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Leader Guide

Gathering + Groups

March 12, 2023

Main Passage: Acts 4:32-37

Theological Theme

The early church provided a model for future bodies of believers. They continuously gathered and shared with one another while they engaged in prayer and learned through the apostles teaching, all under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

- ? What was your favorite part of “Follow the Leader” as a kid?
- ? Where do you get your ideas of good leadership today?

1. A Church Unified (Acts 4:32-33)

This group of believers demonstrated the right attitude toward each other as well as their possessions. They placed value on the right things and were more concerned with people than material things. This is a challenging concept for many in today’s world. Our culture tends to value money, wealth, and accumulating things to the detriment of the people around us. It seems as if the divide between the haves and have nots is growing ever wider. Consider what it would look like if our community placed more value on people than we do on things.

- ? How do you see our culture valuing material things over people?
- ? What does it mean to you to regard your possessions as everything in common?
- ? What has God given you which you can share with neighbors/friends?
- ? Application: Where do you need to share about your relationship with God? As you share tools, recipes, etc?

2. A Church that Serves (Acts 4:34-37)

These verses indicate not only was the early church generous with their possessions, but they were also generous with their homes and land. To sell all they had and use it for each other displayed radical generosity. God does not always demand or expect us to do the same, but He does call us to be willing to do whatever He asks.

- ? What stands out most to you regarding the level of generosity displayed in the early church? How do you think you would respond when you have the same opportunity?
- ? How would our lives and our world look different if we listened to the Holy Spirit more than we do to other people or ourselves?
- ? Application: How does the example of the generosity and service of the early church inspire you to make changes in your daily activity?

3. A Church that Supports (1 Thessalonians 5:12-18)

Paul called believers to highly esteem and respect the leaders of their church body. These verses describe these leaders in three ways. First, these are leaders who stand out by their service. Second, Paul these leaders “lead you in the Lord” (v. 12). These leaders act as shepherds over the sheep of God. Third, Paul described these leaders as those who admonish. To admonish means to caution or reprove gently. These acts of leadership are done in love and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the good of the body of Christ.

- ❓ Who has God placed you around that could benefit from you leading? Have you prayed about hosting your own group of friends or neighbors?
- ❓ Application: What do you need to do differently because of what we discussed today? How will you seek God’s help and guidance in this?

Conclusion

- What will you do to help promote unity in the body this week?
- How has God challenged your views on hosting your own group through today's discussion?
- Who can you pursue a gospel conversation with this week?
- Consider drawing your neighborhood or list those that share your hobby to discover where God is leading you to have a conversation or start a group.

Here’s How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: “What does this say to me?”

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).