

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

FOR FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH YOUR WEEK

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

Where is God leading you to go?
And where is God leading you to send?

PRACTICING PRAYER:

Be purposeful in setting aside unhurried time to engage in communal prayer together with your life group.

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES

"Fasting is going without food for a set amount of time to awaken our body and soul to our deep hunger and need for God. It's one of the most powerful — and neglected — of all of Jesus' practices." When God's people fast and pray, God answers in powerful ways. Is fasting a part of your spiritual practices?

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY :

Spend some time thinking about how Jesus has been good news to you this week. Then consider some of the people and places that make up your everyday life. With whom can you share this good news?

VERSE MEMORY:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8



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

Leader Resource Guide

Date: October 20, 2024

The Planting Church



OPENER QUESTIONS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

If you were to describe your Fall so far in gardening terms, how would you describe it? (i.e, overgrown, unmanageable, sparse, underwatered, fruitful, thorny, etc.)

Tell about a time when you were tasked with carrying an important message. What was the message and what were the circumstances you encountered in delivering the message?

NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FOSTERING CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

1. What are you reading in Scripture? What are you learning about God, the way He moves and works, and about yourself in light of who God is? What about Jesus has been good news for you this past week?
2. Story so far... We're making a jump from Jesus' Great Commission in Matt 28:18-20 and Jesus' call to be witnesses in Acts 1:8 to the sending of the first missionaries in Acts 13. Take a few moments to trace some of the key events that are recorded in Acts 1-12. How do you see the supernaturally empowered body of Christ carrying out the command of Jesus to make disciples?
3. Read the first three verses of chapter 13 in Acts. Make note of the actions of the early church in Antioch. In your judgment why were worshipping the Lord and fasting both important preparations for the Holy Spirit to speak? How might this apply to a decision or task you are currently facing?

Also, note the actions taken that follow the Holy Spirit speaking. What are you seeing? How might that inform the way you live?

Some of the leaders of the church of Antioch were worshipping and fasting, they heard the Holy Spirit direct their next action, so they prayed and fasted, then they laid their hands on Barnabas and Paul and sent them. There is a posture of listening for the Lord and responding to the Lord.

4. Consider all of the people involved in Acts 13:1-12. Do a quick character study to understand who is here in this story, a little of who they are and their interactions in these 12 verses.

Look specifically at Saul/Paul and Bar-Jesus/Elymas. What are some of the parallels set up between the story of Saul/Paul and the story of Bar-Jesus/Elymas?

Some examples would be both men are called by two names, both men are supernaturally blinded, Saul is described as a "prophet" in 13:1 and (in contrast) Bar-Jesus is described as a "false prophet" (literally: "pseudo-prophet") in 13:6, etc. Don't forget to consider their response to Jesus.

Also look at Sergius Paulus, the procounsel. How does he respond to the influence of Paul and Elymas?

5. How do we see the Holy Spirit at work in the Church in Acts 13? What is He doing? How is He moving? Think of the whole books of Acts so far and ask the same questions. What patterns are arising?

Where do you see evidence of the Holy Spirit at work here at Woodlands/Central Wisconsin? What is your role in this Story? How might the Holy Spirit be inviting you to join him?

The Holy Spirit is the driving force of this text (and the book of Acts). The men at the church in Antioch are led by the Spirit, obedient to the Spirit, and sent out in the Spirit. Saul/Paul confronts Bar-Jesus/Elymas filled with the Spirit. The power of Bar-Jesus' magic and deception falls flat in the blinding and surpassing power of the Holy Spirit. We talked earlier in our series on Acts about how we are the "led church". The Church is led by God. We are united in one body according to the will of the Father, under the headship of Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

6. Read John 16-20 for next week in Woodlands in the Word. Our sermon passage will be Acts 13:13 - 52.