

MOVEMENTS

THE ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

MOVEMENT 2: FORWARD

Queue up the 13-minute video, "Movement 2," available online at www.fbclodi.org/community-groups. **Before beginning the video, pray together and have someone in your group read aloud Acts chapter 1, vv. 1-11.**

Discussion Questions for Moving Deeper:

1. What does it mean to you when we say, "The King (Jesus) has only just begun?"
2. In Acts 1:7-8, Jesus' response to the disciples question about when He would "restore the Kingdom" is basically, "you will be empowered." Jesus then says that "you will be my witnesses." What does it mean to you to "Witness to the King?"
3. Have someone read aloud Acts chapter 3, vv. 1-19. How did Peter and John interpret what it means to "witness to the King?" Is there a model in this story we can follow? Can we follow it even if we're not necessarily equipped with the gift of healing?
4. What would it look like for our community group to "Move Forward?" In what ways can we witness to the story of King Jesus as a community?

Questions for Moving Deeper Still

(Don't worry about these if you are out of time or have other things to do as a group.)

1. Read Acts 2:37-47, the story of the results of Pentecost. After Jesus sent His spirit to His followers, this is what happened.
2. In what ways does the "church" in Acts 2 witness to Jesus? How are they taking the story forward?
3. How can we model our community group after the things we see here?

Moving Beyond

(Personal Devotions for individual group members later in the week)

Read 1 John 1:1-7.

In this week's study, we looked at the fact that a major aspect of a Christian Community is to "Witness to the King;" to live out our communal life in a way that is faithful to God's great rescue story. We want to reflect what He is doing in this world, and ultimately move His story forward.

However, for as much as we can try to live faithfully to God's story as a group, we will find it difficult or impossible to do so if we are not each being faithful to His story in our individual lives. This week, your goal is to work on one aspect of your life, with the aim of bringing it in line with God's story in this world.

1. In 1:1-4, John talks about having seen and touched and witnessed "life." He and the other disciples had spent time with Jesus and they were forever changed. Is there a time in your life where you felt that Jesus was truly changing you?
2. Is He still changing you? How so? If not, Why not?
3. In 1:5-7, John says that God is Light. In order for us to be faithful to His story, then we need to be walking in the light. Are there aspects of your life that you are keeping in darkness? Hiding from others? Why?
4. This next week, You and your group will be talking about "Moving Inward." You will be looking at that fact that one of the key purposes of a community group is to have others who know you really well, and with whom you are not afraid to talk about your struggles, your sins, or your pain. Spend some time praying and processing this week what you might be comfortable sharing with your group in these areas; what you might be comfortable "bringing into the light." At this stage in the game, especially if you are a new community group, you may not be comfortable sharing everything, and that's OK. The goal is simply to be moving toward openness, and that takes time.