

## **Jesus' Epic Strategy: Discipleship**

**Our mission:** To lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ; by creating environments that encourage and equip people to pursue intimacy with God, community with insiders and influence with outsiders.

### **Key Scriptures**

John 17:4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

Acts 2:42-47 <sup>42</sup> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. <sup>43</sup> Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, <sup>46</sup> So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

**Key Point:** One way to live right side up in an upside-down world is to go back to the original mission Jesus gave us.

## **TALK IT OVER**

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What do you look forward to about Community Groups? What do you hope to get out of this semester?

**Start thinking.** Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- In John 17, what kinds of things does Jesus say about His disciples. What kinds of things did He do with them to finish the work The Father gave Him?
- If you were to restate Matt 28:18-20 in your own words, what is Jesus' epic strategy? Does it sound more to you like a command or like an enablement? Why?
- In Acts 1-4, Kyle drew five examples of what the early church was like.
  - Acts 1:8 They were empowered by the Holy Spirit.
  - Acts 2:42-47 Close Authentic Community: with an emphasis of meeting house to house and eating meals together.
  - Acts 4:24 They trusted God's Sovereignty and prayed together.
  - Acts 4:32-34 They were generous, sharing what they had with one another.
  - Acts 6 They mobilized every member in ministry and mission.

Is what the early church did consistent with how Jesus taught His disciples? How so?

**Start sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- In Acts 1-4, and how the church went from a small group of 120 disciples to thousands, and over time the church changed the culture. Do you believe culture could be transformed again? Why or why not?

**Start doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- What is the next spiritual step you need to take? Baptism? Giving an offering back to God? Singing and Praising? Involving yourself in a ministry of the church? Serving someone? Reaching out to a person who is far from God?

**Prayer Requests.** It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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