

Belfrey Group Notes for week beginning May 27

Celebrating as Church

Welcome:

What is your most memorable experience of celebrating something?

Worship:

Sing or listen to a couple of worship songs - perhaps: Goodness of God (I love you Lord), Did you feel the mountains tremble?

Word:

Read Acts 2:42-47 (you can even begin at verse 38)

Four marks of a Celebratory Church:

Forgiveness, Full of the Holy Spirit, Family, Feasting

- 1. In verse 38 Peter said "Each one of you must repent of your sins and turn to God..." Why is repentance necessary for the forgiveness of our sins?*
- 2. Have you experience or testimony of being forgiven? How did this make you feel?*
- 3. Have you ever found it hard to forgive someone? Is there someone you need to forgive?*
- 4. Earlier on in Acts 2:3 it says 'flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.' Have you experienced the presence and power of the Holy Spirit?*
- 5. Bill Johnson pastor of Bethel Church says "we are born to burn". Are you 'on fire' for God? What does this look like? Do you want to be on fire for Him?*
- 6. Acts 2:38 says "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship." How well do you think you do this as a community/family? Are there things you need to sort out?*
- 7. Church is family. In what ways do you/don't you resemble family? Is a family meeting required?*
- 8. Feasting conveys outrageous generosity and love - something Jesus did for us on the cross? How can your Belfrey Group model this?*

Going Deeper:

- 1. Use the four marks of being a celebratory church to each score (0-10) how well you think your Belfrey Group is doing on each: Forgiveness, Full of the Holy Spirit, Family & Feasting. Discuss your results together.*
- 2. The model of the early church was simple and it saw extraordinary multiplication. In some nations across the world like China, we are seeing this kind of growth today. Why not in our own nation?*
- 3. "You never have to advertise a fire. Everyone comes running when there's a fire. Likewise, if your church is on fire, you will not have to advertise it. The community will already know it."
- Leonard Ravenhill*

Are we on fire?

Witness:

The challenge at church on Sunday was to make sure everyone left the building that day with an invitation: to a conversation, a coffee, meal or event. Maybe the group can continue this challenge this week and arrange a Belfrey Group social event to gather everyone.

Wind:

Why not celebrate each other? Choose one person and everyone celebrates that individual by filling them with encouragement, words and pictures. You could even pop open a bottle and 'toast' each person with a cheers before moving onto the next person.