



Pastor Michael O'Neill
westvalleychurch.com

West Valley Church
Pastor Michael O'Neill



February 12, 2012
westvalleychurch.com

West Valley Church
February 12, 2012

Part Four
Acts 2:42-47
Luke 10:25-37
(1 John 3:16-18)

1. Caring is Based on Need, not Worth

2. Caring is Passionate

3. Caring is Active

4. Caring Always Costs Something

5. Caring Shows our own Love for God

Talking it over (use this for discussion around your community group):

- ◆ Read the main passage for today (on the other side)
- ◆ Think of a time when someone cared for you or your family in an out-of-the-ordinary way. Share that story with your table. What was it about? What was done that made such a difference for you?
- ◆ In Acts 2, we see a group of Christians (the church) genuinely caring for others, giving themselves and their resources to those in need. Are there any similar experiences you've had with a church or Christian group you've been involved with? If so, share that with your table.
- ◆ Research indicates that most churches do not behave this way. Why do you think that is?
- ◆ Be honest: Do you practice this? Why or why not?

Digging Deeper (if you still have time, or for further study later, go through these questions):

- ◆ How does the story of the "Good Samaritan" (read Luke 10:25-37) reflect what you read in Acts 2?
- ◆ Is Christian caring based on the *need*, or the *worth* of the person in need? What would be an example of giving based on worth? Based on need? Why do we tend to give so much to those in need during the holidays, or times of crisis, and not other times?
- ◆ How can we change our attitudes to really feel and care for others? Which comes first – action or feeling? Explain.
- ◆ Is actively caring for others ever convenient or easy? What does that say about the nature of caring?
- ◆ Is the degree of our caring for others indicative of our love for God? If we don't care for others, do we genuinely love God? (Hint: read 1 John 3:16-18).
- ◆ *Bonus verse:* Read James 2:15-17. Based on these verses, how "good" is *your* faith? What would people say about our church, if all they had to measure us by was that passage?
- ◆ Is it enough to pray for someone, or should you do more than that? How do you know when to do more, and when not to?
- ◆ **Re-read through your notes. Prayerfully review the main points and read the Scripture references that are provided for you.**