuss in more detail each action/commitment/feature, and if anything is unclear to you and/or your group, try to make sense of what the passage says.

What Does It Mean?

1) The things described in vv. 43-47 seem to be a result of / fruit of the four commitments of the church described in v. 42. If this is right, why and how would 43ff. flow out of 42?

2) In what areas is FPC similar and in what areas is FPC different than the church described in our passage this week?

3) In the areas where FPC is different from the Acts 2 church, why do you think FPC has chosen a different way of life together with different results? And how about you?

4) On the cover of FPC's Sunday morning worship bulletin you will find these words every week:

Vision: We are a multicultural Christian Community

Mission: To know Christ and make Christ known by creating life changing opportunities to . . .

Values: Worship God, Grow in faith, Live in Love, Serve the world.

If you were to write a Vision / Mission / Values statement for the Acts 2 church, how would it read? Where would it be similar and where different?

What Does It Mean to Us/Me?

1) What for you personally is the most challenging part of this week's passage?

2) What in your opinion would be the most challenging aspect of this passage for the FPC congregation as a whole?

3) Do you hear God saying anything to you right now?

4) What is one, simple, concrete thing from the sermon or today's study you believe you ought to take action on and do in the coming days? Will you commit to trying it and ask the group to ask you how it went next week when you gather again.*

*This step is what makes the difference between harmless discussions versus periods of spiritual growth where people began to have experiences of God because they have stepped out in faith. ("Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." James 1:22)