**Church: Living a new life together in Christ**

*36“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”*

*41Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

Church = EKKLESIA (gathering)

**They focused on and lived for Jesus v42**

*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

***Apostles’ teaching:*** *The Bible (Old & New Testament)*

*How does it shape us when we think of God, through the Apostles, writing things that we should know about Jesus?*

***Fellowship:*** *gospel partnership*

*What difference does it make to see church relationships as lots of gospel partnerships instead?*

***Breaking bread:*** *Meal or Communion*

*What does it mean to share a meal together in someone’s home in 21st century Britain? How do you feel at being invited into someone’s home?*

***Prayer:*** *praise and petition*

*What drives us to prayer more: seeing God at work in people’s lives or not seeing him at work despite our hard work?*

*Does that change what we pray?*

**God showed he was at work v43**

*Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.*

Miraculous signs => point to Jesus

*Overcomes our confusion or stubbornness*

What should we think of miracles that point to a leader rather than to Jesus?

**Money was for mutual ministry v44-45**

*All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.*

*How does trusting Jesus change our attitude to money?*

*Does his death and resurrection or his return & eternity move you more? Why?*

**Met in the Temple and in their homes v46-47**

*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.*

Pillar of fire on Temple now tongue of fire on each person.

Re-read a passage on God’s presence in the temple/tabernacle/Mt Sinai. How does it shape us to know that God is present with each one of us in the same way?

**God continues to save v47**

*…and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

Acts 1v7-8 ‘You will be my witnesses’ Jerusalem – Judea/Samaria – ends of the earth.

We are at an ‘End of the earth’ and we know God’s plan for his world. Does this encourage you to speak more about Jesus?