

Connect

FCC Life Group Discussion Notes

Based on the "Follow, Connect, Contribute" Series of Matthew Rogers

09-21-2025

Summary of the Text

The sermon, part of a series titled "FCC: Follow, Connect, Contribute," focuses on the theme of "Connect" from Acts 2:41-47, which describes the early church's explosive growth and devotion to authentic community. After 3,000 people joined the church in one day, the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. This commitment fostered a unique, attractive, and contagious community that drew others in, leading to daily additions to their number. The sermon emphasizes that connecting in community is essential for discipleship, shaping believers into Christ's image through shared life, prayer, and teaching. Practical steps for connection at FCC include Life Groups, D Groups, Sunday School, and Adult Bible Study classes, with a call to action to join these to grow spiritually.

Ice Breaker for Discussion

Question: If you could instantly become an expert in one skill to share with a group, what would it be and why?

Purpose: This fun question helps group members share something personal, fostering connection and setting a relaxed tone for deeper discussion.

Point 1: The Believers Connected in Authentic Community

Scripture Reading: *(Direct someone, e.g., John, to read)*

"John, please read Acts 2:42 from the CSB: *'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.'*"

Summary:

The early believers were united by their devotion to four practices: the apostles' teaching (the message of Jesus), fellowship (koinonia, meaning close relationships), the breaking of bread (Communion and shared meals), and prayer. These practices occurred in large temple gatherings and smaller home meetings, creating authentic community. This commitment allowed them to know each other deeply, share resources, and grow as disciples, shaping them into Christ's image.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does being devoted to a shared message, like the apostles' teaching about Jesus, help build a stronger sense of community in our group?
2. What are some practical ways we can make our Life Group meetings more like the early church's fellowship, where people feel known and supported?

Point 2: Others Became Curious

Scripture Reading: *(Direct someone, e.g., Sarah, to read)*

"Sarah, please read Acts 2:43 and 2:47a from the CSB: *'Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles... praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.'*"

Summary:

The authentic community of the early church was so unique and vibrant that it caught the attention of outsiders. Their love, generosity, and devotion created awe and favor among the people of Jerusalem. This attractiveness, exemplified by Lee Strobel's story of being drawn to Christianity through his wife's church community, shows how genuine Christian fellowship can spark curiosity and draw others to faith.

Discussion Questions:

1. What aspects of our Life Group's community could make others curious about our faith, and how can we intentionally display those qualities?
2. Can you share a time when you saw or experienced a Christian community that was so authentic it influenced you or someone else to explore faith?

Point 3: God Saved More People and Added Them to the Kingdom

Scripture Reading: *(Direct someone, e.g., Mike, to read)*

"Mike, please read Acts 2:47b from the CSB: *'Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.'*"

Summary:

As the early church lived in authentic community, God worked through them to grow His kingdom, adding new believers daily. The church adapted to include thousands, from 3,000 to 5,000 and beyond, showing that authentic community is a powerful vehicle for God's redemptive work. This reflects Jesus' call to "Follow, Connect, Contribute," where connecting in community equips believers to contribute to God's mission.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does being part of a connected community, like our Life Group, prepare us to contribute to God's mission of reaching others?
2. What steps can our group take to create space for new people to join and feel welcomed, as the early church did?

Recap of the Lesson

The lesson from Acts 2:41-47 shows that connecting in authentic community is central to discipleship. The early believers' devotion to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer created a unique, attractive, and contagious community that led to growth in faith and numbers. At FCC, we're called to follow Jesus, connect in community through Life Groups, D Groups, or classes, and prepare to contribute to His mission. Connection transforms us and draws others to Christ.

Challenge

Challenge: This week, take one intentional step to deepen your connection in community. Invite someone new to join your Life Group, sign up for the "Trust and Follow Jesus" class starting October 19th, or commit to attending your group consistently to build stronger relationships. Reflect on how this step helps you grow as a disciple and impacts others around you.