



## CELL GUIDE

TOPIC A Growing Church

SPEAKER

Ps Low Kok Guan

THEME A Lifestyle of Evangelism

DATE

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

In the first sermon of this new series, Ps Kok Guan takes us back to the early church to learn from how they grow in a spiritual community. He starts off by giving us an overview of the book of Acts, which presents the sovereignty of God and His works through the act of power of the Holy Spirit in the early church (Acts 1: 8). Since Peter preached the first sermon at the Pentecost and established the first church, there was a significant growth happening in the early church which we could learn from (Acts 2:41-47).

## THREE LESSONS FROM A GROWING CHURCH

### 1) A Growing Church Grows through Spiritual Multiplication

Very early in the book of Acts, we can observe strong growth in the number of salvations and disciples in the early church (Acts 2:41, 47b). The key to this increase in numbers is the increase in the Word of God, the Spirit-led preaching and sharing of the Gospel (Acts 9:28, 9:31, 11:23-24).

Although the pandemic may have created barriers in sharing the love of God this festive season, the heart of God is for every soul and every sharing of the Gospel could change a person's life for eternity. Even if we do not meet physically, we can still leverage on existing platforms such as outreach programs in church and Alpha programs to share the Gospel with friends and family in the belief that God can bring about spiritual multiplication for their good and for His glory.

***Have you shared the love of God with someone this festive season?***

### 2) A Growing Church Grows in a Spiritual Community

Besides growing in the Word, the early church also devoted themselves to growing in a spiritual community, where they could learn, break bread and pray together (Acts 2:42, 46-47a). It is clear that the early church saw spiritual community as an important facet of their relationship with God. It is also clear that they saw spiritual growth as an important facet of the community they were in. They are called to grow together, not alone. And when they come together, it is for the sake of Christ and their spiritual growth, not in of themselves.

Ps Kok Guan showed us a wheel framework to illustrate how fellowship with other believers was one of the key spokes of the wheel of the Obedient Christian in Action. The early church did so regularly in the temple and at home, and today we do so in corporate worship and as part of our cell groups. The important lesson is that we grow, not on our own, but together in a spiritual community. It is important to have someone whom we can turn to, through the hills and valleys of our spiritual journey, especially if we are serving or leading.

***Do you have someone whom you can turn to?***

### **3) A Growing Church Grows towards Spiritual Transformation**

The proof of growth is not just in the numbers, but in changed hearts and lives lived for God. The most important growth works on the inside. The power of the Holy Spirit can bring complete transformation in a person (Acts 2:43-45). We are reminded that Jesus is the miracle worker, and through service, we have a unique opportunity to witness the miraculous transformation God is working out in each of us. The early church saw hearts changed by God and being moved for the poor and needy, and actions and behaviours reflecting that great change of heart.

Ps Kok Guan mentions that growth takes time and that spiritual transformation is a work in progress. He challenges us to go for the long haul as lives are transformed over time.

***Are you experiencing God's working in your life?***

## **CONCLUSION**

As we embark on a study of a lifestyle of evangelism, it is good to draw lessons by revisiting the practices of the early church.

We learn that growing as a church comes in three ways

- through spiritual multiplication as we share God's word.
- in a spiritual community as we fellowship with God's people.
- and towards spiritual transformation as we experience God working in our lives.

With God's help, we can continue to grow and share in the great work that God is doing. God is still moulding us and our church as he did for the first church. When we look back, we want to see Christ in every one of us.

# QUESTIONS

**1. *Have you shared the love of God with someone this festive season?***

Share about who God has placed upon your heart and how you have connected (or plan to connect) with this person over the festive season.

**2. *Do you have someone you can turn to?***

Share about how you would like others to keep you accountable and how they can encourage you to regularly reflect and respond to God.

**3. *Are you experiencing God's working in your life?***

Share about the most recent time you felt strongly that God was working in your life. Pray for one another to experience God more.