

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Acts 20:18-24

LEADER'S STUDY

Sharing the gospel by the Holy Spirit:

Acts provides many clear accounts of God working through people doing the work of God. Not only do we see the work of the Apostles who had been with Jesus, but we see believers forming deep friendships centered around their new identity in Christ. In today's passage we find new believers in the most difficult of circumstance. Secular leaders, religious leaders, Jews and Gentiles are united against Jesus and his followers. Threats against them and their new faith were abundant. But rather than fleeing to safety, these believers were united, together in prayer to Sovereign God with one voice. Ordinary believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and were given boldness to share Jesus. Jesus Himself told his Disciples to look up and see the fields ready for harvest (John 4:36-38)

As you prepare for this week ask yourself questions like this. What is the mission that God has given me through scripture? What is the message He has given me to share? What are the challenges that I face in sharing Jesus? How does the Holy Spirit call me out to share this truth and how does He equip and empower me to do it? How is God inviting me to share this incredibly good news with others? Why am I sharing the gospel? Take time to pray. Ask God for desire, boldness and opportunity to share the gospel. How is God revealing Himself and his character through this scripture? How is God changing my thinking? Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scripture: Acts 1:8, Acts 4:20, Acts 8:29, Acts 13:2-3, 1 Cor 1:22-25
What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

How is God calling you to think and to live differently? How does this change your perspective today? How is God calling you to respond based on this scripture? Spend some time reading this whole chapter and meditating on it as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word.

PREPARING BEFORE GROUP

PURPOSE: Life transformation through the Holy Spirit. He uses scripture and prayer to renew our minds and transform our lives!

PRAY: Pray for the people in your groups by name. Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to help you lead well as you meditate on key passages and seek to know God's heart.

PLAN: It is not too early to start looking for new leaders within your group. We will be holding a new leader training this summer for groups to launch in the fall. As you identify potential leaders, encourage them to come to that training and start talking about what it would look like to launch a new group. You might even consider coming with them to help them take that next step.

GO: Spend time in genuine prayer this week and ask God to overwhelm you with His love through the gospel. There is no greater love to be known and experienced than that. Pray that God would give you boldness and open your eyes to opportunity that He has prepared for you to share the most important truth with the world around you.

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Acts 20:18-24

And meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective.

(With larger portions of scripture like this, it's good for multiple people to read it aloud. Especially online, this helps people get used to using their voice)

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer all of these as a group

What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?

What seems to be the main point of these verses?

How does this portion of scripture point to Jesus and the gospel?

What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage?

Look at one or two key words and define them really clearly, then look at them in context with that definition. Does this change your understanding?

Why did God bring me to this scripture today?

What parts of this passage are challenging to your current way of thinking?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How are you going to obey this passage?

What is your "I will" statement?
(Encourage everyone to steer clear of "we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

With whom are you going to share what you have learned?
(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears the it. Rom 10:17)

Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?