

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 27 of 30 | Sermon date: July 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)*

In 1 Corinthians 3:6, the apostle Paul summarized his ministry using an agricultural metaphor, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." Take a few moments and think about the different roles you are playing in the spiritual growth of others right now. With whom are you planting? With whom are you watering? Where are you seeing God give growth?

Leading *(facilitate your group effectively)*

This week's message provides another example of the persecution and opposition Paul encountered while on mission for Christ. As you move through discussion this week, we hope to examine how secure we are in Christ when carrying out His message and His plan. As you recap the message, ask questions to reveal what Paul is encountering while in custody. What circumstances are happening? As you move into heart question, be mindful that your members are in various stages of growth. The questions are written in a way to address our relationship with God, with others, and life circumstances. Dig in deeper as members share when results (or no results) don't match up with their effort. How should they handle disappointment and uncertainty? As disciples of Christ, we are called to be on mission for Christ. The hands question is a challenge for us to move deeper into God's story through staying connected to Him, trusting Him, and putting our God on display.

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

This week will be a powerful reminder for many that the fruits of their labor will often remain unseen on this side of eternity. How we stay the course, remain passionate and hope-filled in the call placed in our hearts, is the key. Take some time this week to encourage the people in your care that their life, call, and purpose are known and cherished by God. He values our heart posture in the times of trial and tribulation, the "how" we represent Him is what matters most. Living in that knowledge should provide freedom, share it with others in your group this week.

Church Announcements *(specific to group leaders)*

Save the date! Refocus training is August 28, 2022, from 12:30-3:30 PM. Lunch and childcare provided! Registration link will be sent soon!

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*)

Have you ever grown your own plant? If so, what did that experience teach you?

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

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

Acts 24: 24-27

Implications (*takeaways from the message*)

1. Our lives have to be marked by integrity and a clear conscience.
2. When we're anchored in Christ's message we can face some of life's hardest moments.
3. God's story, when we properly understand it, is so much bigger and more beautiful than we could ever imagine.
4. Put in the work, even when it's disappointing and you don't see results.

Discussion Questions (*going beyond the surface-55 minutes*)

1. Read Acts 24:24-27. How does Paul show he's committed to the mission of Christ?
2. While working on your relationship with God or on mission for Christ describe a time when you saw good results. Why is it disappointing when you don't see results or expectations are not met?
3. What steps are you willing to take to grow in your relationship with God and your commitment to the mission of Christ?

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