

## Home Group study: week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### Better Together — A Circle of Gold

On Sunday Dave suggested that there is a strong drift towards individualism in our society. Do you agree?

What are the indicators for you that this may be the case?

**Read: Acts 2:42-47**

#### Understanding

Looking at the first word of the Acts passage, who are 'They'? How many words and phrases can you find that imply fellowship, being together etc?

What things did 'they' do together? Which of these things could be done individually?

Would those things be as effective if they were done singly?

A number of good things emerge at the end of the passage as a result of the people being together in fellowship. What are they? Are they things we want to see as a result of being together as a church? How many of them do we see in Jubilee Church? And could they be achieved by people working individually?

What is the difference between Christian community, that you might find in a community of believers, and community that you might find in a pub or social club?

On Sunday Dave used a crown as an illustration of a circle of gold (Ok, it cost £1.99 and was broken so may not *actually* have been gold, or even a circle...!) What did he say the circle of gold represented? Ignoring the shortcomings of the plastic crown Dave used, what attributes would you give to a circle of gold? Would you apply those same attributes to fellowship? Why — or why not?

As you read the passage, what are the key jewels of church activity that you can identify in the passage? Discuss each one. Why is it so important to the health of the church — including our church? (*Crib sheet! They were Word, Prayer, Worship, Communion, Caring for the Needy, Moving in the Miraculous.*)

How is each of these activities balanced within your home group? Do you need to make any adjustments?

What are the threats of Christian community and what are the benefits?

(NB Let's not live under the illusion that Christian community in the early church was perfect. They had rows, debates and fallings out, just like the modern church — and indeed the church through history.)

## **Application**

Dave suggested a 'Reach Out to Help Out' programme, where we all take responsibility for drawing people back into church life. What are some of the objections that people raise and how can we help them?

Do you agree that 'pastoral evangelism' may be a key way to reach the local community?  
What opportunities exist for you in this area?