



**Real SMALL Community**  
***Reaches Out to Others (Acts 2:47)***  
By Pastor David Hillis, 07 February 2016

**BIG IDEA: Our friends find faith when we have friends outside of faith.**

Our vision at Grace is made up of 4 spiritual commitments that we all make to each other and to God:

1. **KNOW** God by worshipping Him
2. **GROW** in Christ through personal time with God
3. **GROW** in Christ through intentional relationships
4. **GO** and make a kingdom difference by serving others

For us to really *grow* and not be stale or stuck in our faith, we need a healthy mix of both of these **GROW** commitments in our lives.

Small groups at Grace are meant to be community – *real* community – almost like an extended family, with bonds formed through common *faith*, common *interests*, and even a common *care* and *concern* for each other.

**The Challenge Of Reaching Out**

- The small groups of believers that made up the Church after Jesus left were people who were passionate about reaching out to others.
- These new Christians *valued* being in the lives of those they knew around them, both inside and outside the church.

**“...Enjoying The Goodwill Of All The People...” (Acts 2:47)**

- They lived out their faith in ways that blessed the community around them.
- Because they reached out to others and had real, genuine *relationship* with scores of people all over town, they were *liked* by people who had no idea who Jesus was!

**“...The Lord Added To Their Number...” (Acts 2:47)**

- Verse 47 is a great reminder that *we* don't add to the number of people who follow Christ, God does that! - All Jesus asks of us is to be a witness, live our lives around others, and make ourselves open and available to those around us who want to know what we've witnessed in our own lives.

**“...Daily Those Who Were Being Saved...” (Acts 2:47)**

- God asks us to live out the Christian life openly, genuinely, authentically, with *other* believers and with those who *aren't* believers.
- In our world today, more than 8 in 10 non-Christians do not know a single person who is a Christian.

***MY NEXT STEP***

*How might God be calling me to reach out to others? Who, how, when?*

**FOR FURTHER STUDY/REFLECTION THIS WEEK:**

1. Review Acts 2:42-47 again this week. What is listed there that you want more of in your life? Is a place for more sincerity one of them? How many people know the real struggles you face? To what degree?
2. Read Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:6-8. What does being a “witness” mean to you? What expectations did Jesus give his followers about reaching out to others? What expectations might you be carrying that are beyond what God actually asks of us?
3. Read Acts 5:41-42. Reaching out to others sometimes results in not being received the way we intended, despite our hearts otherwise. What can you learn from the example of these early Christians?