

FELLOWSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Our hope for this Action Group is to form great friendships, helping us thrive as disciples of Jesus at university. Today we are going to look at the first Christian community in the book of Acts. Hopefully our Action Group can learn from it, and become like it as we live out our faith at university. We want this group to be so much more than just another class where we only see each other once a week.

LEADER'S NOTES:

Remember to book or think of the space you will meet. Notify students in your AG of the time and place. **Pause, take a moment right now to pray for your group - commit it to God!**

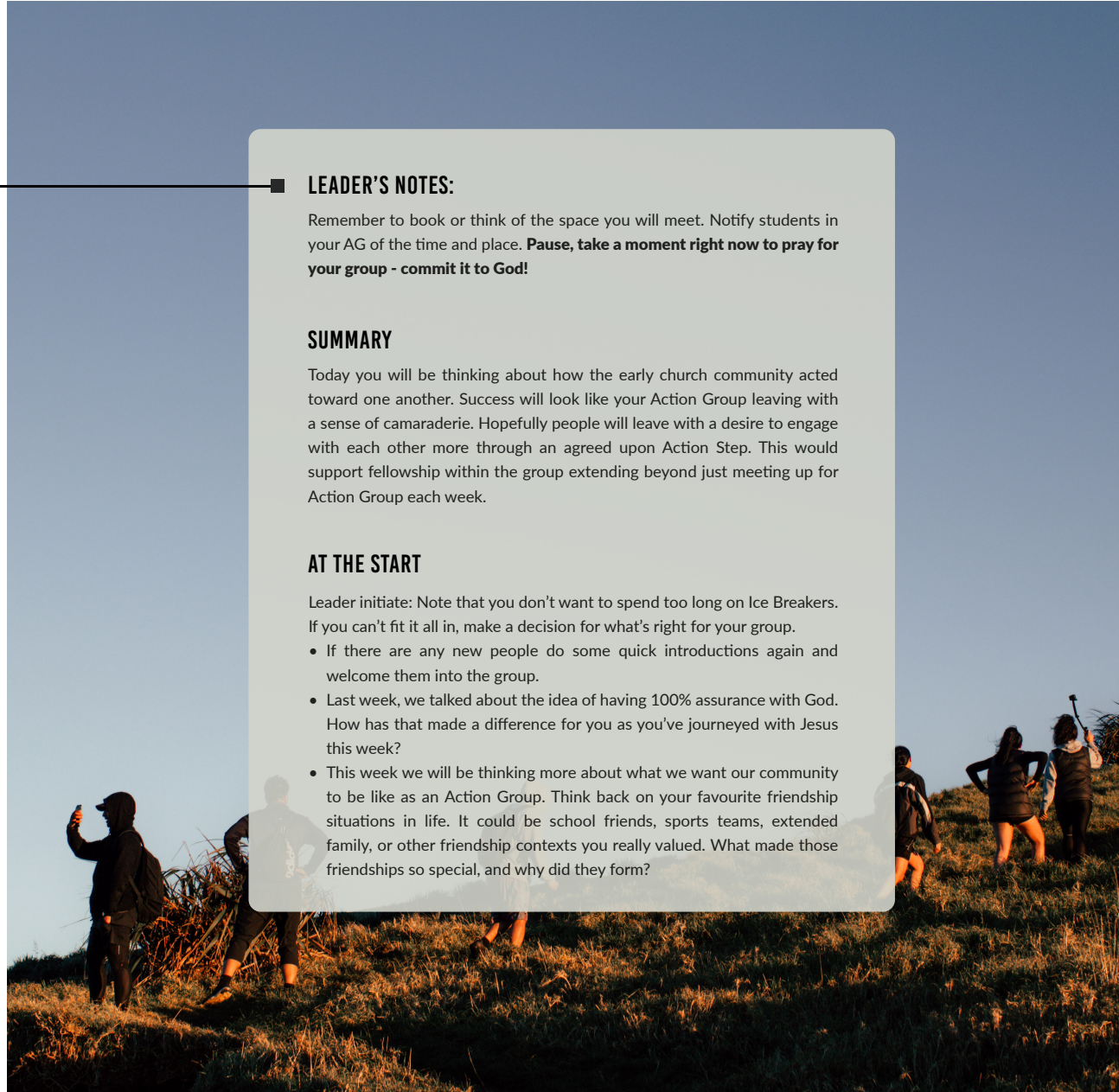
SUMMARY

Today you will be thinking about how the early church community acted toward one another. Success will look like your Action Group leaving with a sense of camaraderie. Hopefully people will leave with a desire to engage with each other more through an agreed upon Action Step. This would support fellowship within the group extending beyond just meeting up for Action Group each week.

AT THE START

Leader initiate: Note that you don't want to spend too long on Ice Breakers. If you can't fit it all in, make a decision for what's right for your group.

