



A Family with Purpose

Week of February 14 , 2021

Intro Discussion Questions:

- *Optional -- If you read the Bible Reading Plan from last week, did any verses stand out to you that you would like to share?*
- *Sometimes people change things that are already good to begin with. What is something that's been changed that disappointed you?*

Read Bible Study Summary:

Sometimes modernization is not good. Sometimes our advances are not advances! Sometimes we try to improve on something that doesn't need improving and we hurt ourselves in the process. So many advertisements today boast the label... New and improved! Better than ever! Now with more powerful ingredients! Longer Lasting! Better Results! When will someone come out with something like... "Not new and improved, why mess with perfection?" or "Same package, same look, same quality product, 50 years and counting!" Do you remember when Coca-Cola came out with New coke? It was a Failure! People didn't want them messing with their beloved coke. Sometimes, you shouldn't mess with a good thing! Right?

The same can be said of the church. New and improved is not always better. Jesus knew what he was doing when he set up his Church 2000 years ago. One of the first gatherings of the church occurred in the Book of Acts, chapter 2. In this text, we can see clearly the unchanging purposes for His Church. Those purposes are found in some of the unique things that were present in the early church family!

Read Main Scripture

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

What are the unchanging purposes of the church?

1. **The Family of God has a Message (Acts 2:36-41)**

- When Jesus started his church, it was very organic and truly genuine. A true move of God and an outpouring of His Spirit took place and thousands of people were transformed. Peter preached a message that continues to be our central message today: "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus

Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the Greek, it is translated, repent and be baptized “because your sins were forgiven.”

- The church that started out with a purpose, but lost sight of it. Improving on God's plan does not usually turn out very good. In fact, it never does. The church had a message so powerful it changed the known world! Our message should be clear to the world that anyone who is willing to repent of their sins and allow Jesus to come into their lives by way of His Holy Spirit can become a child of God, and a part of the family of God, our family! A huge part of our purpose is to share that message with the world!
 - **Ask Question**
 - *When were your “spiritual” eyes opened to the gospel message?*
 - *What is the most powerful gospel presentation you have ever heard? What made it so powerful?*

2. The Family of God has a Method (Acts 2:42-43)

- Led by the Apostles, they 1) studied the Word of God; 2) They fellowshiped with one another; 3) They worshipped by observing the Lord’s Supper; and 4) they prayed. What a simple method. And they were devoted to the method wholeheartedly.
- The book of Hebrews offers more explanation on the foundation for the methods and how the church implemented them in their lives together as believers. **Read Hebrews 10:19-25**
 - **Atonement was the Reason** - 19 *Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,*
 - **Assurance was the Result** - 21 *and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.*
 - **Assembly was the Response** - 24 *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
 - **Ask Question** - *In what ways does your devotion to the methods of the church reflect the example of the early church?*

3. The Family of God has a Motivation (Acts 2:44-47)

- The greatest way to make disciples is to love one another. Love was the motivation of the early church and continues to be what binds the church together today. What could be a greater witness to the world than for them to see God's family loving each other by serving one another, caring for each other during difficult situations, and meeting the needs of one another. If people see this happening, they're going to want in! If we're doing this, we will begin to transform the world one heart, one family, one neighborhood at a time!
- The people around you might not agree with the message you preach, or accept the message, but they will have a difficult time arguing with the changed lives they see. Jesus talked about this with His disciples.

- **Read John 13:34** - "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
- **Ask Question** - In what ways have you seen the church's love for each other bring credibility to the gospel message?

Closing In Prayer

- **Ask Question** - What is the greatest challenge you are facing? Is there some way our group can help?
- Pray together over those requests.