

Groups - God's Design For Life-Together

Acts 2:43-47 - You were not meant to do this alone.

January 26, 2020

With a culture that tells us we are capable of anything, that we can do whatever we want, and that the world is ours for the taking if we just believe it, it's difficult to understand that God did not create us and wire us for *individualism*. The "power of positive thinking" and digging deep to stand alone and be the best we can be is actually the opposite of how we have been wired by God. We were created for relationship, and the Body of Christ - the Church - is designed by God to encourage, support and spur us on to love and good deeds together.

The first believers understood this in a way we often miss in our 2020 Canadian culture. So, let's study the moment when Jesus left his followers and ascended to heaven, seeing how they banded together in a way they hadn't done before. It's a beautiful picture of God's design for the Church.

Study Questions:

Read Acts 2.

1. Pastor Jay talked briefly about how for our discipleship, God has provided us with His Word, His Spirit, and His people
 - What has been your experience with "His People" part of *your* discipleship journey?
 - Which of these three do you enjoy the most, and which one is more difficult?
 - What are the obstacles that prevent you from participating more intentionally in community?
 - How is God speaking to you about this? What might he be saying?
2. Verses 43-47 talk specifically about how the believers took care of one another.
 - How does this passage connect with you as you look at *your* experience with church? Why?
 - Where are you in the Acts story? Do you mostly attend the Temple (Sunday gatherings)? Are you involved in the apostle's teaching (scheduled ministry time)? Are you meeting in homes and breaking bread together (life group)?
 - What would you have to rearrange in order to engage in all three environments?
3. What holds you back from being vulnerable & authentic in the various environments we have in our church body? What would create a safer environment to share what we often hold back?
4. Before Jesus died, he told his disciples, "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (John 13:35)
 - Do you think we, as believers at New Life Church, look any different to the people of Cowichan Valley? How do groups help create this difference by making us interdependent as we live together in mutual love, support and accountability?
 - Where might we need to grow in order to get better at this as individuals and congregation?
5. Read John 10:10 and 1 Peter 5:8-9. What does this say about our journey as believers and how we can help one another?
 - When do you struggle letting others help you? Do you pride yourself in thinking "Yup, I've got this"?
 - What steps are necessary for you to engage fully in the kind of community talked about here?
 - What challenges do you face that keep you from experiencing life to the full the way God intended for us?