**JOURNEYING TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Session 2 of 4

# Meeting together

### MEETING AIM

To think about what we can learn from the earliest communities of Jesus-followers.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in-person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your situation.

Following the drama of Pentecost, the growing community of believers set out on a radical way of living. Money, property and food was shared; the weakest were looked after; the message of Jesus was proclaimed. This session should inspire some interesting ideas of how we can live in a similar way in the 21st century. Don’t dismiss ideas that seem too big to pursue – it may be that with some preparation your young people can make a huge different to the community around them!

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Welcome the young people to the session. Share refreshments and chat about life. If things are a bit quiet play ‘Mallet’s mallet’ (for those of you under 35 years old, this was from a [children’s TV show in the 80s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUfv-tAfXn4)!). This is a word association game were two players take turns in exchanging words, each one related to the previous one. If someone hesitates, repeats a word or says a word that is not connected, they are out. (On the TV, they used to get a bash on the head with a foam mallet. You may not want to do that here…)

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

**You will need:** pens and paper

In pairs, run surveys on people’s favourite things. Each pair should go around the room asking everyone to vote on their particular question: five points for their favourite, three points for second place and one point for their third.

They should build up a scoreboard on a sheet of paper. If appropriate, allow them to go out and ask people in other areas of the church (perhaps after the service, if they are still keen).

Surveys you could include: best biscuit, best chocolate in a box of Celebrations, best breakfast cereal, best item from Greggs; best flavour ice cream; best non-chocolate packet of sweets. Feel free to come up with your own, but they should be food or drink related – or at least something that can be shared.

Pairs should also ask their respondents: “With which of the following would you be most likely to share those with? a) your bestie, b) a random person sitting next to you on the bus, c) a homeless guy outside Tesco.

Finally share the results of the surveys.

### BIBLE EXPLORATION – 10 mins

**You will need:** Bibles; pens and paper

Split the group into a few smaller groups, give out Bibles and ask them to make a list of the things the believers did in each verse of the two passages. They should note the verse and then a couple of words to summarise what they did in that verse.

Challenge the small groups to choose one verse from the whole passage that they think best sums up the community of disciples and believers after Pentecost. Finally, they should choose one word from the passage that summarises the whole thing. Each small group should then plan a short drama that depicts the verse they chose. However, it must be silent, ten seconds in length, include everybody, and all members of the group must remain in physical contact with at least one other throughout. You may use props, as long as these rules are not broken.

Each group must present their drama to the rest of the group for them to guess which verse you are depicting, and they must guess which word they think that group chose as the most important. Feedback on each other’s work and discuss why each group made the decisions they did and what they were trying to show and why.

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Use the following questions to explore the passage and the ideas around it:

* What makes a good team?
* What kind of people and what kind of resources do you need to impact a whole society in a way similar to the early Church?
* How well does your own youth group do at the following things: having fun, learning, working well together, putting up with each other’s faults, creating a positive environment, not arguing, making the most of everybody’s individual strengths, impacting the world around you. (You could score these things out of ten.)
* How much do you rely on the power of the Holy Spirit, individually and as a group?
* How does meeting together help you with that you would miss out on otherwise?
* How did meeting together benefit the early disciples?
* What can we learn from this story about our own community and our own mission with God?

### CREATIVE RESPONSE – 10 mins

**You will need:** a large sheet of paper (lining paper is ideal); paint in warm colours; paintbrushes; cover-up and clean-up equipment

Show the group the large sheets of paper (or paper rolls) and warm-coloured paints. Invite the young people to spend some time thinking, drawing and writing key words about your youth community, your wider church, the communities you live and work and play in – what do they love the best about them? What do they struggle with? What words and images around these challenges can they write or draw? What words can they write about what you’d love to see change and what God can bring to those situations? You could even draw ideas of what your community can do to serve God in the wider community.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

Take it in turns to (literally) lift each other up while praying for each other. If you have a larger group, you can squash together tightly and do a sort of crowd surf while you all shout out prayers for each other. If there are fewer of you, start with the person on the ground and support under their knees, hips and shoulders to lift them up nice and high while taking it in turns to pray prayers of blessing and encouragement over that person.

**BECCA DEAN**

is a tutor in youth ministry at Ridley Hall, Cambridge.