

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing an important series of studies on Oneness in Christ. Our topic today: The Experience of Unity in the Early Church.

**1. Preparing for Pentecost**

- a) Acts 1:4-5,8 What important instruction and promise did Jesus give to His disciples?
- b) Acts 1:12-14
  - i) What is the significance of the names included here?
  - ii) What are some prayers they might have prayed?

**2. Experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit**

- a) Acts 2:1-4 What is the relationship between the description of the disciples in verse 1 and the events described in verses 2-4? (all together...all filled)
- b) Acts 2:5-13 Why do you think the coming of the Holy Spirit in power on the Day of Pentecost was accompanied by such dramatic signs and wonders?
- c) Acts 2:38-41 What was the response of many who heard the truth about Jesus preached in the power of the Holy Spirit?
- d) Share a time when you sensed the Holy Spirit at work in a powerful way.

**3. Growing together in Christ**

- a) Acts 2:42, 44-47 What important activities were part of the life of the new believers?

- b) How do these activities give visible evidence of oneness in Christ?
- c) Acts 2:43 What were some of the signs and wonders God worked through the apostles? How were these events also an evidence of oneness in Christ?
- d) Why is church unity essential in order for the Lord to add to the church those who were being saved?

**4. Sharing all things in common**

- a) Acts 4:32-37 Why did the early Christian believers in Jerusalem share all things in common?
- b) What lesson can we learn from the experience of early Christians for our lives today?
- c) Acts 5:1-11 What important lessons can we learn from the tragic story of Ananias and Sapphira?
- d) What can we do to avoid the traps of selfishness and covetousness?

**5. Caring for the poor together**

- a) Acts 11:27-30 Why is caring for the poor an important part of Christian service? (see also Galatians 2:10; Romans 15:26)
- b) How is your local church caring for those in need in your community?
- c) How can we discern between those who are genuinely in need and those who are seeking to take advantage of your generosity?
- d) Share a time when you found joy assisting someone in need.

