

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

FOR FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH YOUR WEEK

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

Have you ever felt God asking you to extend grace to someone who you knew did not deserve it? What enabled you to do it anyway? Or did you not do it? Why not?

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES

Is there something that you know God is prompting you to do (like He did with Ananias) that comes with a lot of fear? Confess your fear, pray for courage...and respond with obedience.

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

Pastor Dave emphasized the simplicity of the Gospel. Saul just needs to see Jesus. Ananias just needs to follow Jesus. Are you over complicating your Christian life? How can you go back to the simplicity of seeing Jesus and following Jesus?

PRACTICING PRAYER:

As we wait through this season of Lent and approach Easter, take inventory of how Jesus has transformed and is transforming your life. Pay attention to some of the specific ways God has paid for your sin with the blood of Jesus and led you to rest in his finished work of the cross. Prepare your heart for the wonder of the resurrection.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

Spiritual growth partners are a great way to connect people who want to grow in their walk with Jesus. Consider opening yourself to be a Spiritual Growth Partner for someone this summer!

If the Spirit is laying someone on your heart, reach out directly. If you'd like to be a part of a pool of SGPs, let Whitney or Lauren know!



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

Leader Resource Guide

Date: March 17, 2024

See Jesus. Follow Jesus



OPENER QUESTIONS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

Have you ever been on a road trip where you saw something that deeply impacted you?

What are some of your memorable spring break memories? What would a great spring break look like to you?

NOTES

SEE JESUS

FOLLOW JESUS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FOSTERING CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

1. What stood out to you in your reading of Scripture this past week?
2. The Story so Far... look at themes of persecution, dispersion, Holy Spirit and baptism. How are all of these coming together to form and continue a cohesive story of the gospel going out to all the nations?
3. For those of you who have already gone through Bible 101, use your time to do the OIA method together as a group for this passage, Acts 9:1-19. This will probably take your entire time together, and that is OK!
4. What do we know about Saul from Acts 7:54-8:3 and 9:1-3a? How do you think God was at work in Saul's life leading up to his conversion and surrender on the Damascus Road (see John 16:7-11)? How can this impact our witness?

It is a 160 mile, 6 day walk from Jerusalem to Damascus. It has been suggested that Saul had lots of time to reflect on Stephen's death - his willingness to die for his faith in Jesus and ask that his murderers be forgiven and vision of heaven. One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to bring conviction to sinners through their conscience, John 16:7-11.

5. Discuss the role Ananias plays in Saul's life. What changes for Ananias between verses 13 and 17? What does he not do and what does he do? What is his impact on the subsequent growth of the church down through the centuries? The Scriptures never mention Ananias again. Why did God involve him at all? What lesson is there here for us to embrace today?

In this passage, we see Ananias know his Lord, respond to his call, not deny what he fears but brings those fears to Jesus and respond in obedience and acknowledge Saul as a brother. Like the faithful before him, Ananias' pattern of obedience displays a beautiful dance between the God of the universe moving and the people whom he created moving, too, in order that the gospel may reach the ends of the earth. We are called to the same pattern of obedience, see Jesus and follow him.

6. In the coming weeks we will hear more about Saul / Paul. Read Paul's expanded version of his conversion in Acts 26:1-29, focusing on v. 12-18. How does Paul's story connect with God's plan, the grand story of dealing with the mess the world is in, both now and forever?

Jesus' response to Saul in Acts 26:17-18 hits the nail on the head, "I am sending you to them to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a share among those who are sanctified by faith in me." God used Paul in incredibly profound ways to further the spread of the gospel, but don't forget, God used Ananias, too, and Philip and a million other names that represent people who love Jesus and share him with others!

7. Woodlands in the Word for next week 1 Peter 4-5, 2 Peter 1-3. The text for Sunday's sermon is Matt 21:1-17.