

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

FOR FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH YOUR WEEK

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

Where can you empower and equip others to step in and meet needs? Where do you see a need in our church and community that you can step in and fill?

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

Are you neglecting what God has called you specifically to do for the sake of doing something else? What are your “best yeses” in living out the gospel?

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES

How would you evaluate your personal devotion to prayer? To what degree do you depend on the Lord in prayer vs depending on yourself? Ask the Lord to develop a dependence on prayer and the word in your life.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

Acts 6:1-7 is a great example of multiplying ministry in everyday life and handing out stewardship of ministry responsibilities for the health and growth of the church.
Are you serving in the church? Where can you step in and be part of the mission of the body of Christ? Do you see needs? How can you work with others in the church to serve others well with the gifts, passions, and estate God has given you?

PRACTICING PRAYER:

“Search me and know me” God!

Where is there a complaining spirit in me? What resolution are you calling me to? What end goal should we be working towards? Where am I resistant to feedback? How can I listen and respond to feedback, even when it's hard to hear?

REFLECT ON THESE:

Spend some time reflecting on Acts 6:7 and listen closely to the lyrics of “God of Justice (We Must Go)”



Leader Resource Guide

Date: February 11, 2024

Practical Peacemaking



OPENER QUESTIONS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

How has your week been in weather terms? (examples: “sunny with a chance of rain” = pretty good, but some big things hanging over it, “pretty stormy” = a lot happened, things were kind of all over the place, “the kind of rain storm where it pours really hard while the sun is shining”, etc.)

What teams have you been a part of? What's something you loved about that team experience or something that was hard?

NOTES

QUICKLY RESPOND

STAY FOCUSED ON THE GOSPEL

PEACEMAKING IS A TEAM SPORT

TRUST EACH OTHER

INTERNAL HEALTH LEADS TO EXTERNAL FRUIT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FOSTERING CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

1. What stood out to you in your reading of Scripture this past week?

2. Read Acts 6:1-7. What is the conflict that comes up? Who brings up the conflict? How do the Twelve respond to these complaints? Do you respond to people this same way when you feel like they are complaining about you?

It may be important to understand the different groups at play in this passage: "Hellenist generally refers to one who speaks Greek, but came to refer to those of non-Greek origin, especially Jews, who adopted the Greek language and customs.... The Hellenists in these passages are likely Greek-speaking Jews (Newman and Nida, Translator's Handbook). Yet it is also likely that they not only spoke Greek, but had an intellectual orientation toward the Greek culture that, at times, caused strife with the Hebraic Jews (Longenecker, Acts, 804)." (From Lexham Bible Dictionary).

3. What are ways that the conversation about these important matters can turn bad (divisive, slanderous, or unproductive)? What usually gets them off track? How can we turn these conversations back to the Gospel?

It can be easy to get lost in the problems of daily life. Coming back to who Jesus is and what Jesus has done helps to reframe our perspective and align our hearts with God's truth. Jesus is the answer, and following His example keeps us grounded in Him as we go through daily Christian life and ministry. As we grow in grace-filled community, grounded in God's Word and in prayer, we grow in gospel fluent conversation as we speak the truths of Jesus into everyday life.

5. How can you apply this story to the conflicts we are seeing today? Or more specifically, what secondary issues can hinder Woodlands from fulfilling Acts 1:8? What principles in this passage could help us free the church for a wider mission?

One thing to learn from this passage is that "secondary" issues did not derail the mission Jesus gave his Church. As you've worked through question 1, you may have noticed that a complaint was brought forward, the leadership of the disciples (The Twelve) brought the complaint before the larger group, assessed the complaint and devised an agreeable resolution. Then action was taken. A real need was addressed and met by saints stepping up to meet those needs - all while maintaining the mission to reach the world with the gospel.

6. The Twelve said: "it is not good for us to neglect the Word of God in order to serve tables" (Acts 6:2). Why did they say this? Does that mean that some ministries are more important than others? What was the positive result of looking for others to serve and solve the problem rather than relying on themselves?

See Ephesians 4:11-16 (especially v. 12), and 1 Peter 2:9-10.

This passage demonstrates the "priesthood of all believers" (1 Peter 2:9-10). Every believer is called to the mission of Christ's church. Whatever role you are called to, it does not diminish the call to the ministry of the Gospel. We are all called to serve in different ways and to meet different needs.

7. The end result in this chapter was more people coming to Christ. How does having a clear common goal help us work together in trust and unity?

Again, read 1 Peter 2:9!

8. How can we follow the example of the early church in dealing with conflict with the help of the Holy Spirit? How do we see the Holy Spirit involved in this conflict and solution?

9. Woodlands in the Word for next week: Read Ephesians 3-6 and Hebrews 1 for next week. The sermon text is Acts 7.