

# Discovery Group - Community Foundations

## (4) Meeting One Another's Needs

### **A**ccountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

### **B**ible: Acts 4:32-35

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- What do we learn from the passage about Christian community (family)?
- How does this passage reveal a church that truly glorified Jesus and made Him known? What does this mean for us?

### **C**ommit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

*Abide*: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

James 1:27

1 John 3:11-18

Matthew 25:31-46

## Meeting One Another's Needs

As with each of these lessons about life in the Christian Family, the big picture is learning to glorify Jesus and reveal His character to the world around us. This is certainly true when we think about meeting one another's needs.

In a very few verses, our passage paints a picture that is at once incredibly inspiring and overwhelmingly daunting. In reading it, our hearts leap for joy and cry out in longing, while at the same time backing away and defending our status quo. Surely this was somehow easier for them back in those days? There must be some catch? How are we to respond in our own day and context?

*“No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own.”* Is this Jesus' vision for His family on earth, or simply a description of how some idealistic and perhaps over-zealous folks tried to follow Him? What is He saying to us today in this powerful scripture?

We must begin with the issue of possession. Lordship. Rights. The truth is that when we surrendered to Jesus and He entered our lives, He did make us new creations. And He did take ownership. We are His. And all that we possess is also His. Thus, the claim of ownership must be surrendered to Him. This is an ongoing work of grace in our hearts. Jesus owns all the stuff.

Next, we must face the fact that we need each other. God loves to meet our needs, and His favorite way to do so seems to be through our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thus, we are called to be uncomfortably *vulnerable* with one another so that they can know and have an opportunity to meet our needs.

Furthermore, it is clear that we have a special duty to those in our spiritual family. We have a solemn obligation to care for one another. The miracle of *‘there were no needy persons among them’* is possible only through the work of God's grace leading to generosity of His people. Finally, caring for one another's needs somehow is related to the powerful proclamation of Jesus' resurrection. We help to prove the truth that Jesus is alive by radically caring for one another.