

Chapter 4 – The Early Church

Remember, teach what you learn and share life, not just information.

Coaching Conversations:

As the remaining chapters continues to be more and more externally focused (fellowship with believers, reaching all nations, etc.), you might consider inviting a “special guest” to come share with and answer questions for your group. Pertaining to fellowship, is there someone you know who is very active in meeting the needs of the people around them? Invite them to your group and ask them what motivates them to serve from day to day. Have them share about their personal experiences and allow your group members to ask them specific questions. Do you know someone who has served in missions overseas? Invite them to your group next week and have them share about who they are reaching and what they’ve had to endure to serve the Lord in that way. Depending on the needs and spiritual maturity of your group members, consider if it might be beneficial to have someone join your group for an evening to give them a practical example of someone else who is being faithful in following the Lord in the ways we’re talking about. This will give them a personal model to look to and maybe even emulate.

How HIS-story becomes My Story:

GOD’S STORY - God uses His Church to transform lives and to accomplish His will.

OUR STORY - As believers, we are no longer individuals, but members of Christ’s body; the Church.

MY STORY - As a member of Christ’s body, I should fully embrace what it means to live in Biblical community.

Starting the Conversation:

Based on our discussion last week, are you more aware of the Spirit’s presence in your life? In reflecting on the previous week’s events, would those around you say you were “walking by the Spirit” or would they say you were “grieving the Spirit?”

Additional Recommended Resources:

- *“A Picture of Biblical Community”* – An article by CruPress (referenced also in Part 2, Chapter 2 – “The Local Church”)
- *“What should be the mission of the Church?”* – GotQuestions.org article