

BOOK OF ACTS WEEK 2

FLOURISHING GRACE SMALL GROUP CODE

Engagement:

Each person will get out of their small group what they put into the group. Make sure everyone in the group gets a chance to engage. If you tend to talk more than others be sensitive to how much you may dominate the conversation. If you tend to talk less make sure you work to speak up in your **group**. Your voice is valuable to others in your group and community; growth can't happen without engagement.

Confidentiality:

We long for our groups to be places of authentic community. The only way this happens is through vulnerable conversations in which we share personal parts of our lives and confess our sin together. Anything and everything that is shared in the group must stay in the group.

Speech:

We must fight against gossip, grumbling, and complaining. Our speech should build up our group not burden our group (Ephesians 4:29). We also must keep our conversation focused when our group meets. Groups gather to study the word and connect together please avoid personal rabbit trails or off topic subjects.

It takes more than one day and one person:

Small groups are about relationships. True relationships are not built by one person on one day a week. Step up to help your leader - they can't do it all alone. Everyone in the group should be serving the group - volunteer to host, volunteer to bring a snack, volunteer to give them a week off. Follow up and engage the members of your group during the week: one day a week does not build authentic community.

PRAY

Around the group have each person share one prayer request for the week.

Open a time of prayer inviting one person or the whole group (if they feel comfortable) to pray for Flourishing Grace's children's ministry Lindsay Spinning transitions into leadership of Flourishing Kids.

BACKGROUND

In Acts chapter 1, we saw Jesus' last instructions to his followers before he ascended into heaven. Specifically, Jesus tells them in Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 2:1-14 details the coming of the Holy Spirit as it falls on the early disciples. While there are many differing opinions within biblical Christianity about the Holy Spirit, Luke's point is clear: The Holy Spirit is given to empower the Church—Jesus' followers—to tell the world about Jesus.

The power that God the Holy Spirit provides is needed for two reasons: 1) We are powerless on our own to compel people to follow Jesus; it is God who draws people to himself, and God who grows the church. 2) As the disciples will quickly learn, telling the world about Jesus happens through much opposition and difficulty. Nothing comes easy for Jesus' followers in the Book of Acts. But through it all, God continues to advance his kingdom, because the Gospel was his idea in the first place, and he will see it through.

OPEN

First, have a group member read **Acts 2:1-14**

What is the most unforgettable event you have ever been a part of?

REFLECT

Based on this text, create a list of what specifically happened on Pentecost.

What do you imagine the experience was like for the disciples?

Where were the disciples when the Holy Spirit fell on them?

What did the disciples do when they received the Holy Spirit?

What was their message to those they were speaking to?

What were the different reactions of those who saw and heard the disciples in 2:1-14?

APPLY

Before hearing this sermon, what has been your experience of and exposure to the Holy Spirit? If you grew up in church, was the Holy Spirit talked about much?

Go back and read Acts 1:8. What is the reason that Jesus gives for why the disciples receive the Holy Spirit?

Have you ever had an experience that can only be described as a prompting or leading of the Holy Spirit?

If the primary reason the Holy Spirit is given is so that Jesus' followers can be his witnesses, does that change how you think about the Holy Spirit at all?

Is there a place in your life where you think or know the Holy Spirit has been pushing, prompting, or motivating you to do something? If so, how does it relate to your mission to be Jesus witness?

CLOSE

What is one thing in this passage that stuck out to you personally and why?

NEXT WEEK'S TEXT: Luke Acts 2:15-47