

**Compass Church**  
**Home Group Outline**  
**May 23, 2010**

**Introduction**

The growth in numbers that churches see as God blesses through new converts and other believers attending a church can, unfortunately, result in controversy. There always seem to be some in a church who only care about numbers, summarized by the three "B's" . . . bodies, bucks and buildings! These folks can be characterized by their eagerness to see the pews (chairs) filled, the offering overflowing and new buildings being built.

They argue, more people being saved, good offerings and larger buildings can be a sign of health and success, all in the proper sense. On face value this can be true. But these three measurements may not always tell the whole story. There many sad but true stories from American church culture over the last 50 years where larger did not equate to better and more effective ministry in Jesus' name. More people, more money, more buildings also bring more challenge and responsibility.

On the other side of the "more" equation are those who are in the "us four, no more, close the door" group. They like small. They know everyone. They like those they know. They are skeptical of newcomers. These folks say it's the newcomers responsibility to find their way when they come to "our church." Us and them kinds of descriptions are used in conversation about their church. One needs double digit number of years of tenure in the church to be considered to serve in anything other than handing out bulletins. And insistence that "we preach the Bible" and "let God do the work of bringing them in" if that's what He wants constantly float about these kinds of churches.

So, two sides of the church growth issue can be seen in many churches today. The book of *Acts* seems to take an interesting approach to this whole issue by discussing numbers while also unapologetically preaching the Word.

**Question**

Briefly discuss your personal experiences of being in churches that might have fallen in one or the other of the two kinds of churches mentioned above.

**Closer Look**

1. Read *Acts 2:42, 47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 9:31; 16:5*. What do you think God wants us to learn about **Him** from His inclusion of these statements in *Acts*?
2. Read *Acts 2:42-47*. What are the essential elements of this fellowship of believers?
3. Do you think there is any direct connection between what the believers were doing in *Acts 2* with the growth in numbers they experienced? Explain.

4. As God continues to bring many new people to Compass what role should those currently at Compass have in relationship to the newcomers?
5. Discuss you past experience with church size. Are you one who is more comfortable in smaller or larger church settings? Why?
6. If God continues to grow Compass in numbers, what are one or two things you would put at the top of the list as vital for following God's desire as a church?
7. What other points from the sermon need to be discussed at this point?

**Application**

1. What aspect of this study helps you grow in your knowledge and worship of God?
2. What one thing will you work to apply to your life from this study?