



Lesson 4

September 26, 2021

Celebrating in Unity

Acts 2:32-33, 37-47

Did you know that celebrations bring about unity and a new way of seeing and being in the world? Celebrations have a way of unifying communities and the world. In today's Bible lesson, the first Christian community heard the Gospel and was inspired by the Holy Spirit to see the world differently, and united to live, worship, and evangelize. In our contemporary scenario, Molly's church embraced this truth.

The vision for Molly's church began around a backyard firepit. Around that firepit, God breathed life into the new Christian congregation. This new congregation would be focused on unity, worship, and evangelism, invigorated by musical boldness in varying expressions. The following motto was adopted: "A Call to Unity, Worship, and Evangelism." The church's motto and name began appearing on billboards and various social media platforms. At their first service, three years ago, the church had a capacity crowd. The rallying cry was, "a time to come together as a body of Christ, to serve one another and others with the love of Jesus."

Today, Molly's church has a worldwide reach. The church has been encouraged by its worldwide membership and weekly supporters to consider holding a unity celebration. The church leadership embraced the idea, and the celebration was held during the month of the church's third-year anniversary. The month-long unity celebration drew over fifteen hundred people in-person and another five thousand people joined virtually. Molly's church also used this event as an opportunity to address the social, economic, and other injustices faced by their international members. This was accomplished by creating an alliance with local and international organizations to address these issues, thus creating a breeding ground where unity, evangelism, and worship can grow and draw others to Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss how the love of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit has inspired your congregation to share a life of worship, love, and witness with people of different backgrounds.
2. How have you developed unity with those with whom you share common values?
3. Discuss how the church provides believers opportunities for unity.