

FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of May 21st, 2006

Acts 2:14-41; A Believing Community

For Small-Group Leaders

We trust not because “a God” exists, but because *this* God exists. CS Lewis

Dear Leaders,

In our culture, which is under-girded by a strong western educational model, knowledge is king. As we continue to become more and more information saturated, the pressure to know more and more will continue to rise. Sometimes people equate knowledge with belief. But biblical belief is a lot more than knowledge about certain facts. It involves the entirety of our being. This is what we see in the early church. In the example of the early church we find a belief that was truly transformational. Let's learn together about the belief that saves.

Blessings to you,

Scott

These small group materials are available at the info table each Sunday and at www.fbcdavis.org.

Discussion Starters:

- **Believe:** Have you ever possessed a belief that you later discovered to be false. What was it that you believed?
- **Existence:** Do you think it takes more faith to believe in God or to not believe in God (atheism)?

Discussion Questions:

Introduction: Read Acts 2:14-41 together.

1. The book of Acts is all about the Acts of the Apostles. What kind of “act” was this on Peter’s part? In other words, what was required of him to stand up in front of 100’s and say what he said?
2. If you were to entitle Peter’s sermon, what would you call it?
3. What stands out to you in Peter’s sermon?
4. Based upon Peter’s sermon, how would you summarize the message of Jesus?
5. How did the people respond to Peter’s message?
6. What role did the Spirit have in their response?
7. What characterized the “belief” of the people in verse 37?
8. Why did they ask, “what shall we do” as opposed to “what shall we believe?”
9. Peter’s answer to their question is found in verses 38-39. What do his comments tell us about belief or faith? How is this kind of belief different from an intellectual only kind of faith?
10. The word “repent” literally means to “turn.” What role does repentance play in our lives after we come to faith in Christ?

Getting Personal:

- What is the next step in your faith journey with Christ? For these new believers in Acts 2, their next step was to be baptized into the early church community (see verse 41). What is your next step?

Putting it into Practice:

- Pray for each other that God would give your group members the strength and grace to step out in faith.