

“It’s All About Jesus”

Series: “*More Than a Fan*” (Part 2 of 2)

Open: Describe a time when you participated on a team (sports / work / education / debate). What did that experience teach you about working together?

Explore: Read Acts 2:37-47.

1. How did Peter respond to those who heard the presentation of the good news and wanted to become followers of Christ (vs. 37-39)?
2. How many were saved after hearing Peter’s first sermon (vs. 40-42)? What four practices did these early believers devote themselves to as a church?
3. What words would you use to describe the atmosphere of the early church (vs. 43-47)? In what two locations did the first believers meet? What are the benefits of meeting in both locations?
4. Why do you think the early church was so appealing to non-believers?

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. Share your New Hope story (how you started attending the church / how long you’ve been attending, /what led you to make New Hope your church home)?
2. Read Matthew 16:24. In your own words, what does it mean to be a follower of Christ?
3. God has prepared people “for works of service... until we all reach unity in the faith.” How have others influenced your faith journey? How can God use to influence others in their faith journey?
4. Do you think it is more common for people to compete against one another or complete one another spiritually? Explain. Why is it important to cultivate a “we” mentality rather than a “me” mentality when it comes to being the church?
5. Following Christ requires full devotion. How would you describe your level of devotion over the past 6 months (I’m really growing, I was on fire, but I’ve started to lose it / I’ve been distracted by life)? Discuss ways your group can encourage one another toward full devotion.

Live:

As a group: Divide into sub-groups (women / men) for this next part. We can do more for the Kingdom of God together than we can apart. Is there anything you need to stop doing / start doing to get where God wants you to be? Pray for one another and hold one another accountable over the weeks ahead.

On your own: Ask yourself the following question: What am I doing to help fulfill the mission of the church? What step will I take this week (make the commitment to follow Christ, join a ministry team, connect with a CARE Group, or invite a friend to church) to help fulfill the mission of the church?

Listening Guide Notes

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.” -Matthew 16:24 (NIV)

Why be more than a fan?

1. The Church is God’s idea.

^[11] *“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ^[12] to prepare God’s people for works of service...” -Ephesians 4:11-12a (NIV)*

2. Community is God’s plan.

^[12] *“...so that the body of Christ may be built up ^[13] until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” -Ephesians 4:12b-13 (NIV)*

^[21] *“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ And the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’... ^[24] But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ^[25] so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other... ^[27] Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” -1 Corinthians 12:21, 24b-25, 27 (NIV)*

3. Commitment* is God’s Goal.

*Full Devotion

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.” -Ephesians 4:14 (NIV)

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.” -Ephesians 4:15 (NIV)

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” -Ephesians 4:16 (NIV)

The Mission:

To Know Christ, and to Make Him Known.