



## LOVING JESUS, LOVING PEOPLE, PLOWING A COUNTER-CULTURE

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**TEXT:** Acts 2

**MAIN IDEA:** The first ingredient for a powerful movement of God is devotion to the Apostles' teaching.

### LEADERS:

- If you or someone you know is a young adult looking to connect with others in the same stage of life, while also hearing some teaching that is super relevant to you, then look no further than College-ish! We will be meeting on Mondays from May 30–July 4 at 7 pm at our Totowa campus. No sign-up necessary. More details to come.
- Baptism is coming up on May 22! If you are a believer in Jesus, but have never taken the plunge, this is your opportunity to obey Jesus by proclaiming your new life in him through baptism. Sign up on the Digital Bulletin through May 8.
- We will be having a family dedication service on June 5th. This is where we as parents and as a church commit to raising our children in the love and knowledge of Jesus. Do you have kiddos under age 5 and have never done this? Then sign up—wait for it—on the Digital Bulletin!

### GETTING STARTED:

- Watch this week's Community Extras Video.
  - **Icebreaker:** Who did the best thing for Mother's Day?
  - **Opener:** What's your New Year's resolution for *next* year? (just kidding—go ahead and start the discussion!!)
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## KEY INGREDIENTS FOR A POWERFUL MOVEMENT OF GOD

Acts chapter 2 ends with a description of the church as it formed in the aftermath of Peter's Spirit-empowered sermon on the day of Pentecost. Here we see many of the things that prepare the soil for God to give growth, both personally and corporately (see 1 Corinthians 3:6–9). Over the next few weeks, are going to be looking at these "ingredients."

**Read Acts 2:42–47.**



Which of the elements described in these verses do you find lacking in American Christian culture? What about in your own life?



For which of these elements do you have the most passion? For which should you be more passionate than you currently are?



## DEVOTION TO THE APOSTLES' TEACHING



Read Acts 1:21–24. According to these verses, what three things make an Apostle?

*Leaders: "Apostle" simply means "sent one" or "emissary." The New Testament can use this word to refer simply to individuals "on a mission." Two examples of this: (1) Epaphroditus, who was sent from the Philippian church to minister to Paul's needs in prison (Philippians 2:25). (2) Jesus' words in John 13:16: ". . . a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him." On the other hand, the twelve, and later Paul, are set apart and designated as Apostles by Jesus himself. This is a special office within the early church that bestowed special authority on specific individuals, upon whose ministry Christ would build his church. It may be helpful to maintain clarity on this by speaking of "big A Apostles" and "little a apostles."*

### The Apostles' Teaching Was Biblical

**Read Acts 2:14–21.**



What alternatives to biblical teaching are sometimes (often?) present in the church?



Why is biblical teaching so much more important than these alternatives?



How can Christians generally and you specifically support the ministry of biblical teaching in your church?

### The Apostles' Teaching was Theological

**Read Acts 2:22–23.**



What is theology and why is it important for every Christian (and really, every person)?



Notice that "biblical" and "theological" are two distinct points in this week's sermon. How is it really possible for teaching to be biblical but not theological? What about theological but not biblical?





Consider the two verses we just read. What theological point(s) are made here?





## **The Apostles' Teaching Pointed to Christ**

**Read Acts 2:24–36.**


- ①  What pressures exist in today's culture that might lead a church to put out sub-Christian teaching that does not point to Jesus?
- ②  Why is it important that all the church's teachings point people to Jesus? Can't we take a week off or something?

## **The Apostles' Teaching Was Contextual**

- ③  What does it mean to contextualize biblical truth, and why is this important?
-  How does Peter contextualize his message for the first-century Jewish audience he is trying to reach?
- ④ What are some appropriate and important things to take into consideration when contextualizing the gospel today?



## **The Apostles' Teaching Brought Conviction**

**Read Acts 2:37**

-  ⑤ In John 16:8–11, Jesus tells us that it is ultimately the Spirit who brings conviction. Does that mean we play no part in that? And if not, what is our role in convicting hearts?
- ⑥ When was the last time you were truly convicted by something you heard in a message at church, or in your personal time in the Scriptures?

## **The Apostles' Teaching Shared the Gospel**

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:1–8.**

- ⑦  According to Paul in this passage, what are the key elements of the gospel?
-  Where do you find these elements in Peter's sermon in Acts 2?



What are some of the different ways Paul speaks of the gospel's primacy in this passage?

### **The Apostle's Teaching Goal Was Salvation**



Why is it sometimes difficult to present Christian teaching in a way that has salvation as its goal?



How can we present teaching that is not explicitly salvation-oriented in a way that is aimed towards salvation?

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### **PRAYER TIME**

Praise God for delivering to us the Apostles' teaching in the Scriptures, and for all the resources he gives us to aid in our understanding of it (especially his Spirit).

Pray that God would help you in your communication of biblical truth, that it would reflect the priorities of the Apostles.

Continue to pray for our country, as we wrestle with the implication of the apparent upcoming Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.