

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 17 of 30 | Sermon date: April 24, 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)*

A healthy portion of the message this week was dedicated to the big debate concerning whether or not food offerings were acceptable to be eaten. We'll talk more about it in group because it is worth exploring the question, how big of a deal was this anyway? Before group this week, take inventory of the things that really move you, what hills are you willing to die on? What are simply "mole hills" that you might be making "mountains"? Psalm 139:23 says, "Search me O God and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!" Pray this as you consider your "mountains" this week.

Leading *(facilitate your group effectively)*

There will be a great opportunity this week to dig deep and learn some "hard truths" that each of us have in our lives. Be ready to talk through some topics that seem like "mountains" to many (think LGBTQ, Ageism, Homelessness, Cultural diversity etc....) but are merely molehills to God. How do our "mountains" get in the way from others receiving Christ? Share vulnerably how you have learned to allow the Holy Spirit to do His work through you so that your views don't get in His way? Talk about a time where you stuck your heels in and the consequences that came as a result of doing so.

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

During discussion this week, pay close attention to members' sharing and their "mountains" they identify. Some members will need more time or help in uncovering areas that they are holding onto instead of trusting God. Reach out to your group individually to have deeper conversations in what God might be wanting to reveal to them. Ask questions that will challenge the "hard truths" they won't budge on and if the Holy Spirit might be revealing something more. Some members might actually need to meet with someone else for accountability in addressing the "mountains" they have created. Encourage them to make that a commitment and follow up.

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

The Marriage Mentor support group matches married couples, as well as those planning to get married, with a marriage mentor couple who will commit to help them strengthen their marriage bond. We are currently looking for Mentor Couples. If you are interested in being trained to mentor other couples, please contact Mark Wildey at r.mark.wildey@gmail.com.

REMEMBER:

"Every group deserves a great leader."

LIFE GROUPS

SERIES| Acts | WEEK 17 of 30 | Sermon date: April 24, 2022

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*)

When have you made a big deal out of something that really turned out to be nothing at all?

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

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

1 Corinthians 8:1-9 (ESV)

Implications (*takeaways from the message*)

1. We should work toward becoming everything God has called us to; we must never require more of people than what God requires.
2. When we act outside of spiritual authority, we can damage people and the reputation of God.
3. Spiritual leaders work to find common ground, not places to disagree.
4. Owning our wrong and trying to make it right is important to the growth of the people we offend.

Discussion Questions (*going beyond the surface*)

1. Read 1 COR. 8:1-9. What’s the “big deal” in these passages? How big of deal was it really?
2. What’s an area of your life might you be making a “mountain” out of a “mole hill”?
3. How might those “mountains” you’ve made, damaged others and/or the reputation of God?
4. Who could you ask to help you identify these mountains you’ve made? And will you commit to actually asking that person do that this week?

Closing Prayer (*ask openly for a volunteer*)