

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

FOR FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH YOUR WEEK

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

How do we currently pray for Woodlands? What else could we do?

VERSE MEMORY:

"All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer..."

Acts 1:14 ESV

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES:

Pray this prayer from Acts 1:24 for what is most desperately on your heart: "You, Lord, you know _____, show us _____."

Pray it again. And again. Devote yourself to prayer.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

Commit to attending the Evening of Prayer on October 8. Give your time to build up the church in prayer!

PRACTICING PRAYER:

Gather together with someone this week and pray for our church leaders: elders, ministry leaders and pastors, staff, and lay leaders. (You can find Woodlands' staff [here](#)). Pray that they would be led by Jesus and obedient to Scripture and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Pray also for the Lord to protect our leaders. Consider using Acts 20:28-32 as a template or springboard to help focus your prayers.

Focus on their responsibility to shepherd Christ's flock, for protection both for the leaders and for the congregation, and for the constant reminder that it is "the word of God's grace" that builds up and sanctifies, not the works of our staff.



To be a Christ centered community helping people faithfully follow Jesus both locally and globally.

Leader Resource Guide

Date: October 1, 2023

The Led Church



OPENER QUESTIONS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

Pastor Dave said the church is "fueled" by prayer. On a less serious note, share a story about a time you ran out of gas in your car or boat or

Last week we talked about our mission fields. Share how you have been a witness in one of your mission fields this week.

Has there ever been a time when you decided something by "casting lots" or a similar process? Why did you make your decision that way? What was the result?

NOTES

THE CHURCH IS FUELED BY PRAYER

THE CHURCH IS OBEDIENT TO SCRIPTURE

THE CHURCH IS LED BY JESUS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FOSTERING CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

1. What stood out to you from your reading in scripture this week?
2. Read Acts 1:12-26 and do a quick flyover of your notes from your reading and the sermon.
3. What holds you back from fueling up in prayer, both individually (your needs and spheres of influence) and corporately (for and with your group, Woodlands Church, the global church)?

As a group, how can we keep this metaphor of being fueled by prayer a priority in our group?

One of the priorities at Woodlands is to be grounded in Scripture and in prayer. This one priority has two focuses that cannot be separated from one another. Scripture fuels our need for prayer, our confidence in the God to whom we are communing/praying, as well as provides fuel (words) for our prayers. They are inseparably intertwined. There may be a myriad of reasons so as to not be 'fueling up in prayer'. Rumble with the idea of how time in and trust of Scripture and time in prayer help/hinder each other.

Last question: Something to dig into either after this question or during prayer time: What kinds of things are you facing that you know need to be devoted to prayer and trusting the Lord?

4. Have you had an experience in your life where you choose to obey Scripture even though it practically didn't make sense?

In order for us to obey Scripture, we have to know Scripture. Evaluate how your practice of being grounded in Scripture is going. How do you currently ground yourself in Scripture? (Commit to getting into Woodlands in the Word or another reading schedule.) How can we hold one another accountable to being grounded in Scripture and prayer, and walking in obedience?

This obedience principle can manifest in a lot of different ways in our lives and culture. It is hard to accept something that you don't understand unless you trust in the authority behind the command. Our response to parts of Scripture that are hard for us to obey is reflective of what we are believing about ourselves, God, and the world around us. When we are not actively believing that God is trustworthy and that God is in control, then it is that much harder to obey His Word. The Apostles are a great example of trusting in God and obeying His instructions, even without knowing the whole picture. Internalize this biblical principle by honestly asking yourself "what does Scripture say that I am supposed to do and am I trusting that God is trustworthy, even if I do not understand why He has asked me to do this?"

5. What is the role of Scripture, discussion, qualifications, and trust in God regarding the selection of a replacement for Judas? Our selection of leaders? Making other church decisions? What would it look like for you to be "led" by Jesus in your everyday life? In what areas of your life do you need to relinquish control and lean into the leading of Jesus?

This is referring to Acts 1:15-26, the process of choosing Judas' replacement. Specifically answer the first four categories (Scripture, discussion, qualifications, and trust in God) from this passage. And then move to thinking about how leaders are chosen and decisions made at church. Let the answers to this question fuel your prayers for Woodlands, her leaders, and for yourself as we all seek to be 'led by Jesus' in our everyday lives. Pray together over the answers to the last question.

6. Don't forget to pick up the 4th quarter Woodlands in the Word card! Read John 1-5 from Woodlands in the Word and Acts 2:1-13 for next week.