

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE  
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

**THIS WEEK'S FOCUS**

**Celebration: Apostles 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

"For years the bulk of American Christians who were committed to 'missions' could only participate through giving and praying. Today the call to cross-cultural ministry doesn't even require going; it just requires staying with a purpose."

**-Erwin McManus**

"Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need."

**-Acts 4:32-35**

**THIS WEEK'S TEXT**

Acts 2:42-47

**RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE**

Heb 10:25; Acts 1:14, 4:32-35, 16:34, 20:7; 1 Cor 14:6; Luke 24:35; Mark 16:20; Mat 19:21; John 16:22

**STUDY GUIDE**

- **What observations can be made about:**
  - What these early Christians had fully given themselves to
  - Some of the primary components of spiritual life for this church
  - The degree of their generosity and sense of connectedness
  - The situation in which God brought "awe upon every soul"
  - The early church's specific relationship to the poor
  - Some of the marks of early Christian "community"
  - The way in which the church's actions in v. 42-46 relate to God's actions in v. 47
  
- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the church at Ephesus then, what do they mean for us now?**

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- To whom are you extending radical generosity or hospitality?
- Who in your life are you intentionally loving by extending the gospel to them?
- How are you moving in closer to community at Apostles? What is missing in your experience of community, if anything? How will you address that?
- Do you have a vision for how you will participate in the mission of God? How will that take expression at Apostles?
- How will this church and this city be better off in five years because of you being here?

“Many Christians estimate difficulty in the light of their own resources, and thus they attempt very little and they always fail. All giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His power and presence to be with them.”

–J. Hudson Taylor

## MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Eph 6: 24

This Week: Acts 2:46-47

## PRAYER FOCUS

**For the Vision and Direction of the church (September):**

Apostles Church wants to be a people who intentionally connect others to Jesus. We will authentically, compassionately, and intelligently dialogue with the culture about the Gospel of Jesus.

**In Response to the Text:**

- Praising God for the gracious work He’s done in the lives at Apostles
- Praising God for the privilege of participating in the redemptive work He’s doing in NYC
- Confessing our reluctance to give ourselves to the mission of God
- Confessing our negligence of loving our friends and neighbors well with the gospel
- Thanking God for four years of life at Apostles
- Thanking God for the good work He is carrying out in other churches throughout our city
- Asking God to continue growing the Church in NYC and giving us humility and longing to be part of it
- Asking God to keep us committed to the gospel, to community and to mission

## FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- [www.dalitnetwork.org](http://www.dalitnetwork.org)
- [www.worldorphans.org](http://www.worldorphans.org)
- [www.hfny.org](http://www.hfny.org)
- [www.love146.org](http://www.love146.org)
- <http://www.apostlesnyc.com/serve/>
- <http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/?action=getChapterSections&cid=5&source=1&schap=2>

## NEXT WEEK’S TEXT

Ephesians 5:18-33