

## **ICB COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY**

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

The message last Sunday, continued our series "What We Do". This week we look at the Fellowship of Believers and the beginnings of the church. We see how the power of the Holy Spirit made such a difference in the lives of individuals and as a group, and what an example that was to others.

#### **START**

Icebreaker: This video is a great example of how we can work well together as a group, watch it and share your insights afterwards.

#### **SHARE**

- Where have you seen great examples of unity (or disunity) and how has that encouraged you (it could be in family, church, work, a team you play for, etc.)?

*READ ACTS 2: 42-47*

- What are some adjectives you would use to describe the church based on this passage?
- List the six priorities of the first church (v42) Why do you think each is important to the life of a healthy church?
- What does the word "devotion" mean to you (v42)? What picture comes to mind when you envision the early church devoting itself to these six activities?
- Compare Acts 2:42-47 with Philippians 2:1-11. Why is Christian community dependent on the Spirit of Christ?

*READ ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12 and I Corinthians 12:12-27*

- God always encourages us to live life with others. What are the advantages and challenges of doing life as a community?

#### **GROW**

- Of the different priorities you defined earlier which area do you personally find most challenging? What could you do to improve?
- What gifts do you have that you need to put into action in this community of faith?
- As the early church loved and lived life together many were drawn to them. So often we can think evangelising and making disciples is just about great preaching but it's much more than that. St Francis of Assisi put it well when he said: "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." In that sense, what does "preaching the gospel" look like to you individually and as a group? What ways can you "preach"

to those around you?

- The believers came together and helped each other. What are some of the needs in your community group and in the church in general? How can your group serve to meet those needs?

### **PRAY**

Pray for any needs you have in the group and those you know in the church and outside. Ask God for strategies of how you can help and how your community group can reflect Christ more, as individuals and as a whole.

### **GO**

Know that God has put you in this community group and church for a reason and a purpose. He has designed us all to be a part of one body, each with different gifts. Be encouraged that your part is unique and added to others makes a beautiful tapestry that shines Jesus to the world around. 1 Corinthians 12:27 says "Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it."

*Read more about The Fellowship of Believers in the Early Church in Acts 2:42-47, the Body of Christ 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, and the importance of unity Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.*