

Life Sharing & Pioneers

Glenville New Life Community Church

711 East 105th Street Cleveland, OH 44108

www.glenvillenewlife.com 216-451-8540 216-338-5118

And

Calvary Presbyterian Church

2020 East 79th Street Cleveland, Oh 44103

www.calvarypresbyteriancleveland.org 216-391-8448 216-338-5118

“Partnering Together For The Cause Of Christ”

Lesson 1

“Daily Walking & Living In The Spirit Acts 2:1-24

Lesson 2

“Let Us Commit Ourselves To Each Other As Believers In Christ”

Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35

Lesson 3

“ Encouraging Each Other On, Cheering Each Other, And Building Each Other Up” Acts 4:32-37, 9:23-30

Life-Sharing & Pioneers Lesson 1 “Daily Walking & Living In The Spirit Acts 2:1-24

Read Luke 4:18-19

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me, to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

1. Jesus was fully God, but Jesus was also fully human. How is Jesus' life an example of how we can walk in a close relationship to the Holy Spirit? What did Jesus do that we can also do?

In walking with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was making a difference in the lives of people in a positive way with the intent of leading them to God. We can have ministry to those in prisons, to those with physical ailments, and those at the bottom of society or those bound by psychological oppression. We can all proclaim that the kingdom of God has come. We can offer hope to the poor. The poor use to be seen as cursed by God and the wealthy as blessed by God. Our message is that God has invited you to the table.

2. What kept you from accepting the work of Christ, before you were saved?

You're trying to find hindrances or attachments that keep people away from the Lord. *I wanted to be in charge of my own future and destiny without limitations. My future was going to be what I made of it.*

Read Acts 2:1-13

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues ^[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment,

because each one heard their own language being spoken.⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?"⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ^[b]¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

3. What change happened to the believers who were filled with the Spirit on this day that we now called Pentecost?

A) They spoke in clear concise languages that others around them understood as they went out into the community. B) They became bold evangelists for the kingdom speaking loudly. C) They faced ridicule and scorn for being open to the Spirit. D) They did what they thought before had been impossible to do—speak a language instantly. E) They saw it was possible to do what Jesus had said when he said they were to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

4. Why do people reject the move of God even when it is obvious that something supernatural has taken place?

Some people have no intention of turning their lives over to anyone. They do not want to change and do not want to be confronted with having to change. They want to create their own reality of what happens after death. There is nothing that the church can do to make everyone believe.

5. Why is it that two people can come to the church on Sunday, and one really felt touched by God and the other felt absolutely nothing and does not plan to come back?

No two people come to the same church. Each comes in with a certain viewpoint and each one experiences different reactions from people in the church. There are many things that trigger different responses. Some come in expecting to be touched by God, and some come in out of an obligation. Some have an open heart before the Lord and some do not. There is also the Spirit factor, in that the Spirit may be calling someone to something specific at this point and time in the person's life. The Spirit does not always strive with us. Our hearts can become hardened to things of God.

6 . What kind of things can you do on Sunday morning to help open people's heart to the move of the Holy Spirit?

A) Be prayerful, B) Be welcoming, C) Be encouraging, D) Be Helpful, E) Be An Example

7. When was a time when the Holy Spirit broke through to you and made you want to go in a different direction?

While praying over having lost my first love for God as the church at Ephesus had done, I really wanted to change.

8. What kind of things may God do in order to get a church to go in a different direction?

God will use a change in a church's circumstances in terms of leaders, finances, people or location. God will open doors of opportunities and close doors that seemed to be open. God can use adversity as well as prosperity to move a church.

Read Luke 22:54-62 and Acts 2:14-24

⁵⁴ Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. ⁵⁶ A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him." ⁵⁷ But he denied it. "Woman, [a] I don't know him," he said.

⁵⁸ A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." "Man, I am not!" Peter replied. ⁵⁹ About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." ⁶² And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Acts: ¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ " 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' [a] ²² "People of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, [b] put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

9. What changes do you notice in Peter after he was filled with the Holy Spirit?

Peter became more bold and was not afraid of what might happen to him. Peter was more interested in protecting the cause of Christ, than in preserving his life. Peter was more convinced of the word of the truth of the word of God. Peter became a true leader.

