



MARCH 30 - APRIL 5

How the Church Came to Life

Prepare

Reflect on Jim's sermon and read Acts 2:14-47 (Reading Peter's sermon will help give context for the passage we'll study).

Ice-Breaker

In his sermon, Jim talked about the difference between a movement and an institution. What's the most "movement-like" event or group you've ever been a part of?

Discussion Time

Read

Read Acts 2:41-47 together.

Discuss

1. What part of this reading speaks to you?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What points stood out to you from the teaching in this week's sermon?
4. How do you need to respond to God based on the text and the sermon?
5. Jim talked about how the church should be a movement, but often becomes an institution. Where do you think Glenkirk is right now? Why? Does anything need to change?
6. On the next page, you'll find our values as a small group ministry. They're based on these verses you've discussed. Jim's three categories of Ask, Belong, and Create correspond to our goals of connecting to God, each other, and the world. How are you doing at each of these three goals? How is your group doing at these?
7. What promise from this study would you like to remember in times of need?

Close by sharing prayer requests and praying for each other.



Glenkirk Small Groups Ministry Overview

Small Groups Defined

Simply put, a small group is a group of friends (new and existing) who consistently get together and are **intentional** about having **spiritual conversations** and **following Christ**.

Values of Small Group Ministry

(the core values of the ministry)

If you've been around Glenkirk Church, you've seen the phrase "**connecting people to abundant life**". But how is this done? In the small group ministry, we focus on three core areas of connection. We desire to **connect people to God, to each other, and to the world**. Even though our society says this life is all 'about me', the Bible paints a different picture. We weren't made to live this life alone. In Acts 2, we see what the early church looked like as they lived life together:

They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers. Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles!

And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw.

Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

Connect to God - *"They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles ... and the prayers." "They followed a daily discipline of worship ... as they praised God."* **We're called to pursue an interactive relationship with God. This engages both the head and the heart through worship, learning about God and spending time with God hearing what He has to say and seeking to obey that call.**

Connect to each other - They held *"everything in common"* and people *"liked what they saw."* *"Every day their number grew as God added to those who were saved."* **It's important to pursue transparent relationships with the people around us. Connecting with each other means living in community, getting healthy relationally and living with Godly character. We weren't meant to do this life alone.**

Connect to the world - *"They pooled their resources so that each person's need was met."* If Glenkirk Church suddenly ceased to exist, would anyone besides its members notice or care? The Church is called to make a difference in the world in word and action, and we want to help people make an impact in the world around them, locally and globally.

A healthy life flows in and out of all of these areas. A healthy small group will also exhibit each of these traits within the community. They will spend time with God - learning about Him and praying to him together. They'll spend time with each other - eating, talking, and living life. They'll spend time serving the community in the ways God as gifted them and burdened them to serve - individually and together.