

Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35; Psalm 133

Series: *So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore*  
*"True Community: How Do We Get There from Here?"*

04 - 05 - 09

How do *you* measure the "success" of a church? And what criteria go into that?

Often when we are trying to develop effective programming or structure or strategy in church, what is the operative word we end up asking? Why might this mislead us?

When you're asked to describe *your* church, how much of your answer is essentially describing the *how*?

Acts 2:42-47 is \_\_\_\_scriptive, not \_\_\_\_scriptive. What does that mean?

What is so striking about the Acts 2 "model" of church?

How is it that one could read Acts 2:42 to describe 2 realities of the early church, rather than 4?

What is *koinonia*?

What does Acts 2:44-45 and Acts 4:33-34 teach us about the sequence of ministry within Christ's body?

Why is Luke's depiction of the early church not merely utopian or naïve?

What is one of this book's (and our culture's) greatest weaknesses?

*"No church model will produce God's life in you. It works the other way around. Our life in God, shared together, expresses itself as the church."*

- So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore -

## **So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore Small Group Discussion Questions: Week 5: Chapters 9-10**

### **Mixer:**

Share one thing (the best thing) you enjoyed about the church you grew up in.

### **Chapter 9:**

1. On pg 102, John talks about protecting ourselves at someone else's expense. How do we do this? Phil. 2:1-4
2. (103) How do children fit in at Bridge? Is there anything you would like to see different?
3. (105) Do you see your church more as a *family* you love or a *meeting* you attend?
4. (106) Acts 2 and 5 speak of the life of the early church and what happened as a result of them following Christ. There are many voices that say "You need to do church this way, this way is the right (biblical) way." That could be house churches, communal living, "reformed worship," etc. John says the important part (for them and for us) is not how you do church but why you do church. What do you think?
5. (108) John says that principles alone will not satisfy our hunger. His implication is that relationship with Father is what will satisfy. How are principles (truths, doctrines) and relationship different?
6. (110) "The church is God's people learning to share his life together." How are you learning to share God's life together?

### **Chapter 10:**

1. **\*You may end up spending a longer time on this item.** Commitment or discipline are mostly negative words in the book. Using scripture, talk about freedom, commitment, discipline and trust and how you think God weaves them all together. (Rom. 7:4-6, Gal. 5:1, 1 Cor. 9:24-27,
2. (120) John says "It's not about teaching, Jake. It's about living. Learn to live this life and you'll find no end of folks to share it with. Teach it first, however, and that will be your substitute for living it." How do we learn to live this life (how do we learn to live loved)?
3. Read the paragraph on 121 that starts with "Mistrust will only..." Increasing trust is the fruit of any healthy relationship. How are you learning to trust God more through your life circumstances? (Relationships, finances, health concerns, struggles, etc.)

### **Wrapping It Up:**

When we start to fear, we often compromise what we believe is right, for what we believe is safe. In *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* Lewis writes about Aslan (the Christ figure) "He's not safe, but He is good." What's one way you can work on trusting Christ's goodness even in places where He doesn't seem safe?