

Cell notes, week beginning 30 October 2017

All things in Common

Introduction

Have you ever been involved in something brand new? For example, a new initiative at work, moving into your first home, having your first child, planting a church? How did it feel? How did you cope? How clear is the memory of it?

Read: Acts 2: 42-47; Acts 4: 32-37

God is so keen that we should know what the early church was like that he repeats it for us. Both passages are the same length and say some of the same things.

Look through these two passages line by line; get the group to list all the activities of the church at the time, and then all the attributes of the church. Does Jubilee Church reflect the activities of the New Testament church? And how could we apply the attributes of the early church to our own, 21st Century church in Shepperton? What might be the effect on our local community?

We are all members of the church (in the same way that human bodies have 'members', not as in officially on the membership list!): so what are the implications for us as individuals?

These were exciting times for those first Christians. Do you think God might be preparing us for exciting times here and now? At the prayer meeting on Monday Nicola Gilson read an extract from a magazine in which Terry Virgo (founder of Newfrontiers, our church movement) is getting excited at the prospect of revival. Could it happen here at this time?

How would we react as a Church if hundreds or thousands of people in our local area were brought to their knees in repentance (as happened in the Welsh revivals in the late 19th/early 20th century)?

Acts 2 begins with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and ends with the first of these two descriptions of the church. Then in Acts 4 v31 there is another in-filling of the Holy Spirit. What is the significance of the coming of the Holy Spirit before these two passages? What effect do you think the Holy Spirit has on the people of the early church? How can we experience the depth of relationship that these people were clearly experiencing?

Pray

Pray for a fresh in-filling of the Holy Spirit, both for individuals in the group and for the church as a whole.

This week is a week of prayer for the persecuted church around the world. Please pray for them. There is a prayer meeting on Saturday morning, from 9.00am to 9.45am, at the Jubilee Centre on this topic and for Alpha: please encourage group members to come along if they can. And pray too for Alpha, for Paul Baker as he leads it and for an impartation of the Holy Spirit on people at the Alpha Holy Spirit Weekend this weekend.