

**WATERS CHURCH
LIFE GROUP LEADERS MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2014**

WHAT DID WE LEARN FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah. *Acts 5:42*

Everything we do in our small group ministry is biblically based. The concept of the following **5 biblical principles** goes all the way back to the very beginning of the Christian church, as found in the New Testament.

The birth of the church described in the book of Acts was a community of believers without a building; the church did not own a piece of property until centuries later. But in the early days the church experienced explosive growth throughout the city of Jerusalem. In fact, within a matter of months, the church included more than 5,000 people. All over the city, both in temple courts (what we would call church services) and in house-to-house meetings (small groups), they were living out the **5 biblical principles** of fellowship, discipleship, ministry, evangelism, and worship.

The 1st Home Groups

Small groups were foundational to the early church, but what did they do? The answer is given to us in Acts 2: 42-47.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The small groups described in Acts that met in the homes were a strategic part of the greater church, and the Bible tells us these groups were purpose driven groups. Both the small groups and the greater church (all of the believers) focused on all **5 of the biblical principles**; they fellowshipped, discipled (leader notes), ministered (took care of each other), evangelized (church & group growth), and worshipped (giving glory to God). It is particularly significant that they balanced the biblical purposes. This balance of the principles is vital to the health of our life groups today. Unfortunately, today most life groups focus on one principal only. They are a fellowship group, a service group, a discipleship group, or some other kind of group. If we want to have a healthy Life Group ministry, we have to instill a sense of balance into our ministry.

Discussion

1. They Fellowshipped

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

Acts 2: 46

2. They Were Discipled and Grew Spiritually

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching

Acts 2: 42

3. They Ministered to Each Other

They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

Acts 2: 45

4. They Evangelized the Lost

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

Acts 2: 47

5. They Worshipped

"They devoted themselves to the breaking of bread and prayer...They were praising God"

Acts 2: 42, 47