

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 26 of 30 | Sermon date: June 26, 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)*

Read Colossians 3:1-17. In this passage, the apostle Paul instructs the church at Corinth to put on the new self that they have been given in Jesus Christ. After providing a list of behaviors Christians should put to death (verses 5-11), he specifically encourages them to put on then, as God's chosen ones, "patience" (verse 12). Patience in the Christian life often means waiting on God's purposes and plans with an attitude of hope. Write out verse 12 on a card you can carry with you this week, and refer to it often, using spare moments throughout your day to reflect on it. Take a few minutes every day this week to focus on it prayerfully in greater depth.

Leading *(facilitate your group effectively)*

How we handle trials and circumstances can sometimes parallel our level of spiritual maturity. God's word tells us that trials will indeed come. This is a refining process that invites us to trust more in Him than our circumstances or preferences. This week, questions 1 and 2 are head questions that expose some dire circumstances for Paul but also highlight how Jesus has more in store for Paul beyond his current circumstance. In question 3 we move to the introspective heart question that asks us to examine our own trials and circumstances and to consider just how God might be refining us through them. Finally, question 4, the hands question (the practical application), is to get us talking through what it would look like to actually embrace trials instead of trying to solve or remove every one of them from our lives. As leaders, listen well this week. Be genuinely curious as your group members share. This allows great follow up questions to come to mind. Encourage your group to contribute over consume, they can ask follow up questions for clarity too!

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

Refinement is certainly not easy; and often, it takes more time, energy, and tears than you might have thought and/or hoped for. As your people share with you the tests which are leading them into refinement this week, be sure to intentionally follow up with each to support their commitment in the trial and His work through them. To engage in trial is a choice, and it necessitates courage and trust. These characteristics are admirable and deserve affirmation. Take time out of your week to affirm what you see in those who vulnerably share their refinement process with the group.

Church Announcements *(specific to group leaders)*

Check out the new prayer wall by clicking [here!](#) Join our congregation in praying for one another!

REMEMBER:

"Every group deserves a great leader."

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Welcome/Introductions & Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs & Lows (choose what fits best-5 minutes)

Weekly Vision (Announcements, The “Why”, Goal, Outreach, Guidelines, & Branching- 5 minutes)

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- 5 minutes)

Describe the last time you waited a long time for something worthwhile. (An amusement park ride, a movie, a product; etc.)

Recap the Message (ask a couple people to share- 5 minutes)

Scripture References (Read scriptures directly from the Bible)

Acts 23:6-10 (ESV), Acts 23: 11

Implications (takeaways from the message)

1. How we handle authority – our stewardship of it or our submission to it – is a direct reflection of our spiritual maturity.
2. You cannot talk about a God of love from a position of hatred.
3. When you walk into a room, does it get more peaceful or more combative?
4. Waiting is all about refining.

Discussion Questions (going beyond the surface-55 minutes)

1. Read Acts 23:6-10 out loud. What exactly is going on here and how might Paul have felt in this very moment? Be mindful that Paul has been arrested (in Jerusalem) and is currently speaking to the council.
2. Now read Acts 23:11. How might Paul's perspective on his current circumstances have changed following this interaction with Jesus?
3. Paul was near the end of his ministry and yet he was still being refined by life's trials, yet he still had a purpose to fulfil. What circumstances currently exist in your life that you may see as trials? How might God be using that to refine you?
4. What would it take for you to actually embrace the refining the Lord is allowing in your life?

Closing Prayer (ask openly for a volunteer-10 minutes)