10. According to Peter's message, what changes should be taking place in the lives of people in the church who are being filled with God's Spirit?

They would be willing to speak for God in public with prophecy. They will have dreams and see visions The dreams and visions would be God's mean of revealing things about Himself to them. Don't confuse this with what Daniel was seeing or what's happening in the book of Revelations, though that could happen. (Paul saw in a vision a man from Macedonia saying to come over and help us. (Acts 16:9) They will call on the name of the Lord. People's background would not limit their opportunity to be used by God, because God is coming upon all people. Prophecy does not always mean telling the future. It also includes the declaration of God's nature and God's will.

11. What transforming works of the Holy Spirit have you seen at Glenville New Life Community Church , Calvary Presbyterian Church or in your home church?

Answers will vary from person to person.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-9⁵ What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹ For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building.

12. The move of the Spirit in the life of the church is not the result of the Spirit doing everything. What part do the followers of Christ have in doing God's work?

A) We have to present ourselves for work. B) We have to make the work a priority. C) We have to utilize our resources in terms of our time, talent and finances to turn ideas into reality. We have to do the work as a service to the Lord.

13. How many different groups are in partnership to help with the move of the Spirit on Sunday morning during worship? Identify the various groups

The Ushers, The Nursery Staff, The Media Staff, The Sound Staff, The Musicians, The Praise Team, The Youth Worship, The Greeters, The Coffe Hour, The Office Staff, The Custodians, The Volunteers Once Arrived, And The Congregation

14. What is your part of the partnership in ministry at Glenville, Calvary, or at your church?

I am the administrative pastor.

Life-Sharing & Pioneers Lesson 2 “Let Us Commit Ourselves To Each Other As Believers In Christ” Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35

1. Why have “gated communities” (housing developments enclosed with fences and secured gates) become popular in America?

Gated communities carry with them a sense of status and separation. Gated communities are to keep other people out and allow us a false sense of privacy and security. Not only do we lock out the world, we also isolate ourselves from those inside the gated community. There is a false sense of community developed as well in that being inside the gates does not necessarily mean that you’re getting to know the other people behind the gate. This ends up leading to a greater isolation and loneliness.

2. How can Glenville or Calvary become a gated community without even realizing it?

The church becomes a gated community when we are more interested in being with each other than we are reaching the lost. Sunday morning can be more about talking with our friends, than seeking out those who are guests in our midst or those who appear to be hurting. All of the emphasis can be placed on making things better for ourselves at the expense of neglecting those outside the church. Plenty of time may go into getting ready for the worship service through a lot of rehearsals and activity, yet very little time is spent on reaching those outside the church to try to have them present for the worship service. We end up being gated because no one is coming through our front doors without a personal invitation. That’s how gated communities work. No church will last that spends all its resources on itself.

3. How intentional are you on Sundays about keeping Glenville or Calvary from becoming gated?

I intentionally seek to try to welcome in those who come into the church, but I'm not doing nearly enough doing personal invitations throughout the week with cards and conversation. I ask people if they have signed the guest list.

Read Acts 2:42-47 and Acts 4:32-35

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

4. What do we have in common with the believers in these passages of Scripture?

1) We're believers in Christ. 2) We share things with each other in times of need. 3) God's grace is at work among us. 4) Some people get saved in our midst. 5) We bring in special donations and give them to the church. 6) We devote ourselves to the apostle's teachings and fellowship.

5. How are we drastically different from the believers in these passages of Scripture?

1) We do not make the same level of commitment to eradicate the financial and physical needs of each other. 2) We keep our property separate. 3) We do not meet daily for breaking bread in our homes. 4) We do not see the same level of great power or signs and wonders in our leaders. 5) We are not of all one heart and mind.

6. When should a believer do something out of devotion for Christ even though he or she might not feel like doing it?

Whenever God requires it of us because there is need to do it and the person is able to do it. Whenever God needs a person to do a task and the person is able to do the task as needed. “one’s commitment to God outweighs whether or not a person feels like doing it.” We are called to have balance in our lives, but balance is more than, “I already did my turn.” If we only do what we feel like doing, we are not true servants of Christ. Our Lordship is to Christ, and not our personal convenience or comfort.

