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| **SERMON NOTES Sunday 22nd November** |
| **SunnySide** |

**Bible passage Acts 5.12-16; Luke 10.1-20**

**Recipe for a Flourishing Church: Fruit**

**Introduction**

* thought about ingredients of flourishing church and how might be treated
* today fruit of ingredients: early church was a distinctive and attractive community which had a positive impact on those around it and was growing in spirit and in number

1. **church made a practical difference**

* the life of the early church enabled believers to want to serve others and share God’s love with them in word and deed
* practical outworkings important because they were
* evidence that God was at work
* showed what it looked like to live in Kingdom of God
* proof that believers really believed what God said
* we can make practical difference e.g loneliness

1. **not everyone wanted to join**

* different reasons like now
* Jesus said it would be so

1. **the church grew**

* early church was a growing family constantly welcoming people into the body of Christ
* word spread about what God was doing and people wanted to be part of it

**Conclusion**

If we invest in our worshipping life it will inspire and sustain our service and people will want to be part of what God is doing

**Some questions for discussion**

1. What caused you to try church for yourself? Why did you want to join Sunnyside?
2. Read Acts 5.12-16. What strikes you about this account of the early church? In what ways does Sunnyside reflect this?
3. Read Luke 10.1-20. In what ways is Jesus’ teaching and the disciples experience of this mission trip reflected in the life of the early church?
4. In your experience, why do people not want to follow Jesus?
5. How might Sunnyside become an even more attractive church that people would wish to explore faith with?
6. What role do teaching (and learning), fellowship, breaking bread and prayer play in inspiring and sustaining this?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

‘Taste and see that the Lord is good’ (Psalm 34. 8)

Why not spend some time thanking God for his goodness and asking him who you could serve so that they may experience his goodness too?

Revd Rebecca Fardell