

# WEEK FOUR: HEALTHY GROUPS

Jesus prayed all night, then He chose the 12 apostles. He poured His life into them through teaching, training, rebuking, and empowering them. When you read through the Bible, you notice that togetherness is a major theme. Following Jesus is far more about 'we' than 'me'. Jesus' groups do more than pray, study the Bible, and enjoy fellowship. Far too often we try to shrink God's vision and purpose. Jesus wants us to be on mission together and spread the gospel. The best context for spiritual growth and making disciples is in groups and these groups are God's plan to bring the gospel to every man, woman, and child.

## ● OPENING QUESTION

**How did you put last week's lesson into practice and how did John 15 make a difference with abiding during the week?**

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## ● READ

Acts 2:42-47

The early followers of Jesus faced intense persecution. They were outnumbered and mistreated. So many aspects of their journey were simply out of their control. They formed a solid foundation and a healthy culture. They identified what was most important to them and made the deepest commitments. They were willing to die for each other and their faith. They followed the Master's plan and example. They were filled with the Holy Spirit. With courage, they were different than the world, and they changed their world. Have you experienced relationships like this? Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). We can trust Jesus just like they trusted Jesus. Trust is at the core of every relationship.

## ● REFLECT

Acts 2:42-47

### WHO IS GOD?

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### WHAT HAS GOD DONE?

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### WHO ARE WE?

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### HOW DO WE LIVE?

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## ● REPENT

Choose transformation as you reject isolation, a critical spirit, any selfish elevation of your preferences, a rigidity that undermines relationships, trying to control others and outcomes, or overlooking and undervaluing the people God wants you to connect with in friendship. Your relationships heal and your community is strengthened when you align with who God is and how Jesus views people. Embrace the love God has for you and brings through other people.

## ● RESPOND

**MIND: What has always been Jesus' plan for His followers? (Mark 3:13-15)**

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**HEART: How can trust and vulnerability grow in your group? (1 John 4:10-12)**

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**HANDS: Write down the names of everyone in your group and carry the list with you this week as a reminder to pray. (Mark 3:13-18)**

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## ● PRAYER

Pray for each other daily and fervently. (Colossians 4:2-6)