

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

Week 2: Biblical Community

Unrelenting Devotion

Read Acts 2:42

What are examples of unrelenting devotion you have seen?

Have you ever been radically devoted to some cause/person/organization?

Is it possible for us to show unrelenting devotion to a good thing/person/cause that becomes unhealthy?

We can easily misplace our priorities with good things in our lives. We have to keep Jesus first in our lives. Every other priority falls into place after that.

Biblical Community is a group of people who share radical devotion to Jesus and each other.

Have you ever experienced unhealthy Biblical Community?

What was your experience?

What elements made the group unhealthy?

Was there anything that conflicted with the Bible's view of community?

Have you ever experienced a healthy, Biblical Community?

What went right?

What elements did you find healthy?

What was the fruit of healthy, Biblical Community?

Genuine Affection

Read Acts 2:43-44

When we recognize/confess our own brokenness, how does it shape our view of others?

When we see what Christ has done for us, we can't help but to see others through the lens of redemption. We don't see the problems, we see the potential God has.

Open-Handed

Read Acts 2:44-45; Acts 4:32-33

How did the community in Acts see their possessions and resources?

Are you able to give with that same sense of generosity? Why?/Why not?

Do you feel the tension between generosity vs. "being irresponsible"?

How does your view of Jesus shape how you see your finances and resources?

Biblical Community leads to contagious and transformative joy.

In our West Michigan context, many people have "grown up" in a Christian tradition.

Do you feel like you have adopted the faith of influential people in your life or is it your own?

How do you know if you are living from your own personal conviction of what Christ has done for you?

What did you think about Joel's pool illustration? Do you ever feel like you get stuck by just stepping your feet into the pool?

How are you stepping out and sharing your faith with the people around you?