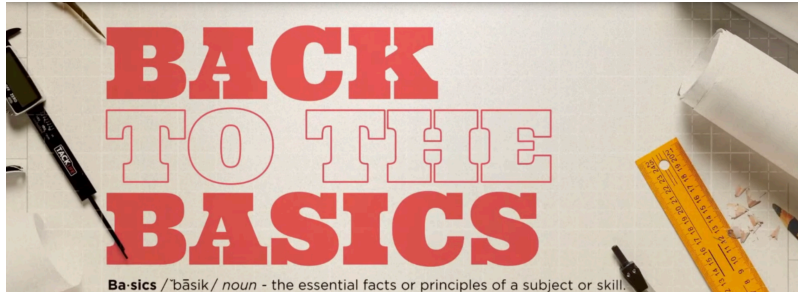


Instructions:

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



Series description:

The story of Acts is the story of the church, the Spirit drawing diverse people together around a common purpose and a common mission. Acts is the roots of our church, the origins of our faith. Join us as we go back to the basics as we explore the shared practices, leadership, mission, and spirit that defined the earliest followers of Christ. May they be simple guidelines and inspiration for us today.

Message description:

Acts 2 begins with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and then outlines a community of believers were drawn together by that Spirit. Together they shared practices of teaching, prayer, fellowship, hospita, and radical generosity. These weren't rigid rules, but natural outcomes of a community transformed by the Holy Spirit—people who reoriented their lives around the values of Jesus rather than the surrounding culture.

This kind of life is still possible today when people commit to living together with purpose, hospitality, and care for the vulnerable. But these practices must be descriptive, not prescriptive—they show what happens when a community is open to the work of the Spirit. **It is not what the church can or should do, it is about what the Spirit can do through a willing community. Are you willing? Are you listening? Are you ready to surrender to the work God might do among us? Can you trust God even in that uncertainty?**

Scripture: Acts 2:42-27

Questions based on this week's teaching:

1. The early church's practices (teaching, prayer, fellowship, generosity, hospitality) were responses to the Holy Spirit, not rigid rules. Where do you see the Spirit already at work in your life or community, and how might you join in rather than "add more programs"?
2. Acts 2 describes believers sharing resources so that "everyone had what they needed." What challenges or hesitations come up when you think about practicing that kind of generosity today? What might it look like in a realistic, modern context?
3. The early church oriented their lives around a different set of values than the surrounding culture. What values from our culture are hardest for you to resist, and what values of Jesus might the Spirit be inviting you to prioritize instead?
4. *What does your soul crave more of in Christian community right now?* (e.g., deeper relationships, prayer, support, accountability). How can you take a step toward sharing that need with others?