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Leader Study Guide

Week of Easter 3: April 30-May 6; Acts 2:37-47

Intro Question

Describe a time where someone showed you hospitality above and beyond the call of duty.

Collect

Almighty God, you gave your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and an example of godly living: Give us the grace thankfully to receive this his inestimable benefit, and daily to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Text (NRSV)

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day

about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Life among the Believers

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Questions

● **Observation Questions**

- Who was preaching and what do we remember about this event?
- Where is this event taking place and who converted?
- What did these new believers “devote” themselves to? What do you think this looked like practically?
- What did these new believers do together? What do you think it means to have “all things in common”?
- Why were they spending a lot of time in the temple? How different was Christianity from Judaism at this point?
- What are some key words to describe what these believers did together?
- What was the result of their lives?

● **Application Questions**

- What time of prayer rhythm do you have and how could you add or modify it to be more useful to you?
- Do you pray often with others? If not, are there creative ways you can think of to be making this more of a priority?
- What would it look like for us to be sincere and thankful in our generosity? Besides money what other things can one abound in or have lack in?

- What would it look like to be generous, or charitable, with something such as our time or even our natural abilities?

Prayer