

AT THE STADIUM – PART 3

BIG IDEA

Devote yourself to a Community of Believers who share meals, beliefs, struggles and prayers.

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud Acts 2:42-47

OPENER

Share some of your feelings when you have moved to a new place where you didn't know anyone. (e.g. home, school, new job, church, changing season of life). Tell a story of a time when you felt alone in the world or struggled because of changing seasons in life.

QUESTIONS

1. In Acts 2 we saw that the believers devoted themselves to these things:
 - a. Studying the Word of God
 - b. Eating together
 - c. Experiencing answers to prayer
 - d. Sharing life experiences, burdens and blessings
 - e. Meeting each other's needs

Which of these is your group best at? Which would be fun to try as a group? In which of these have you most experienced God?

2. Tell of a time that your small group or another group of Christian friends shared in your joy, your burden, or graciously met a need.
3. Every day we are either retreating into isolation or advancing into relationship. What are the consequences when we allow ourselves to retreat into the short-term comfort of isolation?
4. Ben Utecht shared that when he was questioned by Christian friends about his self-focus, he initially felt defensive and ultimately had to ask himself, "Why am I responding defensively?" Ben's response to this encounter was to be determined to commit to a group of Christians who provide Godly relationships in his life. Why did you first decide to become a part of a small group? Do you see your group as a means of accountability to God? Explain.
5. For next week: Jot down your answered prayers this week and share them with the group.

TAKEAWAY

- Nobody wins at life alone.
- As Christians, when we live in isolation, we are more vulnerable to poor choices and sin.

- Be known in committed relationship with other believers.
- If living in Christian community really matters, make time even if it means cutting other things out...no excuses, no explanations!
- Don't give up. Don't let a bad experience in Church or a small group keep you from trusting that God will not fail you.

REFERENCES

- Matthew 28:19,20
- 2 Timothy 2:2
- 1 John 1:6,7
- Proverbs 27:17
- Hebrews 10:25

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In John's interview, Ben talked about the importance of consistently having Godly relationships. Talk about a time when another believer has held you accountable. Was your experience with accountability helpful to you spiritually?
2. Discipleship is a life-long process. What are the steps you are taking to ensure you will continue to mature as a disciple of Christ?
3. As Christians we need to be devoted to the Word of God. How often do you read God's Word? Talk about something in God's Word in which you find it difficult to show your devotion.
4. Are any of us "spiritual" enough that we can absorb all that God wants to impart to us and see all our shortcomings clearly? Give examples of how Christ's light shining through others has allowed you to gain a deeper understanding from God and allowed you to see things in your life that you should change.