**Small Group Sermon Questions**

 **Sunday, March 10, 2019**

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***Part 6: Growth***

***Opening question***

1. Share a time where you felt deep community.
2. Share a time where you felt like part of a mission.

***Going Deeper Questions***

1. Read Acts 2:42-47. How would you explain the growth in this community?
2. Sid shared this quote from Scott Peck that described the church… “a community of Christ followers that is hard at the center and soft at the edges.” What do you think he means? Does this describe the church you want to belong to?

1. Another quote from Peck… “Community is and must be inclusive. The great enemy of community is exclusivity. Groups that exclude others because they are poor or divorced or sinners…are not communities; they are cliques – actually defensive bastions against community.” How do you react to this quote? Do you think this would be the posture of this Acts 2 community?
2. “Justice and worship and mutuality are not the extraordinary accomplishmentss of extraordinary folks… they are the work of God’s Spirit among us as ordinary people.” Why is this such good news? Why is it so humbling?
3. Read Matthew 28:19-20. How can community work against the Great Commission?
4. Read Acts 15:1-21. How had the Acts 2 community matured in this passage? What does this say to us as a church?
5. Mike Frost said, “Those who love community destroy it, but those who love people build community.” How do community and mission go hand in hand? (Think of the story Sid shared about the geese)
6. What’s more likely to fall by the wayside in churches… community building or mission? Why do you say that?
7. Sid said, ‘ We must face what we’re up against; what’s in us that get’s in the way…my brokeness, my sin, my addictive tendencies. And then we need something far more compelling than protecting ourselves and our egos.” How do we see this working out in community? How does this enhance mission?
8. Marva Dawn writes how when a community of believers meets in worship they are formed more deeply into the people of God. And then they are more likely to impact their neighbourhoods with the quality of their lifestyles and relationships. Sid said he wanted to believe this to be true but too often he saw churches loving worship but with little effect on the way they lived. Should worship change us so that we are a more engaging and missional people? Explain.
9. Poet president Vaclav Havel said of the velvet revolution (Czech overthrow of communism without violence), ‘we had our parallel society and in that parallel society we wrote our plays and sang our songs and read our poems until we knew the truth so well we could go out to the streets of Prague and say to the government of the day… We don’t believe your lies anymore and communism had to fall.” How is the Acts 2 community and the healthy church a parallel society?