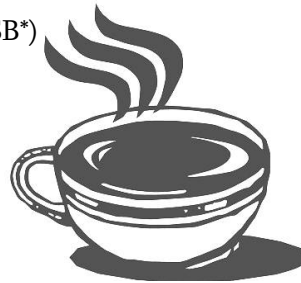


discussion guide for march 11th

“A Look at the Acts 2 Church”

Acts 2:41-47 (p. 1437-1438-DSB*)

GRIND IT
BREW IT
DRINK IT
SAVOR IT



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ **GRIND IT** (11:00 am)

Everyone wants to be a part of a winner. Whether it is a sports team, a company / business, or a church.

- How do you know if a sports team is a winner? What things do you use to evaluate success in sports?
- How do you know if your business or company is a winner? What signs of health do you look for? What things would you want to know before you invested your money in a company, business, or enterprise?

How do we measure up as a church? What things can we look for to pronounce ourselves an “Acts 2 church?” Here are several possible criteria to consider and discuss.

*“DSB” - The “Discovery Study Bibles” on common ground tables.

➤ **BREW IT** (11:10 am)

1. Transformation – (Invite Your World to Life)
[Espresso: Personal Transformation happens when pre-believers become believers and believers become disciples]
 Read Acts 2:41 (p. 1437, DSB*). What is the significance of “accepted his message” happening before “baptism”? What does baptism symbolize for a believer?
 - At Hillcrest we “find and follow Christ together.” Does this motto pass the Acts 2 test? Why?
 - How does baptism symbolize both parts of “finding and following Christ”? (hint: “Buried with Christ in baptism, raised to walk in newness of life.”)
2. Devotion (Live The Word in Life; Love the Fellowship for Life)
[Espresso: There are activities that deserve devotion as we find Christ, then follow Him up the discipleship HILL.]
 Read Acts 2:42, 44-46 (p. 1437-8, DSB*). List five activities of the believer’s devotion? Why does “breaking of bread” signify sacrifice in the 1st century world? How do these activities illustrate sacrifice and devotion?
 - Think of our devotion to the Hillcrest HILL. In what ways does our vision statement mirror the devotion of the Acts 2 church? (Honor-Invite-Love-Live)
3. Worship (Honor the Lord of Life)
[Espresso: We are humbled and encouraged as we see the things God does, leading us to honor and worship Him.]
 Read Acts 2:43 (p. 1438, DSB*). When God is active in a group of believers, what is the effect?
 - Why does recognizing the activity of God among us enhance commitment and worship of Him?
 - When believers see God working, how does it enhance willingness to honor God with our time, talents, and financial resources?

*“DSB” - The “Discovery Study Bibles” on common ground tables.

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➤ DRINK IT (11:40 am)

Is Hillcrest an Acts 2 church? Acts 2:47 sums up what that looks like and how it impacts a community.

“Praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

“Praising God” = Reverence for God and His Kingdom through meaningful personal and corporate worship.

“The favor of all the people” = Reputation for positive community impact as a witness for God in our city.

“The Lord added” = Reproduction (Believers leading THEMs to cross the line of faith, as well as believers wanting to get in on what God is up to in this Acts 2 fellowship.)

What can each member of Hillcrest do to increase our Acts 2 profile? What are you devoted to? Who are your THEMs? What kind of sacrifices do you make for the benefit of others? What is your PLACE of service? How are you growing as a disciple?

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Pray for needs of people outside the group.
- Pray for needs of members in the group.
- Pray for absentees by name. Consider giving someone a call this afternoon.

Go Deeper: Use the “Savor” section this week in your personal daily devotionals to reinforce the commonground experience.

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➤ SAVOR IT (all week long)

Last Sunday you looked at things to which the Acts 2 Church was devoted. Use these readings and questions to reinforce your devotion.

Monday, March 12: Read Psalm 1, (p. 660-DSB*). The Acts 2 church was devoted to the apostles’ teaching. We have the Bible as our body of teaching and the Holy Spirit as our teacher. Are you devoted to daily study in God’s word?

Tuesday, March 13: Read John 13:34-35, (p. 1418-DSB*). This passage is known as the Great Commandment. It commands us to “Love the Fellowship for Life.” The Acts 2 church expressed love in a number of ways including sacrificial sharing. How can you express your love and devotion to the fellowship?

Wednesday, March 14: Read Romans 12:9-13, (p. 1503-DSB*). The Acts 2 church gave sacrificially to one another. At a time when bread was scarce they shared. They gave up ownership and took up stewardship. Do you own your resources or do you manage them for God instead?

Thursday, March 15: Read Ephesians 6:18-20, (p. 1566-DSB*). The Acts 2 church was devoted to prayer. Are you? Sign up for the Hillcrest Prayer chain!

Friday, March 16: Read Colossians 3:15-17, (p. 1578-DSB*). The Acts 2 church was devoted to meeting together. Are you? Is church attendance vital to your spiritual health so that you hate to miss?

*“DSB” refers to “Discovery Study Bibles” available in common ground.