

WHAT "IN THE WORLD" IS THE CHURCH?

Acts 2:42-47

Ice Breaker: What is something you like to do every day?

BACKGROUND: A model for the modern-day church can be found in the book of Acts. The secret to the early church was: they knew they were all called, they were part of the mission. They didn't go to church; they were the church. They turned the world upside-down, spreading the gospel around the world.

THE BIG PICTURE: The Christian life is lived in community.

DIGGING DEEPER:

DEVOTED Acts 2:42

- What does it mean to be devoted?

TEACHING AND PREACHING Acts 2:42

- How did the early church show they were devoted to the Word of God?
- Why is it vital to be in the Word of God? Honestly, how much time do you spend in God's Word each day? What distracts you from being fully devoted to God's Word?

THE FELLOWSHIP Acts 2:42-46

- Luke says the disciples were devoted to fellowship. What is your definition of fellowship? What does it mean to have "fellowship"? What does fellowship look like? Why is it essential to have fellowship with each other? Why should the Christian life be lived in community?
- We don't chase signs and wonders but we do believe signs and wonders follow God's people who are chasing Jesus. What happens when we pursue Jesus? What is the purpose of these miracles? What signs and wonders have you witnessed simply because you were following after Jesus?
- What is the emphasis of this passage? Why is it important to spend time together? Why/How do we need each other?

LOVING & GIVING Acts 2:44-45

- How did the early church take care of each other? What was their common cause? Why did they share their possessions and goods? What can we learn from this?
- What does it mean to have "all things in common"? How is this different than socialism?

THE RESULT Acts 2:47

- What was the ultimate result? Why were many added to the church?
- What made the early church so appealing to others?

CONCLUSION:

- How is our church similar/different from the early church? What can you do to help our church be more like this? How will this passage affect the way you pray for our church?
- What verse challenges or inspires you?