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WARM UP

When was the last time you tried something for the first time?
What was it like?

WORD

Read **Acts 2:37-47**

After the Holy Spirit falls on the disciples, Peter moves out in the power of the Holy Spirit and preaches a passage from the prophet Joel, and from here we see the emergence of the first church. The Greek word for church is "Ekklesia", which means, "The Called Out Ones". This would mark the direction of the first gathering of believers.

NOTES

1 Call and Respond

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Acts 2:37-39 (ESV)

Upon hearing Peter preaching the Gospel, the crowd who was gathered there was asking what their response should be. Peter told them to repent and be baptised, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- Have you ever heard the gospel being preached? If so, can you share how you responded? If you haven't, would you like someone to preach the gospel? (Leader: share the gospel if this is the case).
- Have you repented (turned away from sin and turned towards God) and been baptised? If you have, can you share what happened? If you haven't, is there any reason why not?

2 Meet, Greet, Eat

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

Acts 2:42,43 (ESV)

After turning from their sin, they knew that in order to stay full of the Spirit, they would need to constantly stay in fellowship with other believers, be devoted to teaching, eat together and pray.

- Do you have a group of believers that you get to encourage and fellowship with regularly?
- Would you consider yourself "devoted to teaching, eating together and prayer?" Why or why not?

3 What's Mine is Yours

⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved".

Acts 2:45-47 (ESV)

Whether it was opening their homes, sharing their food, or giving their finances, generosity was a mark of the first church. This was also evident in the way they lavished their love upon God and one another. It was in this environment where God saved new people day by day.

- What does generosity look like to you?
- How would you consider yourself in line with your definition of generosity?

PRAYER

- Are there specific areas God is calling you to repent from and turn towards him? Start by praying for those areas and submit them to God.
- Ask Jesus for the grace to live a generous life, the way he was generous in giving himself to us.