**Accelerate**

**Releasing the E-Brake- Week #2**

**Small Group Notes**

**August 12 and 15, 2021**

**Introduction:**

What are the marks of a close relationship that you have with others?

Share some examples from your personal life of teams, friends, clubs, or networks that you are a part of. How do these groups provide community in your life currently?

How have some of the relationships that you have had changed as you have gotten older? How have they changed as you have grown in following Jesus?

**Discuss: Why do we not value community?**

1. I don’t see the need.

* Read Acts 2:43. Connecting in community can be a true accelerator to your spiritual journey.
* Connection in communicate can be an accelerate to the supernatural.
* Read Proverbs 18:1. Isolation is the opposite of connecting and the archenemy of transformation.
* We accelerate when we release the “I don’t see the need” E-brake.

Explain: There was evidence of the power of God among the people. One of the greatest, most powerful works God can do is to change our hearts to revering and honoring Him as Lord. Furthermore, where God is at work, lives can be transformed in miraculous ways.

Ask:

Who are people that you allow to speak into your life? How can you see God working through them to help you to grow?

How can seeing the value of being in biblical community help you to grow spiritually and emotionally?

What is the different in seeking solitude and being in isolation? What are the ways that we can get these confused in our lives?

2. I don’t have time for connecting.

* The cost of community is a consistent investment of time.
* We accelerate when we release the “too-busy” e-brake.

Explain: **Continued steadfastly** uses a Greek verb communicating “a steadfast and single-minded fidelity to a certain course of action.” It also relates to fellowship (koinonia) that has the meaning of communion, fellowship, and participation. They were sharing their lives with each other.

Ask:

Read Acts 2:42. How would you define the word steadfast? What are examples that you see of steadfastness in our culture? How can our culture discourage the sharing of our lives? (For example, we only put the best of our lives on social media)

What is the lesson that we can learn from the early church in its participation in community? How does that speak to where you are today in your use of time?

3. I already have deep connections!

* There is a different between relational connections and biblical community.
* The three foundational ingredients of community are the Word, prayer, and fellowship.
* Accelerators have learned how to turn their connections into community.

Explain: Everything that we ready about in the New Testament that involved the power of God working through the church involved the foundational elements of the Word, fellowship (communion), and prayer.

Ask:

Read Acts 2:42 again. Which one of these areas can you be tempted to miss the most? Why should all three be essential in our spiritual walk with Christ?

How does the world try to offer substitutes for each of these? (For example, moral relativism that promotes *my* truth instead of God’s absolute truth in His Word).

How does the story of someone beginning a Bible study at their work encourage you?

4. I don’t get that much out of it!

* We accelerate when we see connecting in community not merely for what we get, but what we give.
* We accelerate when we release the “what’s in it for me” e-brake.

Explain: The message of Acts 2:44-45 is not about being socially responsible as it is about priorities. The people were enjoying biblical community with one another so that their focus was on Jesus more than their personal possessions. They were truly experiencing the “one anothers” that Jesus spoke about in his teachings in the gospels.

Ask:

Read Romans 1:11-12 and Hebrews 10:24-25. What about these verses and the many other one another statements in the Bible inform how you look at the need to be in biblical community?

Read Acts 2:44-45. How can being in biblical community (groups) help you to turn your focus on others? Is that missing in your life currently?

Accelerator Step:

How can your group help to get more people into community? Maybe it is opening the door for more people to join? Maybe it is starting new groups? Maybe it is developing the relationships that are in your group currently to move beyond the surface level to transformation?