

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 15 of 30 | Sermon date: April 10, 2022

Discipleship Phrase: God's church, God's way.

Big Idea for Series: God's church is built on His principles.

Abiding *(grow as a disciple yourself)*

As you walk through this week, take time to think and pray about the periods of your life where you were "living in the gap." Remember the ways God met you in that; prayerfully giving him gratitude for His faithfulness and perseverance. If you're not yet living in His call for your life, spend time in prayer asking him to show you the path and for strength to follow. If you are living in His calling, thank Him for His goodness and provision along the way. Remember that walking boldly into His call for your life is one of the more powerful ways we exemplify His love through action.

Leading *(facilitate your group effectively)*

This week we are provided a glimpse of Paul's journey after his encounter with Jesus. Group discussion this week takes us into a space of remaining faithful to God in our calling. Question 2 is asking us to look inward at our journey with God and if/how we are walking out our calling. This might spur additional questions from members that are trying to grasp their calling or purpose. Question 3 will take us deeper into recognizing that "trusting in" and "yielding to" God's process is necessary to accomplish God's plan through you. Can you be faithful in your assignments while being in the gap? What is God preparing you for? As you move into action with Question 4, what are some steps that each member can take to make God's presence supreme in their lives?

Shepherding *(know, feed, lead, and protect the sheep)*

Shepherding typically takes place beyond group time however, there definitely is an element of shepherding that occurs during group time as well. While being a good facilitator is part of being a great group leader, it's not the overall aim as much as being a faithful shepherd of those entrusted in your care. Be mindful of how well you're shepherding outside of group time as well as how you are shepherding during group. If you desire more clarity on just how that looks practically, reach out to your Life Group pastor to discuss further.

Church Announcements *(be in the know & share with your group)*

Seder Dinner is Thursday, April 14th at 6 PM in the gym. At this dinner you will learn of the connection between Passover and our belief in Jesus' payment for our sins. Not only will you learn, but you will experience a deeper understanding of Communion and of the One through whose saving work we celebrate on Resurrection Sunday. Click [here](#) to register.

REMEMBER:

"Every group deserves a great leader."

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Welcome/Introductions & Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs & Lows (*choose what fits best*)

Weekly Vision (*Announcements, The “Why”, Goal, Outreach, Guidelines, & Branching*)

Guidelines: Confidentiality, Avoid Crosstalk, Avoid fixing & Rescuing, Use “I” Statements, Contribute over Consume, Be Mindful of Self (allow all to share & use humor responsibly).

Ask a Hook Question (*a thought-provoking question*)

Share a few ways you were different in 2008, than you are today in 2022?

Recap the Message (*ask a couple people to share*)

Scripture References (*Read scriptures directly from the Bible*)

Acts 13:1-12 (ESV)

Implications (*takeaways from the message*)

1. God's direction is more important than my desire in fulfilling my God given purpose.
2. Before we were born, God created us to accomplish great things. What are they?
3. Wherever we find ourselves (the call, the fulfillment, or the gap), our faithfulness to God in the process is critical to fulfillment.
4. Trying to force God's hand will always lead to problems.

Discussion Questions (*going beyond the surface*)

1. Read Acts 9:1-6 and Acts 13:1-3. There is approximately a 14 year gap between these two passages. How might Paul have felt during that significant gap of time? What might have kept Paul focused between his encounter and his calling?
2. There is a process and gaps between the stages: encounter, calling, and waiting to fulfill. Paul waited 14 years between encounter and calling and beginning to fulfill (or walking out) that call. Where are you right now? Are you waiting for your call, waiting to start fulfilling that call?
3. How well are you waiting, and how faithful are you in the gaps? What do you do when it seems as if calling is working against you or you begin to doubt it all together?
4. God is in control and calling is not about accomplishing anything. Calling is about bringing more of God's presence. What are some ways you can focus on doing that no matter where you're at currently?

Closing Prayer (*ask openly for a volunteer*)