

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Mar 4, 2018

“With Glad Hearts” Pastor Conway 8:15, 9:30 & 10:55

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Is there anything that came up this past week in regard to the previous witness or application points that you would like to share? (Fasting, Matt. 6:16-21)
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Did you have unique family meal traditions you would like to share with the group? During any particular holidays? Were people made to feel welcome and included in particular ways?

Review the Sermon (25 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below. As you go through the discussion questions that follow, know that it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

Acts 2:42-27

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common.

⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- What do you believe is meant when we say that the congregation is “at table” together?
- If “koinonia” fellowship is to hold things in common, what was the common ground in the community of God’s people in Acts 2?
- Why do you think Jesus instituted the Lord’s supper as a regular practice?
- Would a volunteer please read John 6:32-35 and verses 47-51. These words of Jesus fell hard on the ears of the Jewish people who were puzzled by the meaning of it when taken literally and did not understand what he was referring to. Rather than further explain or tone down the literal

meaning, Jesus here seems to emphasize the eating of his flesh and drinking of his blood even stronger (see verses 54-58). What of this sacrament of communion can be known and understood, and what remains a mystery?

- How are the followers of Jesus better equipped to not just understand this holy mystery but to experience it?

Personalize the Sermon (15 min)

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon?
- How has receiving communion, or the Lord's Supper, helped you to grow closer to God and God's people?
- The survey by George Barna placed 15,000 phone interviewees in North America in one of 10 "Transformational Stops" in the journey.

1- Unaware of sin

2- Indifferent to sin

3- Worried about sin

4- Forgiven of sin

5- Forgiven and active in a church

6- Holy discontent

7- Broken with God

8- Surrender and submission to God

9- Profound love for God

10- Profound love for people

- Were you surprised to find out that 89% of the people fell in stops 1-5 and only 11% fell in the stops 6-10 (with just .5 % in stops 9 and 10)?
- Do you think stops 6-10 are a good characterization of what happens in believers who are growing in God's sanctifying grace? Why or why not?
- How do you believe receiving communion helps people grow into God's sanctifying grace?
- With which of these stops of transformation would you presently identify?

Apply the Sermon (15-20 min)

- Have you come accept John Wesley's exhortation that it is the duty of every Christian to receive communion as often as they can? Why or why not?
- Have you received the Christ Church mid-week daily scriptures and reflections to accompany our weekly spiritual discipline? How is that going for you?
 - Also, you can subscribe to receive them via email at www.christchurchsl.org/lent (just enter your email address in the box on the right side of the screen).
- Are you interested in helping to extend the communion table to those who have difficulty leaving their home? Contact Jan Randolph at janr@christhchurchsl.org to get on a lay servers team.

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- Is there someone you know who appears to be disconnected from the church or Christian faith that God has placed in your life and has given you opportunities to share your faith with? Would you be willing to share their name with the group to be in prayer for you and for them?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.