

Session 11: Serving Your Community and World

In this session, we're going to focus on two things:

- Creating a community of believers with the group members **outside** of the regular group meeting time.
- Figuring out how the small-group members can impact the greater community.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

Breaking down Acts 2:42-47.

- What do we see the believers doing in this passage?
 - Teaching/Learning - studying God's word, going deeper together.
 - Fellowship - doing life together, having fun, sharing meals, etc.
 - Communion - sharing the Lord's Supper.
 - Prayer - praying for one another, praying together, celebrating answered prayers.
 - Awe - recognizing and celebrating how God is working.
 - Love in action - discovered needs and met those needs in practical ways.
 - Intimacy - going deeper with one another.
 - Thankfulness - living with an attitude of thankfulness and gratitude.
 - Worshiping God - giving the glory to God, praise, worship.
 - Community - creating community within the group.
- What would happen if this is how we lived out our faith as a community of believers?
 - How might this change our community within the small group?
 - How would this change our greater community?

BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN THE GROUP

- How can the small-group leader help the group members live out this passage **with one another during the week**—outside of the small-group meeting time? (The more specific you can get, the better the discussion will be.)
 - WHAT = The specific things you want the small-group members to do.
 - HOW = The specific things you can do to encourage/equip them.

	WHAT (Their Part)	HOW (Your Part)
GROWING IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AND HIS WORD		
PRAYER		
FELLOWSHIP, INTIMACY, & COMMUNITY		
COMMUNION & WORSHIP		
LOVE IN ACTION, AWE, & THANKFULNESS		

REACHING THE GREATER COMMUNITY - PART ONE

...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

From the passage above we see the early church was having an impact on people who lived around them. As a result, *the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

- Brainstorm how a small group could serve people in the community. Come up with as many **ideas** as you can in five minutes. Be as specific as possible. Capture the responses on the chart below.

Ideas for how the small group can impact the community	
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REACHING THE GREATER COMMUNITY - PART TWO

- What is the project or event and its purpose?
- Think of ways to be intentional **with those you are serving** during the event or activity:
 - Building relationships with those you serve (people in the community).
 - Connecting them to the church.
 - Connecting them to God.

Project	
Purpose	
Building Relationships with People in the Community	
Connecting People to Church	
Connecting People to God	

REACHING THE GREATER COMMUNITY - PART THREE

Think of ways that the small-group leader can be intentional **with the group members** as they plan the event, accomplish the serve project, celebrate afterwards, and debrief how it went.

- Creating buy-in, brainstorming and planning.
- Putting people in the right places in light of their gifts, abilities, growth opportunities.
- Before you begin serving, pray, meet, have rally time, invite God in to the event.
- As you serve, pray, help them see God at work, develop people, mentor, etc.
- After the event, debrief, praise God, celebrate, follow-up with those you served, develop an event-planning document for other groups to use in the future, plan next steps – global impact/mission trip, etc.

Creating Buy-in, Brainstorming & Planning the Project	
Creating Places to Play, Utilizing Gifts, Developing People	
Before the Event	
As You Serve	
After the Event – Celebrate, Praise, Debrief & Plan for the Future	

Application Questions:

1. What are some ways you can intentionally create community with your small-group members outside of the regular small-group meeting? What is your part? What part do the others in your group need to play? How is God involved?

2. What are your ideas for how your small group can impact the greater community? How will you make these ideas a reality in your group? How will you be intentional with those you serve as well as growing those in your group as you serve together?