

LET'S KEEP IT SIMPLE

SERIES QUESTION: Can we do this? ~ Acts 1:8

SERIES THEME: We can do this together ... in Christ!

TODAY'S QUESTION: How can we fulfill our mission?

TODAY'S THEME: Let's keep it simple and be a simple _____, with a simple _____, and a simple _____

TODAY'S TEXT: Acts 2:42-47

- ▶ Note the phrase, "with glad and sincere hearts". • v.46b
 - > The word 'sincere' means simple, with a simplicity or singleness.
 - > The idea is to be _____ and without pretending.

• Romans 12:9 -- "Love must be sincere."

- ▶ Jesus _____ a simple life.
 - > Jesus taught in simple words.
 - > Jesus railed against religious show.
 - > Jesus called simple _____.

A simple suggestion: Let's not complicate what Jesus makes simple.

LET'S KEEP IT SIMPLE AND JUST...

I. DO WHAT _____ IS TELLING US!

Question → What simple thing did Jesus tell them to do?

A. JESUS SAID TO _____ TO JERUSALEM

- Luke 24:47 – 49, 52, 53
 - ▶ They had a lot of reasons to not go to Jerusalem.

Question → Why did they go to Jerusalem? What would have happened if they had not obeyed Jesus?

- ▶ Obedience begins with the first _____ step!

Question → Why were they so happy?

- > They were simply obeying Jesus.
- _____ is a sign of obedience.

Question → Are you a happy Christian? Are we a happy Church?

B. CHURCH IS _____ WHEN WE OBEY JESUS

- ▶ Life is simple when we obey!
 - > And it gets complicated when we disobey
 - > Amazing things happen when we simply obey Jesus

Question → What is Jesus telling us to do?

A simple suggestion: Let's keep praying together with "glad and sincere hearts" and do what Jesus tells us to do.

TODAY'S QUESTION: How can we fulfill our mission?

LET'S KEEP IT SIMPLE AND JUST...

II. _____ WHAT JESUS IS _____ US!

A. THEIR MESSAGE WAS JESUS

- Acts 2:32, 36-38, 41
 - ▶ The _____ of their message was their confidence in the Name of Jesus!

• Acts 4:10b-12

Question → Why did their message make such an impact?

- > They had no _____ religious training or credentials.
- > They were just _____ people.

- ▶ They were simple people living in the presence of Jesus!

• Acts 4:13

- ▶ The authorities made the mistake of thinking that the presence of Jesus was in the _____ tense.
 - > But the presence of Jesus is in the present tense.

• Matthew 28:20

- > Jesus was with them _____!

B. OUR MESSAGE IS JESUS

Question → Why should anyone listen to us?

- > We are just _____ simple people.
- > We are not _____ than anybody else.

Question → What do we have that they don't have?

- > We have _____! The only Name that saves!
- > The message of Jesus IS the presence of Jesus.

A simple suggestion: Let's keep speaking in the Name of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will whisper ... "they have been with Jesus".

TODAY'S QUESTION: How can we fulfill our mission?

LET'S KEEP IT SIMPLE AND JUST...

III. _____ WHAT JESUS IS MAKING US TO BE!

A. JESUS BUILDS HIS _____

- > They enjoyed the simplicity of being the Church.
 - They simply _____ as often as they could.
 - They simply _____ everything they could.
 - ... And Jesus met their needs.
 - ... And Jesus met the needs of others!
 - They simply worshipped and prayed with happy hearts and people kept getting saved.

Question → Who doesn't want to be part of a simple, happy, and healthy Church?

B. JESUS _____ BUILDING HIS CHURCH

• Matthew 16:18b

A simple suggestion: Let's keep it simple, and Jesus will make it strong.

CONCLUSION: We can do this ... together in Christ!

- > We can simply _____ Jesus.
- > We can simply _____ the message of Jesus.
- > We can simply _____ the Church of Jesus.

~ LIFEGROUP STUDY GUIDE ~

READ **Acts 2:42-47** and make three lists.

- > What did the first Christians do when they were together?
- > What does our Church do when we are together?
- > What does your LifeGroup do when you are together.

First Christians	Our Church	Our LifeGroup

> How do the lists compare? Do we need to change anything?

Note: Jesus created the Church to be different and has called us to be a counter-culture to the culture of the world.

Life in our world becomes very busy, distracting, and complicated.

- > Discuss ways that you feel your life becoming like this.
- > As life in this world becomes more complicated and busy, how can we celebrate a more simple and sincere life in Christ? (See Romans 12:9)

The first Church met with "glad and sincere hearts" (v.46b).

Pastor Barry has pointed out that the word for sincere also means to be 'simple', or 'uncomplicated'. Some other translations are "with unaffected joy" (NEB); "gladly and generously" (JB); "glad and humble hearts" (TEV); "gladness and singleness of heart" (KJV); "gladness and simplicity of heart" (NKJV).

Conclude your LifeGroup time by taking a simple communion together.