

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

FOR FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH YOUR WEEK

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

How have you seen God's work/provision in your day today?

PRACTICING PRAYER:

Share with each other who God has placed in your path "ready to listen."
Pray in pairs together for them.

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES

Daily: Create a "Blessings" list—reflect daily on the goodness of God, his provision, his delights. Write down 2-3+ and thank God for what he has done. Claim the truth that he is working in the present and future and will continue to provide.

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY :

Jon prayed about the upcoming election. Pray for the grace to walk through this election season abounding with grace and love for all, especially those brothers and sisters who have differing views. Pray for a curious heart rather than one that condemns. Pray for the unity of the Church to shine.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

Candy is still needed for Trunk or Treat! Bring nut-free candy to Woodlands before Wednesday, Oct 30.



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

Leader Resource Guide

Date: October 27, 2024

The Soil



OPENER QUESTIONS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

Trunk or Treat is coming! If you could fill your Halloween bucket up with one candy, what would it be?

Tell about a product/experience/media that you were skeptical about, but then once you used it/experienced it you were sold and became the next best spokesperson for it!

NOTES

The Journey

Practice Humility
Acts 13:13

Expect Disappointment
Acts 13:13; Acts 15:36-40

Keep Going
Acts 13:14

The Message

History is pointing to Jesus.
Acts 13:16-25

The Prophets are pointing to Jesus.
Acts 13:26-29

Eye Witnesses are pointing to Jesus.
Acts 13:26

The Response

Some wanted to learn more.
Acts 13:42-43

Some wanted the world more.
Acts 13:45

Some wanted Jesus more.
Acts 13:48-49

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FOSTERING CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

1. What are you currently reading in Scripture? How is that shaping the way you know and love God and the way you know and love your neighbor?

2. The Story so far... try to recall the summary from last week and even beyond. Can you tell the story of Acts up to this point in 3 sentences or less?

3. Do a little work to understand the scope of this passage by reading through it (Acts 13:13-52, takes about 5 minutes). Make a broad outline of the story described here. Try to understand how these events would have affected Paul and Barnabas. Pay attention to how Paul and Barnabas react and respond as the events unfold.

Arrived in a new town and went to the synagogue. Share about the promise of God realized in Jesus using the context the audience would understand. Some want to hear more, but resistance arises so as to turn Paul and his companions' attention to the Gentiles. The word of the Lord is accepted and many rejoice. Paul and Barnabas start with what is familiar and take the next right step forward, following the Spirit's leading and the response of the people. This section ends with the fact that they are filled with the Spirit, so even in shaking off the dust from their feet, they can have confidence that the Spirit is at work.

4. Now read more carefully verses 16-38, Paul's sermon on the history of Israel leading to Jesus. As you read, pay attention to God's actions (mark the verbs!) that lead up to Jesus. What is the point of this sermon? Where are the actions pointing or leading us to?

Even though Paul begins where his audience is, his driving message is for that same audience to see the Risen Jesus and respond to his message of forgiveness and new life.

Paul is intentional with the ways he shares the Gospel based on the context he is in—first to the Jews, then to the Gentiles. How do you share the Gospel with others? How do you let the context you are in shape the way you share?

This can be a practical sharing time while also helping each other hone in on the central message: Jesus and the resurrection.

5. Compare the responses we see in verses 42-48 to the message of the gospel. Compare the Jews' reaction to the Gentiles' reaction. Also read the Parable of the Soils and the Growing Seed in Mark 4:1-9, 13-20, 26-29. What is our work to do and what is God's work? How can you discern the difference?

Throughout Acts and in this passage, Luke affirms the sovereignty of God while at the same time affirming the significance of human activity. When you bring in the Parable of the Soils and the Growing Seed, we see there is a beautiful dance between human activity (preparing soil and sowing seeds) and God's activity (calling and causing growth).

Remember the context in which this text sits; the gospel is running to the ends of the earth. Some will hear and rejoice, others will reject. Our response is faithfully sharing and shepherding, trusting God with the growth.

6. Finally, read vs. 52. Despite opposition and persecution, Paul and Barnabas were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. How does their response encourage and help you?

Today, we are witnesses who are pointing to Jesus. It is our joy and privilege to point others to Jesus. We get to be his ambassadors! Where has/is God calling you to be a witness? Do you feel joy? Or not...what other emotions do you feel? Paul goes to the group of people who will listen; who has God put into your path? Can you discern the next right step for you to take with this person?

See the Practicing Prayer application. Pair off and pray for the people God has placed in your path and discern together, what the next right step is for each of you.

7. Read John 21 and 1 Corinthians 1-4. Acts 14:1-23 is the sermon passage for next week.