



ACTS: LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 4:32–37

Week of August 13, 2023

Start at 9:50–10:00

Belong: *Use 5–10 minutes as an opportunity to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and to know the group members.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Ask the question[s] below:

- **What possessions would you be willing to part with to help a friend in need?**
 - **What is one of the most memorable vision statement you have ever heard?**
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10:00–10:05

Believe: *Use 5 minutes to read this week's assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that helps you to understand the passage better. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

Have a group member read **Acts 4:32–37** aloud.

- Have the class summarize this section in 1–2 sentences.
 - What is your first reaction to these verses?
 - What is the most challenging aspect of this text for you?
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10:05–10:15

Build: *Use about 10 minutes to engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning.*

A couple of weeks ago, we spent a lot of time focusing on **Acts 2:42–47**. In those verses, we saw what life was like in the early church. We saw what they were devoted to [apostle's teachings, fellowship & prayer]. And today, we see a very similar pattern in **Acts 4:32–37**. In **Acts 4:32–37**, Luke gives his readers a sneak peek – or a look behind the curtain – of what life was like as the church was growing. To be honest – despite the growth of the church – the **Acts 4** church looks A LOT like the **Acts 2** church! Usually, there are growing pains in a church. As a church grows, it generally has difficulty keeping up with their original identity.

In **Acts 4**, we see a picture of how unity in the early church was established and how it was experienced. It was **established** through the gospel, and it was **experienced** through their generosity one to another. Again, not that different than **Acts 2** – right?

Radical generosity – like we see in both **Acts 2 & Acts 4** – is generated from the work of the Holy Spirit. In addition, radical generosity is gospel saturated. Honestly, this should be the prayer for FBC Portland – that God would so infuse His Holy Spirit in our midst that we would be known for our devotion to His Word, to community, to prayer and for radical generosity.

What keeps people from being radically generous?

- **Does "generosity" always refer to money?**

10:20–10:35/40

Become: Use about 15 minutes to apply what you have read. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?

How would you describe the **dominant mindset of our culture** when it comes to our **money, possessions, and stuff**?

- How would you describe the **dominant mindset of the church** when it comes to our **money, possessions and stuff**?

How would you describe the **dominant mindset of our culture** when it comes to our **time**?

Would we rather give our money, possessions and stuff than our time?

- How would you describe the **dominant mindset of the church** when it comes to our **time**?

How do you feel like FBC Portland does when practicing and exhibiting this part of Acts?

- Where and how could we stand to grow?

How is the concept of grace tied to being generous?

What does the resurrection have to do with generosity?

Barnabas is one of my favorite NT theologians. His heart, his humility and his obedience to the gospel was THE example in the early church. He was not only generous with his goods, but also with his encouragement. Have several group members volunteer to read the following verses: **Acts 9:26–27; Acts 11:22–26; and, Acts 15:36–41**

- What can we learn from the life of Barnabas?

10:35/ 10:40 – Class ends at 10:45

Begin: Use the last 5–10 minutes for prayer. It's important that we not only hear and discuss God's Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)

Do you see any of God's attributes in this week's passage that struck out to you?

How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time—sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

Additional Resources:

Blue Letter Bible: Acts 4: Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: Acts 4: Check out the QR code to learn more.

