

ICB COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY

WHAT DO WE DO: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

The message last Sunday, continued on our new series What do we do. As we look at the lives of the disciples after Jesus ascended to heaven and are waiting for the promised Holy Spirit to come their question was- what next?

START

Icebreaker: Share about something you have or you owned in the past that is of great value to you (sentimentally or financially)- why is it so precious?

SHARE

- The disciples had been left on their own, their leader had seemingly gone. Put yourselves in their shoes for a moment, how would you feel if your leader/boss/mentor suddenly left you to your own devices? What would your reaction be? How easy do you find it to go it alone?

READ ACTS 1: 1-11

- How was Jesus occupied during the time between his resurrection and his ascension into heaven? How would these things prepare the disciples for his departure?
- The disciples had been living with Jesus for 3 years, and had seen Him do amazing things. Why couldn't they begin spreading the word of the kingdom of God immediately?
- The disciples were not going to be able to do this job on their own. They would need the power of the Holy Spirit, to complete the task Jesus had given them. What difference would that make, and what difference does it make for us today?
- Read verse 10-11 again. What kinds of reactions might this encounter have produced among the disciples?

Now that Jesus had ascended to heaven, things had changed. The disciples were waiting for God's next move and at the same time holding on to the stories of Jesus and the events that had occurred. But as they now looked back through the eyes of the *resurrected* Jesus the stories he told took on deeper meaning, and the idea of living for God's kingdom made much more sense.

READ MATTHEW 13:44-46

- Compare these two very short parables. What are the similarities and differences?
- Read verse 44 again. If this story is talking about the kingdom of God and having salvation, why do you think the treasure in the story was hidden?

GROW

"Hold everything in your hands lightly, otherwise it hurts when God pries your fingers open." — Corrie ten Boom.

- Read the quote above. The treasure of Christ is much more important than anything we could ever have, or own. So why then, is it so difficult for us to let go of what we "have"?
- Is there anything in your life that you think God is asking you to let go of or give up, for the Kingdom of God?
- How should the idea of being missional change the way we do things?
- What does being lead by the Holy Spirit, look like to you? How do you see the Holy Spirit working in your life?
- What steps do you need to take to be more in tune with the Spirit and what He is doing?

PRAY

Pray that God would help you to live like the man that found the field, with such delight at the treasure that he found that nothing else would satisfy him. Ask God to help you surrender all that gets in the way of your walk with Him, so that you can step out in all He has for you.

GO

As you go into this week, remember that the Holy Spirit is there to help you, just as it says in John 14:26. Continue to ask Him to lead you in every area of your life so that you can make every moment and every encounter a significant one!

Read more about The Hidden Treasure and the Pearl Matt 13:44-46 and for more about living in the Spirit read Romans 8:1-17 and John 14:26.