

time to act

Title: Community in the Spirit

Date: February 6, 2022

WORSHIP: Sing one or two songs (either from YouTube, or someone leading worship). If you're in a public place, café or on video messaging, three to four people can share testimonies of answered prayers.

Q: What are you thankful to God about this past week?

WELCOME:

Intro: We have learned from the previous series, Discovering Christ in the Gospels, how Jesus the word of God lived and operated while He was on earth. Isn't it interesting to know how and what He prayed for while He was on earth? He prayed absolutely nothing but the perfect will of God and in John 17, before His crucifixion, He prayed a powerful prayer. Let's look at the very essence of that prayer found in John 17:20-21.

Ice Breaker:

Have a time of sharing two things of what you love most about being part of the life group.

Main Text: Acts 2:41-47 NIV

Key Verses:

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common." Acts 2:42-44

Quote:

"I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them." John 17:26 NLT

Leader's Notes:

1. Start and end on time.
2. Facilitate discussions.
3. Give all attendees opportunities to share. Encourage participation.
4. Remind everyone that whatever shared in the group will be kept within the group.
5. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit if there's someone who you can lead to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and be born again.

WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer

Q: How can we pray for you today?

Q: Who among your loved ones or friends you think need an encounter with Jesus today? Can you list at least five names?

Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another as well as pray for the names of people on your list. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well.

WORD & Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus prayed for the unity He enjoys with the Father to be enjoyed by His disciples, and the church, as well.

Jesus said in John 17:20-23 NLT, "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ***I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one*** as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. "...I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such ***perfect unity*** that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me."

Q: How important is unity in our relationships with one another?

2. Moving forward to the day of Pentecost, we can see what a united, Spirit-empowered community looked like in answer to the prayer of Jesus. The following are their areas of unity. Read Acts 2:41-47 NIV

- a. United in the truth of the gospel and the new covenant - new way of worshipping God and relating with Him.
- b. United in their need for fellowship - sharing life and experience together as followers of Jesus. They had common life, faith, and mission.
- c. United in their celebration of the Lord's communion - we do this in remembrance of Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross.
- d. United in prayer - they prayed their regular Jewish times of prayers as stated in Acts 3:1
- e. United in being generous with one another—sharing with those in need
- f. United in seeing the miraculous become part of their normal existence and mission
- g. United in praising and worshipping God - they knew who to worship and what brought them into the audience of God, which is by the blood of Jesus Christ. Praising God and worshipping Him is often a part of their gathering.
- h. United in their mission to witness to the world and disciple and care for those being added by the Lord - to be witnesses of Christ and makers of disciples after Christ.

Q: In our present time, what other ways can we promote unity in our life group?

Q: Share areas or activities where we can display our unity in Christ with people outside our life group so that we can make a difference in their lives.

Conclusion:

As we see in these verses, the early church was a vibrant community. It was full of life and purpose. The reason behind this vibrancy was, they weren't a group just centered on the death of the Lord but also His resurrection. In fact, Peter spoke more about the resurrection than the death of Jesus.