

**Acts of the Holy Spirit - 3**  
**Spirit Filled Community- Week of Oct 2, 2016**  
**Bay Park Life Groups - Participant**

Welcome to week three of our study in the book of Acts. We trust that the first two weeks have been good ones. Good in the sense of conversations but also challenging and perhaps to some degree a little uncomfortable. That simply means that you are wrestling with the passages. And that's a good thing!

This short section is the classic text describing the earliest church and how it lived its life corporately. It is extremely concise but also extremely complete. John Stott writes: *"It is incorrect to call the Day of Pentecost 'the birthday of the church'. For the church as the people of God goes back at least 4,000 years to Abraham. What happened at Pentecost was that... God's people became the Spirit-filled body of Christ."* (*The Message of Acts*, p.81) This text gives us an idea of what the church becomes when the power of the Spirit is evident. During times of spiritual revival and renewal, the church can return to some degree of this form. People studying this text seriously can discover an almost endless stream of important insights as to how Christians should live together in community.<sup>1</sup>

Opening questions:

1. What possessions do you have that you enjoy sharing with others?
2. Which of your belongings would you not want to share with anyone else? Why?
3. How would you describe your life-style: self-centered, family-centered, or others- centered?

**"Community is a type of relationship, rather than a particular structure. A community is a relationship of love, commitment, and interdependence."**

1. Discuss the above statement(s). Do you agree or disagree? And why?

**Read Acts 2:36-47 together**

2. What is the "this" Luke is talking about in verse 37? And why were the people "cut to the heart"?

2. vv.40-41. Why do you think Peter tells them to save themselves from "this generation"? What does this statement imply about the church, and about becoming a Christian?

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<sup>1</sup> Timothy Keller, *Evangelism: Studies in the book of Acts*, Redeemer Presbyterian Church 2005, 39

3. Make a list of the characteristics and functions of the early church that you notice in this passage?

4. Is there a major difference between the way the New Testament describes the Church and the way it really is today?

a. If so, what are those differences? Why do these differences exist?

5. How can your LifeGroup better demonstrate the characteristics of the early church? And can we as a church do the same?