

March 29, 2015

The Church
Acts 2:22-24; 38-47

INTRODUCTION

Why the Church? The Church – capital C – is a group of people who believe that Jesus died for their sins and rose from the dead. And faith is developed by the work of the Holy Spirit in the context of the community. The Church is the only hope of the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review David's 140 characters or less answers to *Why have I chosen to put my hope in Jesus?* and *Why do I believe the Bible is so important?* We have been challenged to commit our answers to memory so we are always prepared to give an answer when asked to give the reason for our hope. (1 Peter 3:15) Share your 140 characters or less answers for each of the above questions. Have you committed your answers to memory for the next 3 minute encounter God brings your way?
2. Discuss Pastor Smith's six reasons for people giving up on the Church – capital C. Without naming names, share a situation where someone in your life has given up on the Church. When have you experienced any of these six reasons yourself, causing you temptation to give up? Be gentle and full of grace as you share, challenging yourselves in your personal walk with Christ.
3. Read Acts 2:22-24 from as many different translations as available. Identify any words of power. How was Jesus accredited (publicly endorsed-NLT) by God? What was God's deliberate plan (prearranged plan-NLT)? Why was it impossible for death to keep a hold of Jesus?
4. 3,000 believers added to the church in one day! Wow! These believers were definitely passionate about the Church! Read Acts 2:38-47. Pastor Smith's six reasons for their passion can be seen amongst the Church today. Which are you most passionate about from this list? How does Hebrews 10:25 correlate with Acts 2:38-47
5. *Faith is developed by the work of the Holy Spirit in the context of community!*
In your opinion, how is faith developed by the work of the Holy Spirit in the context of community? Share your thoughts toward Pastor Smith's list supporting why our faith is developed through the work of the Holy Spirit and in the context of community.
6. Why is the Church the only hope of the world, in 140 characters or less? Either create a personal answer or come together as a group to answer. May your hope for the Church be renewed through the passion witnessed in Acts 2.

CONCLUSION

The Church is the only hope of the world *because it's a community of people where you are affirmed, corrected, and motivated by the love of Jesus to a changed life, which never happens alone.*