

## Roots: Exploring the Core Values of the Brethren in Christ

### Discussion Questions, Wk 9

**Roots** is a series that explores the identity and core values of the Brethren in Christ (BIC). As a historic Anabaptist congregation, the Grantham Church affirms the most basic beliefs of orthodox Christianity, but we also hold to distinctives that reflect practices of the early church, and values that are rooted in three theological traditions. In our *Roots* series, we will look a bit at the history of the BIC and the core values that constitute our deepest and most central convictions. We believe that these values have never been more relevant for Christians living today within a post-Christian America.

#### Sunday, April 2nd

**Core Value #9:** *"We value uncluttered lives, which free us to love boldly, give generously, and serve joyfully."*

**Sermon Title:** Living Simply (9 of 10)

**Scripture Reading:** Acts 2:42-47; Matthew 5:42; 6:19-21; 1 John 3:16-19

**Sermon Focus:** In the book of Acts we read that when people came to faith in Christ the impact was immediately seen in their individual behavior and communal practices. The early church was serious about discipleship and community. They were willing to throw off all that hindered their ability to love boldly, give generously, and serve one another joyfully. In *Living Simply* (9 of 10), Pastor David helps us to see that simple living is about freeing ourselves up to give more for the sake of the Kingdom.

1. Read Acts 2:42-47. This is a summary of what God was doing through the early church after the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost and was powerfully at work through the ministry of the apostles. What do you notice about this description? How does God speak to you through this passage?
2. Read Matthew 6:19-21. Jesus said not to store up treasures on earth. How does this speak to you in your situation in life? How does this challenge what our society says and our culture values about money and material possessions?
3. Pastor David said that retirement from your job isn't forbidden, but it does depend on what you do in retirement. How differently should the church live out "retirement" in a Christ-honoring way that reveals we're on duty until we die?
4. Living simply isn't about rigid rules, it is about freeing ourselves up from the burden of our stuff and having more to bless others with who are in need. Do you find that to be a more helpful way to think about living simply?