7. What kind of positive attitudes do you find in the saints in these two passages of Scripture?

1) They are generous. 2) They believe the best about each other. 3) They are willing to sacrifice. 4) They are eager to please God. 5) They want to know the word of God. 6) They are full of compassion. 7) Their love is overflowing. 8) They trust their leaders.

8. What is one material thing or desire or philosophy you have in your life that may get in the way of your meeting the needs of others?

Looking back over my life, I can see where some of the people we have done the most to help, simply ended up walking away with some what of an ungrateful spirit. This keeps me from wanting to help others coming along behind them who have similar needs. I need to keep looking to Christ as the One I am to please in serving others rather than looking for such a grateful response from the one or ones being served. In the church, I have found some of the people who have been helped the most financially, ended up leaving the church feeling we did not do enough for them. This makes me think twice about how much should be done in the future.

9. God wants us to strive for unity in the body of Christ? Why do we become content with Disunity as a way of life in the church?

Confrontation is not an easy thing to do in the church. We confuse being nice with being loving. We are told to speak the truth in love, but we err on the side of not speaking to the right person about the problem. We hope someone else will deal with the situation. We do not want to hurt other people's feelings, and we want people to like us. We don't want people to leave the church because we feel as though we need what they have to offer. We sometimes are afraid of what the person's reaction will be, or what the reactions of others will be. Sometimes the cost of keeping a person or family does more harm to the life of the church than it does good. We forget that in 3 John 1:9-10, John was going to confront Diotrephes about the confusion and disunity he was causing in the body.

Read Ephesians 4:1-5

¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

10. Why is it so important for us as believers to get along with each other?

The body of Christ greatest witness is the love its members have for each other. When we are not getting along, we are failing to show the world the love of Christ. Our goal is to lead others to Christ. This will not happen when we do not get along with each other. Jesus told us in John 13:34 to love one another because by this the world would know that we are Jesus' disciples.

11. How does disunity in the church keep the Lord from adding to it daily those who could be saved?

People are not interested in coming to church to be a part of a fight. They come looking for God's love and peace. A divisive spirit is always going to manifest itself in the body. You can pick it up through grumbling and complaining of the members. Divisive people are eager to go after visitors to either scare them away from the church or to look for potential new allies.

12. What are you taking away from this lesson?

Rate yourself 0 to 10 on these questions with 0 being Never and 10 being always.

1. Do you gossip to others about members of the body of Christ? _____
2. Do you have a critical or judgmental spirit about others? _____
3. Do you forgive others as quickly as you want them to forgive you? _____
4. Do you have a cold heart that shuts out the needs of others? _____
5. Do you ever fail to try to understand the other person? _____
6. Do you simply pray about it instead of doing something to help someone you could help? _____
7. Is there unresolved conflict between you and any other member of the church? _____

Life-Sharing & Pioneers Lesson 3 “ Encouraging Each On, Cheering Each Other, And Building Each Other Up” Acts 4:32-37 Acts 9:23-30

1. Why are their fans at almost every sporting event, and what is their purpose?

Fans are at sporting events to cheer for their team. The fans are sometimes playing the games vicariously through the players on the field. The fans know that the team's success is part of their success. Fans can inspire teams to actually play better than they are usually capable of playing. That's why teams talk about the home field advantage. Fans motivate you to give of your best if you are playing on the team.

2. Why does the church need fans?

The church needs fans because there are plenty of opportunities for discouragement. We will often fail one another without any intention of doing so or malice on each other's part. A miscommunication about being in the hospital can lead to hurt feelings and people leaving the church. Satan is constantly throwing confusion into the church, and then we have our own selfish natures and ego's in the church, and that leads to an unhealthy body. One moment everything can seem to be going well, when out of nowhere things just seem to be falling to pieces. Fans remind us that we can win in the Christian walk and with Jesus as our coach, "He will complete the good work that He has begun in each of our lives." Our job is to not allow our fears and disappointments to discourage us from doing the work that God has called us to do. We all need some encouragement.

3. How do you feel about those who have left the church by simply dropping out and have you done anything to try to bring them back?

It can be very discouraging. I have tried making phone calls, but sometimes its hard to get honest responses from people.

