

Week 1: Embodied Faith, Flourishing Communities

Coaching Video: bit.ly/FCWeek1

INTRODUCTION (12 MIN)

Welcome & Ice Breaker (10 min)

Introduce the idea of #squadgoals and how we long for deep community, though we don't always know how to get there.

Share in Pairs: What is your picture of #squadgoals? Do you experience this on campus? Why or why not?

Vision + Objective (2 min)

Throughout Scripture we see glimpses of a new kind of community being formed by God: one that reflects God's character so all of creation can flourish as God intended. But what is the key to this flourishing community? It starts with embodied faith. When we live as Jesus has called us to live, empowered by the Holy Spirit to love radically and participate in God's work of restoring our broken world, we impact the world through our words and actions. God never intended for our flourishing to be just about us; we are meant to be a blessing to the world.

Pray to transition.

BIBLICAL REFLECTION (25 MIN)

Passage Background

- In Acts 2, Jewish believers were "filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues" (Acts 2:4). An ethnically diverse crowd gathered and heard what was being spoken in their native languages, and Peter interprets what was happening. "They" in v. 37 refers to this crowd.
- "Promise" in v. 39 refers to Joel 2:28-29
- Culturally, eating together was a sign of intimacy and trust.

Read Acts 2:37-47

Observation:

- What cause and effects do you see in the text? What patterns or repetition?
- List all the verbs that describe the actions of the community.

Interpretation:

- Why might this community have been radical at the time?
- How does this community embody faith?
- Where do you see flourishing?

Application:

- How does this picture of community compare to your #squadgoals?
- What challenges or inspires you from today's discussion?

RESPONSE (23 MIN)

Activity (15 min)

Cover Story: Your small group (or broadly the InterVarsity chapter) has sought to be a flourishing community that impacts the campus. Imagine years from now, your fellowship is on the front page of the school newspaper. What does the article say?

Do this activity individually or in pairs:

- Pass out papers, markers, color pencils and draw the front page of the school paper.
- What are the headlines, quotes, images, or highlights on the cover? What impact has the community had on the campus?
- Share your covers with one another (yes cheesy but dreaming is worth it!).

Pray together over the dreams you have for your community and the campus.

Action Steps (5 min)

- **Collective:** Keep getting to know each by sharing a meal together in pairs or as a group! Conversation ideas: what are some of your favorite family traditions? What does a perfect Saturday look like for you? What has your experience of college been like so far compared to what you expected?
- **Personal:** What is one thing you could do to live out faith like the community in today's passage? Add a calendar reminder to do that action step this week.

Prayer (3 min)