Life Group Study

“Marks of a Spirit-filled Church”
SERIES: “Stretch Your Nets” – Acts (#9)
Acts 2:42-47
Rev. Paul Witter

**Prepare**

View the sermon and complete the sermon notes.

***Choose those questions that are pertinent to the group member’s needs
and experiences.***

**Open**

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom to you.
2. What things would you expect to see in a church that is walking in the Spirit?
3. The church in Jerusalem was a happy, popular, fruitful, growing and vibrant church (v46, 47). What makes a church vibrant?

**Digging Deeper: Read Acts 2:39-47**

1. Peter’s words in v41, “Save yourself from this corrupt generation” implies that the people needed to make an exchange, from that which was old and corrupt, to that which was new and being saved. Why was it important to belong to a local church?
2. “The church should be concerned, not just with making CONVERTS who get eternal benefits, but with making Spirit-filled DISCIPLES who are on mission with God.” What is the difference and why is this statement so important? How will it change our priorities as a church?
3. The Apostles teaching was essential to the life of the early church. Why must it play a pivotal role in the church today? Why is verse by verse teaching and preaching the most effective way of teaching the truth we have in the Scriptures?

John Phillips said: “Experience must always be tested by our doctrine [ie. The Scriptures, and what we believe], not doctrine by experience.”
Why is this the case and not the other way around?
4. Martyn Lloyd Jones wrote about a Christian’s desire for the Word:
*“Wanting to listen to the WORD is inevitable if men and woman are born again and have become Christians. A baby has an instinct for milk. He wants it!! He is alive and wants the mother’s milk, and rightly so. The point is clear. One simply cannot be a Christian and have no desire for a knowledge of this truth -- it is impossible.”*
Why do Christians lose a desire to study the Scriptures, and how can we cultivate a new love for the Word of God?
5. Koinonia fellowship involves SHARING IN things, like being together, serving together, worshipping together, studying the Scriptures together, etc. It also has to do with SHARING OUT. In 2 Corinthians 8 & 9, the church in Galatia fellowshipped (koinonia) in giving: fellowship came through giving by the taking up of an offering for the church in Jerusalem who were facing a famine. Read 2 Corinthians 2 8:4,5 and
9: 6-15. What promises are associated with this kind of fellowship?
In what ways can we practice this kind of fellowship?
6. Our worship grows in depth as we come to know Jesus more through His Word: “The deeper they dug into the Word of God, the higher their hearts soared in worship”. “Theology leads to doxology”.
Read John 4:24.
After reflecting on the above, suggest ways we can deepen our worship.
7. What role do the Scriptures play in empowered prayer, enriched service, and enflamed witnessing?

**Going forward (discuss with your group prayer partner)**

1. What has struck you the most from this lesson. How would the Lord want you to respond?
2. Which one of the marks of a Spirit-filled church is most striking to you?
3. Share and pray with your partner about **one** “take home” action point that you would like to implement.
4. Reflect on 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

**Close**

Continue working on your personal salvation testimony. See the Navigators
“*Preparing your testimony*” if you need help and write out your testimony.
Ask your Life Group leader or pastors for help if you need it. ***Contact Pastor Paul if you are willing to share your testimony at a church service.***