

# LIFE GROUPS

**LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 16 of 30 | Sermon date:** April 17, 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)*

Every day is an opportunity to know God and grow intimately closer to Him. God longs for an ever-lasting relationship with you. Does this cause you to live in Him and for Him moment by moment? As you reflect this week on Christ's life, death, and resurrection recognize God's amazing love and grace given to reconcile and restore relationship with you. In your time with God, reflect on those who have been influential in leading you into a closer relationship with God. Pray for them and also pray that God will bring to mind people that you can welcome into a closer relationship with Him.

## **Leading** *(facilitate your group effectively)*

This is the week we celebrate the crucifixion and resurrection of our savior. As you lead, be mindful to remind your group that our invitation to Christ, (our open door) was not always there; this is crucial. We are no longer separated from God through His invitation to "all." Acts 13: 44-47 speaks directly to this life-changing call and the transformation we are promised through it. Be open with the struggles you faced prior to coming into a relationship with Christ, as your words and/or transparency with this type of information can be a game-changer for your group. Many carry shame over the how, why, and when of their relationship and if you can lead from a place of vulnerability, it will open doors that may have otherwise remained closed. This mentality also applies to how your words or actions might be keeping others from seeing Christ through you. Dig deep and be transparent. Finally, make sure you are ready to share some suggestions on how you might be able to change some habits, words or actions that would reflect His love, grace and compassion in ways others might see and know Him better through you.

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

This week we must consider just how our "walk with Jesus" is inviting to others. Or is it not inviting at all? We must carefully and honestly assess what our lives are communicating to others. Is it gently whispering inclusion or is it screaming exclusion? Before encouraging others to live it out well, we must survey our own lives and aggressively deal with any areas where we could potentially be excluding others because that's not the Good News.

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

Did you know that Southeast has an adoption/foster care support group?! Click [here](#) for more info and 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 time you were pleasantly surprised to be included in something.

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

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

**Acts** 13:44-47 (ESV)

**Implications** (*takeaways from the message*)

1. It is important for us to stay in community so that we can follow God well.
2. Religion is an amazing servant but a terrible master.
3. The Resurrection gives power to the Good News.
4. The Resurrection says, “In Christ, everyone can worship God the Father.”

**Discussion Questions** (*going beyond the surface*)

1. Read implication #4 again. Now read Acts 13:44-47. How might this passage speak to “everyone” being invited to have access to God rather than just some?
2. Before coming to Jesus, what specifics kept you from believing that God wanted a relationship with you?
3. How might you be keeping others from feeling welcomed into that same relationship with God?
4. How can/do you live in a way that invites others into a real relationship with God?

**Closing Prayer** (*ask openly for a volunteer*)