

Week 1 – Embodied Faith, Flourishing Communities

COACHING VIDEO: bit.ly/FCWeek1

Introduction (13 min)

WELCOME & ICE BREAKER (10 min)

Introduce the idea of #squadgoals and how we long for deep community, though we don't always know how to get there.

Share in pairs: What kind of community do you long for? What is your picture of #squadgoals? Have you experienced this? Why or why not?

VISION + OBJECTIVE (3 min)

Throughout Scripture we see glimpses of a new kind of community being formed by God: a community that reflects God's character and lives out God's teachings, so all of creation can flourish as God intended. But what is the key to this flourishing community? It starts with embodied faith. When we live as Jesus has called us to live, empowered by the Holy Spirit to love radically and participate in God's work of restoring our broken world, we impact the world through our words and actions. God never intended for our flourishing to be just about us; we are meant to be a blessing to the world.

Pray to transition.

Biblical Reflection (20 min)

PASSAGE INTRO / BACKGROUND

- Earlier in Acts 2, Jewish believers were "filled with the Holy Spirit began to speak with other tongues" (Acts 2:4). A huge, ethnically diverse crowd gathered and heard what was being spoken in their native languages. Peter then interprets what was happening. "They" in v. 37 refers to this multiethnic crowd.
- "Promise" in v. 39 refers to Joel 2:28-29.
- Culturally, eating together was a sign of intimacy and trust.

READ ACTS 2:37-47

Observation:

- What cause and effects do you see in the text? What about patterns or repetition?
- List all the verbs that describe the actions of the community.

Interpretation:

- Why might this community have been radical at the time?
- How does this community embody faith? Where do you see flourishing?

Application & Listening Prayer:

- What inspires you personally about this community? How does this picture of community compare to your #squadgoals?
- How is God speaking to you and inviting you to respond?

Response (27 min)

ACTIVITY (17 min)

Cover Story: Your small group (or broadly the InterVarsity community) has been working towards being a flourishing community in a way that impacts those around you. Imagine years from now, your small group is on the front page of the newspaper. You can choose to do this activity individually or to break up into pairs:

- Invite everyone to use paper and pen (or markers) to draw the front page of the paper.
- What are the headlines, quotes, images, or highlights on the cover? What impact has the community had on others?
- Share your covers with one another.

Pray together over the dreams you have for your community and the impact you could have.

ACTION STEPS (5 min)

- **Collective:** Continue to get to know one another by setting up some video hangouts in pairs or as a group. You could even eat together! Some conversation ideas: what are some of your favorite family traditions? Describe a perfect Saturday. What has your experience of college been like so far compared to what you expected?
- **Personal:** Say "yes" to how God is inviting you to respond to Acts 2.

PRAYER (5 min)