- If there are any new people do some quick introductions again and welcome them into the group.
- Last week, we talked about the idea of having 100% assurance with God. How has that made a difference for you as you've journeyed with Jesus this week?
- This week we will be thinking more about what we want our community to be like as an Action Group. Think back on your favourite friendship situations in life. It could be school friends, sports teams, extended family, or other friendship contexts you really valued. What made those friendships so special, and why did they form?



READ ACTS 2:36-47**Acts 2:36-47**

36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

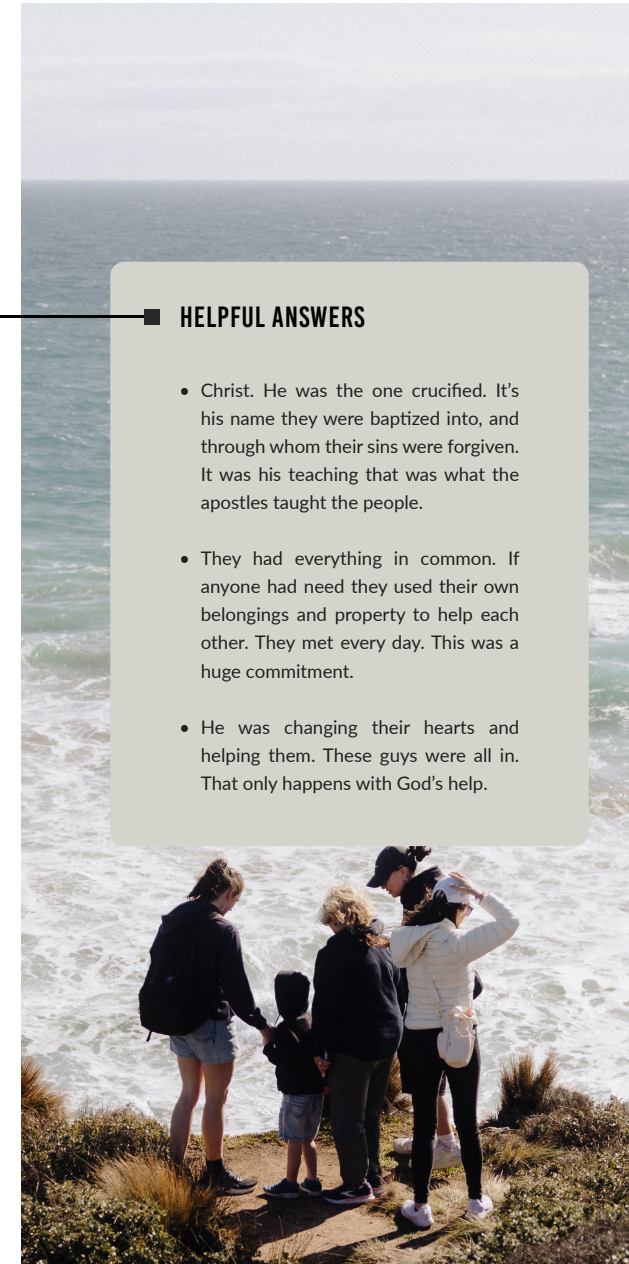
42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Discuss in a group:

- What stands out to you as you read about the community formed in the early church?
- What was the foundation of their fellowship?
- What do you notice about the level of commitment the believers had for the community?
- Early in the passage, Peter talked about the promise of the Holy Spirit. What part might the Holy Spirit have played in this community?
- It says the Lord added to them daily those who were being saved. How could that happen here at this university?
- Do you notice any other elements present in their community which we haven't mentioned?
- How could our Action Group embody the community that we see here in this passage?

HELPFUL ANSWERS

- Christ. He was the one crucified. It's his name they were baptized into, and through whom their sins were forgiven. It was his teaching that was what the apostles taught the people.
- They had everything in common. If anyone had need they used their own belongings and property to help each other. They met every day. This was a huge commitment.
- He was changing their hearts and helping them. These guys were all in. That only happens with God's help.



SUMMARY

We have a unique opportunity as university students to live out community like this. We are here every day studying, surrounded by thousands of students who need to hear about Jesus. Imagine being a part of God impacting our university through a community of disciples like the one we have read about here! The truth is, we can be. If we are willing to commit to the Lord, and rely upon his Spirit, there's no reason why God cannot be at work today just like he was in the community of these early believers. They were people just like us, and the same Holy Spirit is present with us just as He was with them.

ACTION STEPS: OUR COMMUNITY

- *What's one thing as an Action Group we would like to commit to in order to become more like the Christian Community we read about today?*

E.g. Meeting to pray together, eating lunch together weekly, or any number of things. Make time to hear from those that wish to speak and suggest things. If your timetables allow, could you make a plan to implement the idea? See if the group is willing to commit and follow through on the idea.

PRAYER

Pray for God to form our Action Group to be more like the community we read about today. Pray for his Spirit to be at work in us, and to work through us to see people saved daily here at our university just as it happened in the book of Acts.

Campus Notices

Check with staff for weekly or one off events that need to be announced.