Read Acts 4:32-37

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace

was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

4. What do we know about the heart of Barnabus?

Barnabus was obviously a team player. He put the needs of the group ahead of his own. He was generous and he participated in the group being of one heart and one mind.

5. How was he a fan of the church?

He wanted to keep the church moving forward, and he surrendered what he had to keep the momentum of the church moving forward. He lived up to his name of being a son of encouragement. His sacrifices no doubt encouraged the disciples. He was not one of the local Jews, but one that lived quite a distance away in Cyprus, but his commitment level was the same as those who had known the apostles.

6. Describe a time when someone lifted you up and encouraged you by giving in a sacrificial manner? What affect did it have on you?

At our first church, I had a dream of getting a church newspaper sent into the community but didn't have the funds. I shared my dream with Elder Patterson and he said we have got to get the money for this and he immediately made a monthly pledge to do it. I was so appreciative of his sacrifice. He became a special father/brother in Christ figure in my life.

Read Acts 9:23-30

²³ After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, ²⁴ but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. ²⁵ But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, ^[a] but they tried to kill him. ³⁰ When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus

7. What do we learn about Barnabus in this portion of Scripture?

Barnabus was willing to give Paul a chance when he came to Jerusalem. It had been three years since Paul's conversion and this was his first trip to Jerusalem. Paul had been off the scene for a couple of years in the deserts of Arabia and nobody knew what was happening with him. This blanked out period made the Christians in Jerusalem even more skeptical of Paul. But Barnabus listened to Paul's testimony and probably to the testimonies of others to the point of being convinced of Paul's conversion to Christ. He was willing to put his life and reputation on the line for Paul by convincing the apostles to at least hear Paul out. We learn that Barnabus was a reconciler and mediator in the early church.

8. How would Saul (Paul) have run into problems if Barnabus had not been around?

Paul would have been one lonely person. The Jews would have still have hated him for his acts of betrayal in arguing for Christ in Damascus, and the Christians would have nothing to do with him because of his past behavior. Which Paul was the real Paul? Without Barnabus, it is very unlikely that Paul could have gotten an audience with the apostles. They didn't know if Paul was trying to infiltrate the church to destroy it. They may have been thinking, why did Paul take 3 years to come to them to apologize for what he had done in persecuting and voting to have Christians put to death. Just what exactly was he doing in

those three years in Arabia and who exactly was he with out their in the desert. Their fear and suspicion of Paul was quite normal.

9. How can we develop more are encouragers and cheerleaders into the life of Calvary or Glenville?

By modeling it ourselves and encouraging others to do the same. Even spreading the word that we need more of them is likely to produce more of them.

10. Whom can you identify as a cheerleader for Glenville New Life Community Church or Calvary Presbyterian Church who is not on the church paid staff? What makes this person stand out.

All those who always speak positively about the church to insiders and outsiders are true cheerleaders. Those who pass out cards encouraging people to become a part of the family here are cheerleaders. Those who offer words of encouragement and cards to the leaders are true cheerleaders. I can name several people I think are real cheerleaders.

11. When was a time someone believed the best for you, even when you could not see it for yourself? How did it help you become more of what God wanted you to be?

At our first church, the former pastor, Rev. Miller, of the church once told me he saw a glow around me during a service when I was doing a communion service. He told me he only saw it that once, but he knew it was God's anointing. When I would become discourage and wonder if I'm really doing what God had called me to do, I think back on that moment and the words that Rev. Miller shared with me. He has been dead for over 25 years now, but his words of encouragement are still with me.

12. In what ways can you become more of cheerleader or encourager in the body of Christ?

I can say thank you more to those who do a good job of serving at their post on Sundays from an usher with a smile, to a person reading the Scripture, or working the overhead projectors, or singing a great song. I want to speak words of encouragement to lift people up when they come in on Sundays. I want to say well done to more people inside and outside of the church.

13. Whom has God placed around you outside of the church, that you need to become more of a Barnabus or an encourager in their lives.

The People working the drive in windows at McDonald's.

14. What do you think would happen if Glenville or Calvary doubled the numbers of encouragers in its membership?

The two churches would begin to double.

15. What are you taking away from this lesson?

I should look for more ways to encourage others.