**About the Church…**

Conversation 2

The Bible does not talk about “going to church” but, rather, about ***being the church!*** In the beginning, there were no Christian buildings and followers of Jesus gathered together either in an open space at the Jewish Temple (Acts 2:46) or in someone’s home, like that of Priscilla and Aquila (1 Corinthians 16:19). Acts 2:42-47 gives us a picture of the brand new Christian church. This was not perfect, nor intended as a pattern, for the church was soon to develop into something more mature. For instance, Christians met together every day! That could hardly continue and, by Acts 20:7, we see the church gathering together weekly. What is obvious in reading Acts 2, is that Christians were pursuing what remain priorities of the church and we sense their excitement and desire to know more about their new life in Christ. This spilled over onto others who also wanted to know Jesus and join the group of believers.

**READ**

*Acts 2:42-47*

*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

*Hebrews 10:24,25*

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

**DISCUSS**

Why do you think it is important for Christians to get together?

Jesus said, *For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20*  As you gather in your Life Group, where do you see Jesus?

What do you hope newcomers feel or sense when they join our wider church gathering? How could you help improve this?

**ACT**

“Breaking bread” is not a term we often use today. It can refer to the Lord’s Supper, but it also means a shared meal with good conversation. How about “breaking bread” with your Life Group this week and inviting a couple of extra people to join you? Talk about things that matter.

**PRAY**

Thank the Lord for the freedom to meet openly with other believers in Christian gatherings. Pray for Christians in other countries where such freedoms do not exist and people are still persecuted for their faith in Jesus.