



We're in the Good Old Days | Doug Wekenman, Ryan Wekenman, Ethan Mattot | 10.03.21

Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following questions:

What is one thing or dream God is currently putting on your heart?

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week Doug, Ryan, and Ethan gave us some insight into their own vantage points, including the story behind planting Red Rocks Austin. Every season is considered "the good old days", which should propel us into playing offense rather than defense. There's no looking back; only forward towards eternity. Before we dive into the sermon, take some time to check in with your Group by answering these questions.

The next series will focus on getting back to the basics of our faith. What's one thing you're hoping to get out of that series that will help you with your vantage point?

What is one thing you feel like God is teaching you right now?

What was the most challenging part of your week?

What was the highlight of your week?

GROW

Acts 4:23-31

Which verse stands out to you?

What is the boldest prayer you've ever prayed?

Do you pray bold prayers, or do you believe that part of respecting and fearing God is having to pray humble or modest prayers to not inconvenience Him? In this passage a group that included Jesus' disciples Peter and John come together to pray a bold prayer that God answers instantly. The bible tells us in another passage that "And this is the boldness which we have toward him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he heareth us whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him..." 1 John 5:14-15 ASV.

"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly..." Acts 4:31. The Holy Spirit, the helper, is always helping us become more like Jesus. In addition to helping us speak God's word with confidence, the Holy spirit also gives us wisdom, knowledge, truth, and comforts us while living our life for Christ. So, if a result of praying bold prayers fills you with the Holy Spirit to be able to speak God's word boldly, why not pray only courageous prayers?

Who is the Holy Spirit in your own words?

Have you ever had an experienced the Holy Spirit? If so, tell the Group about it.

MOVE

Read Acts 4:32-37

What's your takeaway from this passage?

Verse 32 says that the believers were "in one heart and one mind." What does that mean to you?

Acts was written about the very first Church that ever existed and is a road map of how they navigated trials and grew together as a community. It is not only wisdom to glean from, but a playbook for us as we walk out our faith as the 21st century Church. There are two distinct themes discussed in this passage that show us what was priority and what helped them succeed.

"In one heart and one mind" in this passage speaks to unity. Unity is something that is constantly being challenged. Not only in the Church, but in the world we live in. Everywhere you look you can see a differing of opinions and a striving to prove who is "right." But this passage begins with addressing unity first and setting the tone for what is about to take place. This shows us the value that unity held in the first Church.

The second theme communicated is generosity. Verse 32 says, "No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had." And later in the passage it says that people sold what they had, and it was distributed to those who were in need. One thing that unity and generosity have in common is that they are both issues of the heart and require laying down our own agendas for the good of others.

After unity and generosity, it says that the apostles testified with "great power" and that God's grace was "powerfully at work." May we be people of unity and generosity so that we see God's grace continue to work powerfully through us.

What are some ways that we can protect unity in our community?

In the message on Sunday, Doug shared that he wants our church to be a place that has wide doors, deep roots, and a far reach. Which one of those most resonates with you and why?

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

“For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.”
- 1 Corinthians 3:9