



Leader Guide – Weekly Gathering
Acts 2:42-47 • for the week of June 4 • by Aj Schwanz

Materials Needed

Christ candle
Matches
Bibles

Opening (approximately 5 minutes)

Greet people as they enter. Tell them how glad you are that they are here.

Share with the participants ways you've noticed the group becoming a "group" — things that have changed since the first meeting.

Check-in Time (15 minutes)

Go around in a circle. Ask participants to share:

- How has your week been going?
- What's the most unique gift you've ever given?

Centering Worship (15 minutes)

Light the Christ candle

Say: This is a representation of the light of Christ that we all can see. It's not just for one set of people but for the whole world!

Have participants open their Bibles.

Say: Find a favorite verse, one that has meant something to you. Spend the next five minutes praying this verse to God. Pray it in repeated gratitude that Christ is present and speaks to us in these moments together as the music plays.

Play something contemplative and instrumental (i.e. no words sung).

Sharing (15 minutes)

Check in to see how the weekly rhythm is working for folks.

Say: Summertime brings a new flavor to life and to weekly activities. How are you seeing God as the beauty of summer is arriving?

Go around the circle.

- What exercise has been meaningful to you? Why?
- Did you sense a calling for our small group community? What about the larger community of NFC?

Stepping Stones (10 minutes)

Encourage whoever is on for this week to share. Remind the group to listen well and be praying for this person. You may or may not want to take some time to pray as a group for the individual who shares.

Group Listening Practice (40 minutes)

Give this brief quiz out loud. Have participants raise their hands in response. (10 minutes)

1. The level of a building that is underground is called the:
 - a. Cellar
 - b. Basement
2. You bring your groceries home in a:
 - a. Sack
 - b. Bag
3. The act of covering a house or area in front of a house with toilet paper is called:
 - a. Toilet papering
 - b. Rolling
 - c. TP'ing
4. You drink from a:
 - a. Water fountain
 - b. Drinking fountain
5. You call sweetened, carbonated beverages:
 - a. Soda
 - b. Pop
 - c. Coke
6. You tend to call the sweet spread on top of a cake:
 - a. Icing
 - b. Frosting
 - c. Both
7. Do you use the word cruller?
 - a. No
 - b. Yes
8. What do you call something that is diagonal from you?
 - a. Kitty corner
 - b. Diagonal
 - c. Catty corner
9. You work out in:
 - a. Tennis shoes
 - b. Sneakers
10. The second syllable in pajamas sounds like:
 - a. The "a" in jam
 - b. The "a" in father
11. Does "caramel" have two or three syllables?
 - a. Two
 - b. Three
 - c. You say it both ways

12. "Route" rhymes with:
 - a. Boot
 - b. Out

13. Mary / marry / merry . . .
 - a. Are pronounced differently
 - b. Are pronounced the same

Say: These questions came from an online quiz "What Kind of American English Do You Speak?" What did you notice in the answers others gave? Did you know there were so many different variations and pronunciations of the same thing? (5 minutes)

Say: Sometimes things that seem perfectly normal to us may seem very strange to someone with a different cultural background. Things we may take for granted (such as saying "aunt" as opposed to "ahnt") don't make sense to others. It's good to name differences and commonalities.

Have participants take out a piece of paper and a writing utensil (hand out items to those who need them).

Say: Think about a typical day for you. What activities do you do? Who do you come in contact with? Jot this down. (5 minutes)

Break participants into small groups. Have them read Acts 2:42-47. Have them discuss:

- how their lives look similar to that of the first church
- how their lives look different from that of the first church (10 minutes)

Come back to a large group. Talk about what you noticed. Spend some time in a group discussion as to whether some of these differences are cultural or stem from the church not responding to its primary calling: that of wholly loving God and loving others.

- What does it look like in our culture to be as the first church?
- How can we as a small group act as the first church?

Closing (5 minutes)

Close time in a group prayer. Have participants go around the circle, completing the sentence, "I dream of a church...." Offer these dreams and desires up to God, recognizing that he planted them in our hearts.

Remind participants of any information for the upcoming week.