

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How is your walk with the Lord? Did you have any opportunities to share the Lord with anyone?
- External: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement? How can we pray, encourage, and show love to them?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another... (Col. 3:16)

- When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
 [Dialogue]
- 2. Let's read our primary text. What has transpired so far in the book of Acts to bring us to this point?
 - Jesus instructs the disciples to stay in Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit
 - Jesus ascended into heaven
 - Matthias was chosen to replace Judas
 - The Holy Spirit fell on those gathered in the upper room on the day of Pentecost
 - Peter preaches a sermon that moves a multitude
- 3. What does the term Pentecost mean? Where did it come from?
 - The word Pentecost is the Greek word meaning "fiftieth" (pentekoste). Pentecost is a word that was used both in the Old and New Testaments and was the Greek name for an ancient Israelite festival in the Old Testament called the Feast of Weeks (held in early Summer). Pentecost was the second of the annual harvest festivals coming 50 days after Passover. Today, we celebrate Pentecost 50 days after Easter Sunday (May 28, 2023 this year), remembering day the Holy Spirit gave power to the people, the church.
- 4. Thousand were being added to initial body of 120 believers. What do the apostles do with all these new believers?
 - The apostles showed these believers how to live just like Jesus had shown the apostles how to live. They shared meals together, they taught them the Scriptures and the teachings of Jesus, and they participated together in the Lord's Supper and prayer.
- 5. Many have used this passage as a primary text to support communism (the redistribution of wealth). How might you respond to this (in grace)?

The obligation of private property is not commanded or implied in this text:

- The believers' giving was voluntary and not compelled by the government
- The people still had personal possessions (they owned homes, property, etc.)
- A few chapters later in Acts 5, Peter tells Ananias and Sapphira they had no obligation to sell their property and give away the money.

- 6. Does your life/community resemble anything like these early believers? What is preventing you from experiencing what Jesus has prescribed for us as believers?
 [Dialogue]
- 7. How does this text cause us to change? What does it make you consider in your own life? [Dialogue]
- 8. How might you share this passage/truth with someone else? A child? A family member? [Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Is there anyone that needs an invite to our church or this group?
- Is there anyone you know who needs to hear what we learned today in God's word?
- Does anyone here need a "refresher" on how to share the gospel?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Without getting too specific, is there anything you want to confess before the group? [apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply his word to our lives, putting to death sinful desires.

HOMEWORK:

- Memorize our weekly "Fighter Verse" - Psalm 96:1-3

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible (Crossway)
- gotquestions.org ("Pentecost")