

Belmont Exeter House Group Notes

w/c 2nd June 2024

Acts 2:42 – 3:26 & 4:32 – 37

Through the year we're looking at what it means to be wholehearted followers of Jesus, living 'In view of God's mercy'. This involves sharing and living the good news of Jesus work with the world around us, friends, neighbours, colleagues, and to those further afield. Jesus tells his followers that they are to be witnesses both near and far. This daunting mission starts with a bunch of ordinary people who have spent time with Jesus, and they are energized and enabled by the person of the Holy Spirit – Jesus with them, and Jesus with us now.

In this series we're looking to understand more of what it means to be people on mission together. We'll look at how the Spirit comes to equip the church, and then how that works out as followers become witnesses and the church grows. Luke wrote this sequel to his gospel to help us understanding God's continuing work to bring people, from across the world, into His kingdom.

Resources

Guide and overview to the book of Acts (Bible Project)

<https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-acts/>

The Message of Acts John Stott (Bible Speaks Today, IVP)

Acts for Everyone Tom Wright

BIG IDEA: A church that believes the gospel and lives out its implications together as a community is the way the gospel comes to life. We don't go to church – the church is who we are, and how the good news takes on flesh and bone.

WAY IN: Try some 'brand values' association. Share some well-known brand names / logos or a location or an organisation and see what values / phrases people identify with the brand. Some examples you could try: Tesco – New York – Paris – Apple - Amazon – NHS – Macmillan. You may have others more relevant to your group.

DIG IN:

Questions to discuss

1. Which part of the text (or sermon if you were able to listen to it) had the greatest impact on you? What puzzled you? Did you learn anything new about God? Jesus? You?

READ: Acts 2:42 – 47; Acts 4:32 - 37

2. What patterns of life are described as part of the young church community?
3. Notice how often the actions are done with others. In what ways can our shared life at Belmont, and in Home Group reflect some of these activities? Share your own experiences and consider how you have grown more like Christ through these occasions.
4. Sharing life together in this way has joys and challenges. How does the good news of Jesus help us with the challenges? What joys can we share to encourage each other?

READ: Acts 3:1 – 24

5. This incident of healing and proclamation takes place on the way to the prayer meeting. Acts 2v26 tells us the believers met in the temple courts each day, and 3v1 says Peter and John were going up to the temple. What do you notice and about the actions of Peter and John?
They chose to meet the greater need (v6). They acted in faith in the name of Jesus (v6). They explained their actions as an expression of this new kingdom (v12- 16). They explained how to respond to this message (v19- 20)

LIVE IT OUT:

6. In what ways could our shared life as a gathered community of Christian believers be a witness to those looking on?
7. What opportunities do we have in our daily / weekly Frontline contexts (our scattered community) to demonstrate and explain the good news?

PRAY IT THROUGH

Pray for opportunities for your home group to share and be good news to neighbours, colleagues, friends and family.