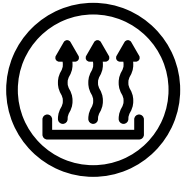




ACTS: THE STORY CONTINUES



WARM-UP

When was a time in your life that you received gospel generosity?



What happened previously in Acts 2?

Pray for your time together as a group.

Read out loud as a group

ACTS 2:42-47 (NIV)

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.



These believers, whether already followers of Jesus or some of the 3,000 new converts, now have the Holy Spirit. What does this reveal to us about the Holy Spirit?

Possible answers: it's clear that the Holy Spirit moves people to be around each other. It moves us towards assembly and fellowship, not solitude and individualism. It moves us towards gospel generosity not worldly hoarding.



How is this idea of being “devoted to” or “giving yourself over to” (vs 42) counter cultural?

Possible answers: It goes against consumerism and individualism. it becomes about what we can give, not what we take or get. It becomes about others not the individual. It becomes falling into or being taken by a gospel wave into the deep sea of the word, gospel community, communion, and prayer rather than something we have to force ourselves into. It becomes a bit more passive than strict rule following.



When the passage says “had all things in common” in verse 44, it has this double meaning.

- 1. it refers to their need to share material goods. With the influx of more than 3,000 believers, they had to share to survive. How does this inspire gospel-centered generosity?**
- 2. We also have “all things in common” spiritually. What are all the things that they share spiritually? (us too!)**

1. Possible answers: It goes against consumerism and individualism. it becomes about what we can give, not what we take or get. It becomes about others not the individual. It becomes falling into or being taken by a gospel wave into the deep sea of the word, gospel community, communion, and prayer rather than something we have to force ourselves into. It becomes a bit more passive than strict rule following.

2. Possible answers: the same Lord Jesus, same guide for life, same love for God, same desire to worship, same struggles against sin, same victories in Christ, same job of living for Him, same joy of communicating the gospel and gospel giving, same ultimate destination. etc.



How does remembering our spiritual commonalities help when conflict arises?

Possible answers: may vary. It grounds us in truth, gives us common ground, reminds us of what we share over what we disagree on, something to go back to, reminds us that God loves us even when we're hard to deal with.

Read out loud

JOHN 13:34-35 (NIV)

34 “A new command I give you:
Love one another. As I have loved
you, so you must love one another.
35 By this everyone will know that
you are my disciples, if you love one
another.”

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9 (NIV)

9 “For you know the grace of our
Lord Jesus Christ, that though he
was rich, yet for your sake he
became poor, so that you by his
poverty might become rich.”



How is Jesus the main point both in our main passage and the 2 above?

Possible answers: It's through Jesus and his sacrifice that we can make sacrifices. It's through Jesus' generosity that we can be generous to others. It's through Jesus' love that we can love others. Ultimately God is the one doing the signs and wonders. God is the one adding to the numbers of the believers. God is incredibly active and definitely the main character.



How does the idea of Jesus being the catalyst impact our small group community? Wider church community?

Possible answers: may vary.

Optional Activity

Go to <https://collections.artsmia.org/map> and set a timer for 3-5 minutes. Find a piece of art that could represent something that you talked about today. Take time to share your art and why you chose it with the group!

DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- What area of devotion (giving yourself over to) stands out to you most? Why? (community/fellowship, the word, communion, and prayer)
- What area of your life could benefit from gospel generosity?