

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 28 of 30 | Sermon date: July 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)*

Genesis 1:26 says, "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Human beings have intrinsic dignity, value and worth because we were made by God in his image, after his likeness. Though the image of God in us has been distorted by sin, it has not been destroyed. When our thoughts, words and deeds glorify God, we image him. Consecrate one day this week to seek opportunities to identify the image of God in others. How do you see God reflected in the actions of others?

Leading *(facilitate your group effectively)*

This week's message looks into how Christians elevated those that were oppressed. As you lead discussion this week, the passages from Philemon, Colossians and Galatians highlight how Paul elevates the value of Onesimus in midst of the culture and challenges of that day. Guide discussion to examine that deeper and how it applies to us today. Moving into Question 3 (heart), help others to move into this space as it can be difficult to share especially if there is deep hurt. Be prepared to share your experience to help the group move into their hearts. Additionally, some members might have regret when they have acted in a manner that has devalued others. Is there an opportunity to make that right? We often carry our hurt with us and that may affect how we treat and value others around us today. Question 4 (hands) challenges us to intentionally find someone that needs to know they are valued and loved with action that shows it.

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

In Christ, every person has equal value; this is a beautiful reality we as Christ-followers live in. The truth is, even we struggle to give equal value to every person we encounter daily. Be aware of the words spoken this week, especially the responses given to question number 3. It's difficult to admit our shortcomings as people who love and represent Jesus. Affirm your members as they share about instances where they were made to feel "less than" and remind them of their value in Christ and that value never changes. For those who are vulnerable enough to share the times they find themselves unable to find value and/or keep everyone on an even playing field, remind them they are not alone and ask how you can help keep them accountable with those they struggle with most.

Church Announcements *(specific to group leaders)*

Save the date! Refocus training is August 28, 2022, from 12:30-3:30 PM. Lunch 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)

Do you haggle over prices (when that opportunity presents itself) or do you accept and pay for it at face value?

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

Scripture References (Read scriptures directly from the Bible)

Philemon 1:8-16 (ESV), Colossians 3:11 (ESV), Galatians 3:28 (ESV)

Implications (takeaways from the message)

1. The Issue of Human Value is a Core Tenant in the Kingdom of God.
2. We must be concerned with the real needs in the world and go meet those needs in the name of Jesus.
3. Faith works are more Kingdom minded than Law works.
4. Our power to represent Jesus well lies in community, not individuality.

Discussion Questions (going beyond the surface-55 minutes)

1. Read Philemon 1:8-16. How does Paul get others to consider the true value of Onesimus beyond that of just a bondservant?
2. Read Col 3:11 and Gal 3:28. How do these scriptures support both the actions and words of Paul towards Onesimus in the story?
3. Share a time when you were not valued. How does that affect how you treat/value others today?
4. What can you do this week to intentionally show someone you value them?

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