

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

Studies in the Book of Acts

“The Jesus People” – Acts 2:38-47

FELLOWSHIP

Western culture enjoys the luxury of hobbies, sport and entertainment. The rest of the world watches from the sideline of survival as our society benefits from decades of economic and political success. For some, this has afforded mere interests to elevate into lifestyles. Have you known someone who has immersed themselves in a favorite team? Where they not only know every stat, but dress themselves and home in all the logos and colors? Deeper still is the growth of science fiction. Most like a good movie or video game, but the twenty-first century has coined the term “fanboys” to describe those that live in these fantasies. The explosive growth in this area is seen in the annual ComicCon conference in San Diego. What started out forty years ago as a comic book expo with a hundred people, has grown into an international event that draws over 200,000 people each year. Actor’s keynotes are carried by major media and attendees dress in high-end costumes with a chance to reenact their favorite scenes from games, movies and shows. But it’s the fan’s encyclopedic memory recall of these fictional stories and characters that is so impressive. They know every detail and layer of their heroes. How ironic that as the institutions of entertainment and politics crumble in front of us, the investment can seem so vain. Peter’s invitation at Pentecost to, “Be saved from this perverse generation,” continues to be relevant two thousand years later. Through Jesus one can find real identity and purpose. Through Jesus one has real truth, real stories, and a fulfilling lifestyle. Like the early church, those that follow Him will make Him the main thing. Those that share this passion for Jesus form a family, or a community. Like in Acts, whether they were talking, eating, hanging out, or praying together, the center of their affection was the real Messiah and God-Man, Jesus.

READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together again as a group Acts 2:38-47. The means to commonality was the early church’s focus on Jesus. They were not interested in moderation, they practiced discipleship. The forty-second verse contains the ingredients of any group which intends to be immersed in Christ.

Acts 2:46–47 ***And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.***

- **The Jesus Story.** The Apostle’s experiences with Jesus were being shared everywhere. *How did the early church’s use of the Old Testament change in light of Jesus? Why would a love for Jesus increase a love of Scripture? How has your understanding of Jesus changed your understanding of the Bible? Why do you think the history of Jesus was shared and written in story form? How do you share Jesus?*
- **The Jesus Lifestyle.** Jesus had modeled how to treat others, “He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil.” (Acts 10:38) *How does Jesus become a “lifestyle” vs. just a part of your life? How should the Gospel be reflected inside the church body? In Acts 2, what was the reputation of the church with the larger community? How can we show Jesus to our neighbors?*
- **The Jesus Sacrifice.** Breaking bread together infers the Lord’s table. *Why is corporate worship so important to our faith? Why is rehearsing the death and resurrection of Jesus to each other important? How does exercising communion together bring equality and solidarity to the church?*
- **The Jesus Privilege.** The concepts of religion and the divine were changed forever when Jesus introduced God as “Father.” *How did Jesus change your approach to God? How do you balance reverence and relationship with God? How did Jesus model taking initiative with God through prayer?*

PRAY Let’s ask God for grace to strengthen all these aspects of discipleship so that we too might gain more favor in our neighborhoods and see, “The Lord add to the church daily those who are being saved.”



Community Group Discussion Guide

Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen’s message on October 29, 2017.

Watch: <https://cccm.com/teaching/the-spirit-the-church-and-the-world/video/jesus-people/>