

FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of July 9th, 2006

Acts 2:47b; an Evangelistic Community

For Small-Group Leaders

Dear Leaders,

Becky Pippert in her classic book, "Out of the Saltshaker," claims that there is something that both believers and unbelievers have in common. We both share a common fear of evangelism. If it's so uncomfortable for all of us, why bother? Why not just dispel with the discomfort and fear and not ruffle people's feathers? Well, you can imagine where we would be right now if God took that tact with us. Can you imagine the scene in heaven? Both the Father and the Son, discussing the discomfort of sending his Son to a place that didn't really want him. Why bother? The answer is singular. Love. Love for others is the only reason why God overcame the barriers to sending his Son to an unwelcome place called planet earth.

Love is the only thing that will propel us beyond fear and enable us to share our faith with others. That is what the witnesses to the early church must have observed - real love as believers cared for each other and for those who were outside the church. May God fill us with this same love as we care for those who don't yet know.

Scott

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

Discussion Starters:

- **Who Loved You?** Who loved you enough to tell you about the gospel of Christ?
- **Obstacle:** What keeps you from sharing your faith with others? Fear or something else?

Discussion Questions:

Introduction: Read Acts 2:42-47 (focusing on 2:47b)

1. What was God doing in the church? What was he doing outside the church?
2. Verse 47 says people were added to the church. Who was doing the adding? Why do you think Luke (the author of Acts) credited God as opposed to Peter, the apostles, or other believers?
3. Who do we tend to give credit to when someone comes to faith in Christ, or when someone makes a big step of growth in their faith?
4. What were these "added" people being saved from?
5. Consider the culture of the day for a moment. What obstacles prevented a devout Jew from deciding to place his faith in Jesus?
6. Consider those who were being added. What were they seeing or hearing that drew them into the church community?
7. How much of what they saw was community oriented as opposed to hearing the gospel from an individual?
8. Read John 17:23. How does this verse relate to and help explain what is happening in Acts 2?

Getting Personal:

- What do you think those outside of FBC see, hear, or think about our church?
- What do they see, hear, or think about our home group?
- What can we learn from the early church about being a church community that represents Christ well and draws people to our FBC community?

Putting it into Practice:

- Spend some time praying for FBC, that we would grow in love for those in our area who are lost without Christ. Pray for some specific friends and neighbors who do not yet know Jesus. Pray for your home group and its witness to the watching world.