

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

THE LIFE — IV

Acts 2:36-47

Pastor Mickey Stonier – February 3, 2013



MEMORY VERSE

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

“And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.” (Acts 2:44-45)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. Review the Sunday Message

Acts Facts:

1. The promise of the Holy Spirit brought **salvation** through God’s grace through the means of faith and repentance. *Acts 2:36-40*
2. The Holy Spirit transformed God’s people as they were **equipped** to live out their faith within community. *Acts 2:36-40*
3. A joyful community was then **sent** back out into the world that others might be saved. *Acts 2:46-47*
4. The fruit of the Holy Spirit will result in **transformation** not just more **information**.

Believers living in community, transformed the community in which they lived, as people witnessed transformed lives.

“Sin demands to have a man by himself, it withdraws him from the community. The more isolated a person is, the more destructive will be the power of sin over him.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

“I know of no more potent killer than isolation. There is no more destructive influence on physical and mental health than isolation of you from me and us from them. Isolation has been shown to be the central agent in the development of depression, paranoia, schizophrenia, rape, suicide, and mass murder.” – Dr. Philip Zimbardo, Stanford University



COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS — THE LIFE, PART FOUR

Pastor Mickey continued this Sunday in our series called “The LIFE” in which we survey the Book of Acts in which we see various people engaged in biblical community, as well as, many acts the early apostles accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mickey focused the attention of the sermon on the need for transformative community. Simply meeting together once a week, or even having what we call “groups” wasn’t even a thought for them. Their way of life consisted of a need for one another. In the midst of heavy persecution, the church needed each other to simply survive. When we see in Acts 2:42-47 that they had all things in common, and distributed accordingly, it was a literal way of life. This is radically different from our individualistic culture of twenty-first century America.

The Rock Church has Community Groups and various ministries to try and redeem the concept of biblical community. The discussion this week will focus on the examination of the functionality of our groups. We will look at various select Scriptures to try and give us a broad perspective of what “doing all things together” should look like.

Study Questions:

1. Discuss with the group what the purpose of your specific group is all about. Have everyone share one reason why they joined the group in the first place.
 - Reminder of Rock Community Group four attributes of the ministry:
 1. Christ-Centered – Scripture is the central text, and the gospel is the central theme.
 2. Building Community – The gospel compels us to form our theology around a community of believers, the church. We live church life out in Community Groups.
 3. Discipleship Focused – To be a follower of Jesus is to be a disciple. We want followers of Jesus in all areas of life. Are our attendees growing in their faith?
 4. Missional Living – We love and serve our neighbors and communities because we love Jesus and we love each other.
2. If Christ is the central theme of our community, and therefore we are building each other up in disciple-making community, our character should show it. Read 2 Peter 1:3-11 together as a group and discuss the following themes from this passage:
 - List all of the attributes that pertain to godliness.
 - How do you see these attributes being displayed in your life?
 - Which attribute do you struggle the most with and why?
 - How can the group assist you in this discipleship process?
3. Read Colossians 3:1-17 together as a group. How do the following questions assist you in fitting your group within the four-fold attributes of the Community Group ministry?
 - Christ-Centered – What does it mean to be “raised with Christ” as stated in v. 1? Note: A clue is found in Col. 2:11-15.
 - Building Community – How do we walk with each other to fulfill this new identity of being “raised with Christ”? Note: The word “you” in this chapter is always in the plural, not singular. Paul has the church in focus.
 - Discipleship Focused – In v. 5 and 8 Paul states 10 things we are “to put off” and in v. 12 Paul states 5 things that we are “to put on”. Are you (as a group) aware of your new identity? Note: The “put off” and “put on” was actually accomplished once-and-for-all through Jesus in 2:11-15.



