

Real Community: Acts

This study is meant as an introductory study, not an in-depth study. We typically suggest 15–20 minutes for the study. It can easily be expanded with more discussion questions. This is great to use with History Giving at the beginning of the school year.

Acts 2:42–47

This passage gives us a glimpse of what the 1st century church was like. What did they do when they were together?

- They shared their lives—How much of their lives did they share?
- They ate together and prayed together; fellowship literally means to share the substance of your life. They learned together. They worshipped together. They were full of joy and sincere—we need to have sincere community, not superficial.
- What do you think are some of the keys to having a sincere community rather than a superficial one?

Coming together being real -
Being honest with one another
Caring about each other outside of small group
Will - sicm was family

What would this community look like today?

What was the result of their time together? How can we accomplish it?
They were filled with an awe of God (Encouraged), God did works among them (Power), and the Lord added to their number daily (Fruit).

In our lives what are some things that stand in the way of experiencing this kind of Community?

*People being scared of one another
Don't want to be weird*

What can we do purposefully to see real community happen in our Small Group and be able to experience the awesome blessings of it?

After discussing the above questions, pass out and go over the Key Ingredients for a Healthy Small Group.

Key Ingredients for a Healthy Small Group

Commitment—The backbone to a healthy Small Group is commitment. Commitment to Jesus and commitment to one another which results in a commitment to the Small Group.

Openness and honesty—For us to get the most out of Small Group we need to be real with one another. We need to be able to say when we are doing well and when we are not.

Confidentiality—In order for people to be real and open we need to be able to trust one another that what is shared in the Small Group is confidential to the group.

Affirmation—A healthy Small Group is a place where people feel valued and accepted. There is nothing you have done or can do that will make us not love and care for you.

Accountability— A healthy Small Group is a group in which people are accountable to each other.

Prayer—A healthy Small Group is a group that lifts each other up before the throne i of grace and asks Him for the blessings they need.