

“BE THE CHURCH” EXERCISE

This is an exercise for groups who have been learning to read, obey and share Scripture together, to take some next steps as a group. Today, we will look at a passage from the book of Acts about the early church to see what we can learn from them in order to become more like them.

Grab a whiteboard or large piece of paper if possible, that everyone can see.

Review:

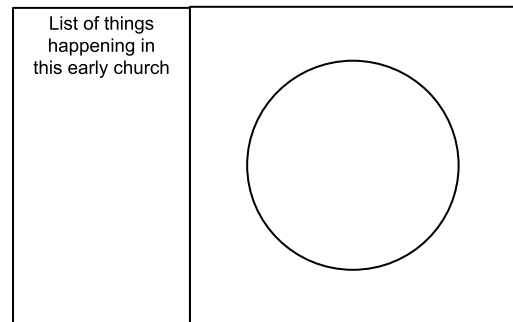
- What is a “high” and “low” from your week? Pray for anything shared that needs prayer.
- What was our Scripture passage from last week? Did you follow through on your I WILL and SHARE? Has anyone found someone who may be a person of peace?

Go to **Acts 2:36-47**. Read, re-read and retell this passage together as a group.

On the left third of your white board or paper, make a list together of all the things that were happening in this early church including what these Christ followers were doing and experiencing (prayer, breaking bread, etc.), and what God was doing (miracles, etc.).

On the right 2/3 of the whiteboard, draw a circle that takes up about half of the white space.

- *Inside the circle*, write from your list all of the things your group has been doing, seeing or experiencing (You can abbreviate or use symbols if necessary to save space). Write things you feel you are doing well and seeing a lot near the CENTER of the circle.
- *Outside the circle*, write from your list things that your group is not yet doing or experiencing.
- *What’s inside the circle we’re encouraged about?* *What’s inside the circle that we’d like to see more of or grow in, to be more like the early church?*
- *What is outside the circle that we need to move inside the circle?*



Final Questions:

- What do we believe God might be saying to us as a group?
- What is our I WILL as a group? What steps will we take to model ourselves more after the early church?
- With whom will we each share this passage?