

Care Group Homework
(For the week of February 28, 2010)
The Importance of Sharing - Acts 4:32-37

Getting to know one another:

1. Describe a way that your life is different from a year ago.
2. What is an item you would put in a time capsule to be opened by the next generation?
3. If you had to give away a huge amount of money, who would you give it to? Why?

Getting into the Word:

4. Verse 32 tells us that the believers were one in heart and mind. What does that mean to you?
5. The text tells us that the early church shared everything they had. How could that work in our society? How do you think it worked for them?

The text implies that there were two types of giving (expressed in the second service message). The first was where people maintained their possessions and property but shared as needed. The second was where they sold the property and gave the proceeds to the apostles. The church apparently had the means to identify one another's needs and people came forward to meet those needs. To make it work in our society we would have to loosen our sense of ownership, be careful with the use of other people's possessions, have a method to make our needs known, and be willing to ask one another for help.

6. Verse 33 says the apostles testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Why was/is this point important?

No other religious leader has risen from the dead. It is the resurrection that sets Jesus apart from the rest.

7. How do you understand the phrase "much grace was upon them all?"

In the message we spoke of divine grace - the outpouring of God's blessing upon the church, and also relational grace - the way we respond to one another.

8. Have you ever sold something with the express purpose of giving the proceeds to the church? If you were to do so, what would you sell? What prevents you from doing it?

9. The text tells us that those who owned lands or houses sold them. Then in verse 36 it identifies one person by name who did so. Why do you think Barnabas is singled out as one who sold land and gave the proceeds to the church?