

JESUS, THE FEATURE PRESENTATION

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

TODAY'S THEME: When the church lives together in Christ, fully empowered by the Holy Spirit, the story our lives tell gives those around us a preview of what life will be like when we eventually all live together with Christ

TODAY'S TEXTS: Acts 2:16-18, 21, 39; Acts 4:32-37
1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (also: Galatians 3:26-28 and Colossians 3:11)

When the Church lives together in Christ

I. PEOPLE ARE _____

> When the Holy Spirit fell on them at Pentecost, _____ was filled.
• Acts 2:1-4

• Acts 2:17, 18

• Acts 2:39

> It was the very message that everyone was longing to hear ... and that we are longing to hear today.

- Acts 2:21
 - Everyone is _____ and can be forgiven.
 - You are precious in the eyes of God ... His lost treasure that is now restored to him!

- Acts 2:4
 - In the Body of Christ, everyone is included and _____ by the Holy Spirit.

> In the Kingdom of God, there is no exclusion or discrimination.
• Revelation 5:9

> The body of Christ needs to be a _____ of the welcoming, including, and accepting place where King Jesus resides.

When the Church lives together in Christ

II. PEOPLE ARE _____ FOR

> The early church made sure that they took care of each other.
• Acts 4:32-35
- "And _____ was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them." (vs. 33b-34a)

- And people noticed!

> _____ is a defining characteristic of the church.

> It shows the world that our God is a _____ God.
- It is a small taste of when God will completely satisfy our every longing.

When the church lives together in Christ

III. PEOPLE ARE _____ TO EACH OTHER

> There are many barriers that separate people from one another.

>The challenge for the early Church was that all sorts of people, from all sorts of backgrounds, were being saved.

- Acts 2:41 – 3000 people were added to their number
- Acts 2:47 – "... the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved".
 - slaves, free, rich, poor, men, women
 - Jews of different traditions
 - Gentiles (Acts 10:44-46)

- > We are called to be united _____ our differences.
• 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 3:11
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> Not only does the body of Christ encompass people who are different from each other but there must be unity between people who have a history of animosity between each other.

- We are not called to _____. We are called to unity!

> The Spirit brings reconciliation between divided people groups.

> This is the preview of life with King Jesus that people need to see in us: People who might normally be at odds with each other are now loving each other and living together in Christ.

CONCLUSION:

The Church is the body of Christ. So, the Church is the main way that our world will understand who Jesus is, what is important to him, and how he relates to people.

The world needs to see through our example that King Jesus' arms are wide open to _____ all who call on him, that King Jesus is the ultimate _____ of all our deepest needs, and that King Jesus _____ us to God and to each other.

**May the sneak peek that they see through the Church
get them excited to join us for the Feature Presentation,
Jesus our King.**

~ LIFEGROUP STUDY QUESTIONS ~ (adapted from the Serendipity Bible for Groups)

OPENING DISCUSSION: From where did your ancestors emigrate? What did their new citizenship mean to them? Or, if you have recently immigrated to Canada, what does this mean to you? Discuss what it means to be a citizen of a country.

READ & DISCUSS EPHESIANS 2:11 – 22.

> Before Christ, what problems did the Gentiles face?

> What results from being "in Christ"?

> What is the bomb that Jesus dropped on the religious "class system" of his day?

> What impact would verses 14-18 have on the divisions between Jews and Gentiles?

> How is the reconciling work of Christ (vv. 19-22) like new citizenship? Like a new family? A new temple?

> Reading Peter's words from v.38-40, what is required? What is promised?

REFLECT AND SHARE:

> What relationship in your life still has walls to be knocked down? How will that happen?

> Although God's grace is personal (Ephesians 2:8), what social barriers should it be affecting in our community? Our church?
- What could your role be in that process?

PRAY for our church family – that we would be a place where all are included, all are provided for, and all are reconciled to God and to each other. Pray also for any needs represented in your LifeGroup.