

January 11th, 2026

Sermon: Acts: A Church is Born

Main text: Acts 2:42-47

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

1). What does this story tell me about God?

2). What does this story tell me about people (or about myself)?

3). If this is God's word for my life, how will I obey it?

4). Who am I, going to tell?

Other, Key quotes; points and questions to reflect on and discuss from Ryan's message:

Key Points:

Devoted... It means to continue to be strong or firm towards, to endure or persevere in or with.

What were the early Church devoted to:

- 1). The Apostles Teaching
- 2). To Fellowship (reference to communion and eating together)
- 3). Prayer (they prayed together)

"The outcome to what the early church devoted themselves produced radical action"

"The resulting actions of how Christians lived was not a result of good morals. That was a result of transformation of an empowering Holy Spirit and a result of an encounter with the resurrected Christ."

1). What are your thoughts on Ryan's stat that nearly 10% of the Roman Empire was impacted by the Church?

"What made the movement of the Christianity/Church so attractive and resilient according to secular historians... strong community and mutual care; members cared for widow, orphans; the poor and the sick. Most notably during the plagues during the 1st and 2nd century. Even to the point of personal safety and even death; radical inclusivity: Christianity crossed boundaries that were very rigid in the Roman empires and other empires of that day. But Christianity. Women had prominent roles and had higher standing than in any other culture of that day; slaves and free worshipped together; ethnic and social identity did not matter. The message was that every human being mattered equally before God. Socially that was revolutionary. High ethics and standards and discipline Christianity demanded as serious moral commitment. Sexual restraint, in a highly permissive culture, condemnation

of infanticide and abandonment. It was the church that was the first to say you should not kill your children. Those high demands made the faith more credible in the Roman empire. People were drawn because no one else was living that way. Organic growth not mass conversion. Most of the growth of the church was one person at a time. Through family friendship and neighbors. It was conversion over long observation of life and behaviour. Belong before believing.”

2). How does reading/hearing this impact you? Inspire you? Challenge you?

3). How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to live in such a noticeably different way that the people you interact with can only say, “They must have been with Jesus (Acts 4:13)”? *(Take a moment to pause, pray, and reflect. Write down what comes to your mind and heart, then share it with one another either in your small group or as a family, if you are discussing this together).*

4). How is God prompting you to live and think differently after hearing this statement and reflecting on the message as a whole?