

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of February 21, 2016

Acts 2:41-47

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### **Common English Bible (CEB)**

<sup>41</sup> *Those who accepted Peter's message were baptized. God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day.*

<sup>42</sup> *The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. <sup>43</sup> A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were united and shared everything. <sup>45</sup> They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. <sup>46</sup> Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. <sup>47</sup> They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.*

**Connection Questions:**

1. Do you believe the presence of God's Spirit is active in your life? Why or why not? Give examples when you have felt his presence, if you have.
2. Luke, the writer of Acts, says after the Pentecost experience, the listeners were filled with awe and they had everything in common. Do you think this experience was different than experiences that the disciples previously had with Jesus? Why or why not?
3. Luke says because of how the listeners were responding to the experience with Jesus, numbers were being added to their number day by day. Describe why you think the church grew in its infancy stage.
4. Many good causes over history have started and eventually lost support and died. Why do you think the church and its message continue to have an impact on society for twenty centuries now?
5. More young adults are staying away from the church than ever before. What can the church do to take our message to our younger generation?

6. Do you think Luke was exaggerating how people were responding to the Pentecost experience? If so, why did he do it? If not, do you think the church can recapture the experiences they were having and how would we do that?
  
7. The word “devoted” Luke uses in the text comes from a rather long compound word. It means “to be strong toward”. Discuss what it means to be strong toward a certain value like being healthy. Living in a consumerist culture is it possible to be strong toward our faith? How can we be strong in our faith as we live in a consumerist society?
  
8. The people in the early church seemed to be passionate and committed to living out their faith in God. Describe people you know who are passionate in their faith in God.
  
9. Paul says in Adam, all of humanity sins. What does that mean? How can humanity in its fallen state be devoted to a relationship to God?