

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: February 26th 2017

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: When the Spirit Comes: Community

Introduction: When we use the phrase ‘Spirit-filled church’ today I wonder what comes to mind? This passage gives a vision of what happens when the Spirit of God falls on a community of Jesus-followers.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Acts 2:41-47. As you listen to the passage being read try to imagine what it would have been like to be part of the group being described.

Reflect:

- Invite each person to share one word that describes how they feel about being part of a group like the one described in the reading. Ask them to explain the word they have chosen.
- ‘**They devoted themselves...** (v42)’.
 - What does this ‘devotion’ tell us about the nature of their conversion?
 - What, in the experience of the group, *fosters and nurtures* such devotion, and what causes it to *fade and die*?
- ‘**The apostles’ teaching...**’ (v42).
 - What do you think the apostles taught about? What teaching ‘curriculum’ do you think the Apostles had learned from Jesus? see Acts 1:3; Luke 24:27; Matthew 28:20 - and look at the section headings in your Bible for the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7.
 - From all of this, what should be the heart of any teaching programme in a Christian community? To answer that question, complete this sentence, intended for an introductory church leaflet: “The teaching programmes in this church aim to....”
 - How well are we doing with this at TBC?
- ‘**The Fellowship**’... (v42). ‘Fellowship’ is the Greek word *koinonia*. It signifies, “partnership, companionship, sharing”.
 - How is the *koinonia* outworked in the passage that you read?
 - What difference does it make to think of joining a church as being joining a *partnership*, or *participating in a community of sharing*? Is that how people

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don’t feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the ‘And Finally’ questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

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think of the church? What are the implications of belonging to such a fellowship?

- How well do you experience such '*fellowship*' in your small group - and in TBC as a whole?
- **'The Breaking of Bread & the Prayers'** (v42). Gathering for worship was part of their instinctive rhythm as new disciples (v46).
 - Why is devotion to gathered worship important?
 - Why is a regular commitment to taking bread and wine together important?
 - What are the relative contributions that the small group (in one another's homes) and the larger gathering (the Temple Courts) make to worship?
- How would participating in a community like the one described in this passage, affect the way you lived in everyday life?

NB - If anything arises from this discussion that you as a group would want to feed back to the elders at TBC - please do so!!

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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