

w/b 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018 LIFE APPLICATION STUDY FOR SMALL GROUPS

THEME: ACTS – THE LAUNCH OF THE EARLY CHURCH - TAKING STOCK

PASSAGE: Acts 2:42-47

#### LAUNCH

- Anyone had any experience of living in an enclosed community for a while. What were your significant memories of this? (This could have been a retreat or a camp of some description)
- What were the positive aspects of this community life? What was not so good?

#### DISCOVERY

- Name the key activities that the early church carried out together?
- How would you describe the way in which they related together?

#### UNDERSTANDING

- What obstacles might hinder a Christian group operating like this today? How might they be overcome?
- Is the level of relationship achieved by the early church possible in our culture? What sort of things do we need to work at to have similar levels of relationship?
- How might you go about developing stronger and more supportive relationships within your home group?
- The key activities of the early church can be summarised as: teaching, prayer, breaking bread, signs and wonders, worship and loving care for each other. Do any of these activities need to be developed in your group in order to make it better balanced/ more effective?
- In what key areas of small group life do you want to see 'heaven drawn down' more? Does anything practical need to be done to achieve this?
- The early church was radical in terms of its care for the poor and disadvantaged. Why was it so radical? What excuses do we give today for not being so radical?
- How might the Spirit be prompting you to be more radical in your care for others?

#### APPLICATION

- Spend time praying 'thy kingdom come' for your group in each of the 6 areas discussed (word, prayer, worship, signs, fellowship & communion)
- Summarise any plans you have made to put any agreed changes into effect. It may include putting something in the diary, allocating a responsibility to someone etc.

*Resolving conflict and building community – Navpress provided a number of questions for this study*