

## **REKINDLED: THE DEATH OF MR. ME DEVOTION AND DISCUSSION GUIDE**

### **Acts 2:42-47 ESV**

<sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe<sup>[a]</sup> came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

### **The Four Pillars of the Early Church:**

- Built on a SUPERNATURAL EXPECTANCY
- Built on AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY
- Built on PRAYER AND FASTING
- Built on the PURE GOSPEL

### **Opening Discussion:**

- “God, what are you going to do today?” How has asking this question every day changed your life? What unexpected things have happened since you released your faith to expect the unexpected? How does asking this question challenge you?
- Based on the Four Pillars of the Early Church, as seen in Acts 2:42-47 (above), on a scale of 1-10, how does the current church (as a whole) measure up? What about your local church? What will bring about the changes needed for the current church to grow in these areas? How can you be part of making that change happen?

**Key Thought:** To fully experience the life in WE, I must fully embrace the death of ME.

- Read Acts 4:32-37. How does this passage describe a WE culture in the days of the early church? Have you ever been part of a church that lived closely in WE community? If not, do you long for this kind of community?
- Consider some of your most recent conversations, what set of pronouns did you most often use? Would your conversations be considered WE-centric conversation, or ME-centric conversations? Consider the chart below:

1 <sup>st</sup> person:	I, Me, My, Mine, Myself
1 <sup>st</sup> person (Plural):	We, Us, Our, Ours, Ourselves

- Truth: The church was birthed as a family of authentic, organic, relationships bound together by the blood of their Savior Jesus Christ.

**Acts 5:1-11:** The death of Mr. and Mrs. ME—Ananias and Sapphira. Peter points out three things about these two members of the early church family.

1) Satan has filled their heart (verse 3a).

- What words and/or actions revealed to Peter that Satan had filled their hearts?
- Truth: Satan comes to kill, steal, and destroy,
- Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Which of these attributes of the “last days church” do you see reflected in the lives of Ananias and Sapphira? Which of these do you find yourself most often having to guard against? What actions should you take when you recognize that these are present in your life?

2) They lied to the Holy Spirit (verse 3b).

- Read John 8:44. Who is the “father” of lying? How does lying steal, kill, and destroy?
- Pride (ME) is at the root of lying. How does lying defend our pride?
- Truth: Lying kills trust, steals from healthy relationships, and destroys the liar with guilt and shame.
- What exactly was the “lie” of both Ananias and Sapphira? How did Ananias and Sapphira’s actions set them up to be known as the first hypocrites of the early church?

3) They held back for themselves (verse 3c).

- According to Acts 5:4, where did Ananias “contrive this deed?” Therefore, where is the root of pride? According to Acts 5:9, who did Sapphira “test” when she answered Peter’s question with a lie?
- Read Luke 9:23. How can these words of Jesus be used to challenge the motive behind the words and actions of Ananias and Sapphira?
- Truth: Ananias and Sapphira wanted all the benefits of WE without the full sacrifice of ME.

### **Application:**

- **Key Thought:** To fully experience the life in WE, I must fully embrace the death of ME.
- The nature of pride is catastrophic. God did not allow the cancer of pride to grow in the church. If allowed to grow it would have destroyed and killed the community. It had to be dealt with swiftly.
- I Me, My, Mine, Myself—must die!
- To experience life in all its fullness, Jesus requires the death of ME.
- Slaughtering the pride in you will allow Christ to rise up on the inside of you.
- Can you put your birthdate and today’s date on a tombstone and bury MR. ME?