

ICB COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY

WHAT WE DO: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

The message last Sunday, continued our series "What We Do". Pastor Brent talked about the new covenant, and the impact of the Holy Spirit on believers in the early church. He compared it to a new version of an old song.

START

- During this evening's study try to come up with a slogan, or a short phrase that sums up what we are talking about tonight. Make it as memorable as possible, so that you can keep it in mind for the rest of the week. Share your ideas at the end of the evening and come up with one for the group as a whole.

SHARE

- Tell about a time when someone was generous to you: What was their motive? What did you experience? How did you feel? How might your generosity impact the spiritual journey of another person? How might your generosity impact your own spiritual life?

READ ACTS 4: 32-35

- This is the second time Luke emphasises sharing between the believers (2:42-47), why do you think he felt it necessary to repeat himself? Why was this so important?
- What attitudes did these Christians possess as described in verse 32? Why do you think they were so generous with each other?
- Verse 33 doesn't seem to flow with the verses before and after it. Why do you think Luke explained things like this?
- What role does the Holy Spirit have here in these verses?

Pastor Brent explained that caring for others has always been part of God's plan.

READ LEVITICUS 25: 8-17 and 35-43 and LUKE 4:17-21.

- What do these passages tell us about God's character and His heart for His people?
- Compare the Jubilee year, described in the Old Testament and the new, more complete Jubilee, which Jesus was proclaiming in Luke. How does the Jubilee Year symbolise the proclamation of the Gospel message?

READ JAMES 1:27

- What does James mean when he says "refuse to let the world corrupt us" and what do you think this has to do with helping the orphan and the widow?

GROW

- How should living for God change our way of living with others?
- In what ways do you enjoy being part of a community, in what ways do you find it difficult to share/connect? What can you do to change this?
- How could you begin to help others in the church understand what Christian community is about (perhaps those on the edge, or people who are not a part of a community group)?

PRAY

Ask God for hearts of generosity this week and ways you can love others. Pray that God would give you wisdom to show you how to encourage others to be part of community. Continue to pray for each other's needs, for anyone who is usually in your community group and for the situations in our church family (Eva and Dani, and Priscilla).

GO

As it says in Philemon 1:6 (NLT) "I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ." Go into this week confident that God has good things for you which you can share with others.

Read more about The Year of Jubilee in Leviticus 25:8-55, Deuteronomy 15:1-15, Isaiah 61 and Luke 4:17-21. Read about the community of believers in Acts 4:32-35 and Acts 2: 42-47.