

VILLAGE

CHURCH

Bible Study Notes

Intro: can you list all the metaphors in the Bible for the Church?

Pray: For Village to be living in community with one another

Read: Acts 2:36-47

What does the text say & mean (observe/comprehend):

- What is the context of Peter's sermon & declaration? What establishes the 'Church'? See also Ephesians 2:19-22
- What do you notice about the activities of the early Church? What do each of these activities in v.42-47 mean - e.g. what is fellowship?
- What do you notice about their attitude?

What does the text mean for us (apply):

- What activity of the Church in Acts 2 do you find a) most confronting, b) most encouraging and why?
- How do you see Church? It's importance in your life? Has your view of Church changed over time?
- How do you think our wider local culture (think Northern Suburbs) affects our view/feelings about Church?
- How do you feel about Church? What do you struggle with the most? What is the biggest obstacle to you gathering more often?
- How could we express what we are (body/family etc.) better? What's one thing you could do to contribute to that change?

Pray: that God would help us to be a community that glorifies God.

Homework: do one thing this week that contributes to a better community.

Remind: Village Celebration 18th September (make sure you RSVP).

Praying to see 10% of the northern suburbs in gospel-centred churches & 250 by 2030 at Village Church who grow, gather, give & go, in love & joy to the glory of God

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Over the next three weeks we are going to consider what it means to be Grounded in Christ, Living in Community.

- Week 1 we'll examine how we can be deeply Grounded in Christ and why.
- Week 2 is exploring Living in Community as God's people (as a Church) and then
- Week 3, it's Living in Community with the people of our town (non-Christians).

What does the text say & mean (observe/comprehend):

- **What is the context of Peter's sermon & declaration? What establishes the 'Church'? See also Ephesians 2:19-22**

The Church is built on Christ as the good news for sinners and the teaching of the Apostles about Christ. This is the foundation that establishes the Church.

- **What do you notice about the activities of the early Church? What do each of these activities in v.42 mean - for instance, what is fellowship?**

The activities of the early Church include: i) devotion to the teaching of the Apostles (presumably in sermons/talks), ii) to fellowship (spending time with one another, we might say life on life), iii) breaking of bread (eating together but possibly also taking communion), iv) prayer, v) contributing generously to the work of the Church, vi) meeting together regularly, vii) receiving/welcoming new people.

- **What do you notice about their attitude?**

At this point the text doesn't indicate begrudging or complaining, rather a joyful expression of what God has done for and in them.

What does the text mean for us (apply):

- **What activity of the Church in Acts 2 do you find a) most confronting, b) most encouraging and why?**

Go through each member of the group to answer these questions. Encourage people to be open.

- **How do you see Church? It's importance in your life? Has your view of Church changed over time?**

See above.

- **How do you think our wider local culture (think Northern Suburbs) affects our view/feelings about Church?**

Brainstorm/discuss.

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- **How do you feel about Church? What do you struggle with the most? What is the biggest obstacle to you gathering more often?**

Again, encourage people to be thoughtful and reflective. See if this opens up discussion.

- **How could we express what we are (body/family etc.) better? What's one thing you could do to contribute to that change?**

This is an opportunity for thoughtful action, taking seriously what God has made us to be in Christ.