

# LIFE GROUPS

**LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 29 of 30 | Sermon date:** July 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)*

The Bible exhorts us as Christians, in many places to be humble and it also warns us of the dangers of being prideful. Real humility is being able to “count others more significant than ourselves” (Phil.2:3). This is a challenge for most of us as we live in a very “self-focused” world. Having it “our way” is a big part of our society. Everything from advertising to social media is constantly re-enforcing our love for ourselves. Read these verses on humility: Jam. 4:10 and Prov. 27:2. Can you identify from personal experience someone who has modeled humility for you? Take a few moments and think about what their behavior looked like.

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

Our line of questions is rooted in implication number two: The Roman Empire said, “Notice me.” Christianity says, “Notice others.” It’s sobering to stop and consider just how much we think of ourselves by considering our motives. To ask ourselves: Does this benefit me or others? Am I manipulating people and circumstances in an attempt to control the outcome so that it’s in my favor? Getting real and honest with ourselves is where a leader must start. Question 1 is getting at pointing out just what we see in the text regarding actions and results of the early church (generosity, great grace, unity etc.). Question 2 explores why this approach is radically different than the world they lived in and draws a parallel to ours today. Question 3 begs us to look inward and assess areas where we might be off from this line of thinking. Asking good follow up questions will help invite your group deeper. Question 4 encourages us to find a way to be more others focused.

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

If we (as leaders) understand the direction of this week’s curriculum, it can be conducive to a transparent discussion. People could potentially have some self-revelations that they’ll have to wrestle with. Discovering the true motives behind our actions can sometimes be quite unflattering and possibly shameful. That said, be mindful of your group members as they share. Pay attention to nonverbal cues and be listening for any opportunity to follow up after group and shepherd well. Fight the temptation to “Fix” or “Rescue” and simply be present and encourage. Remember, time and proximity equal relationship, and its relationship plus intentionality that equals discipleship. Be an intentional leader!

## **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*)

If you could only have one or the other, would you prefer to give a gift or receive a gift from someone, which would it be and why?

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

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

Acts 4:32-37, Philippians 2:3

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

1. On the surface, the description of Jesus and the Emperor seem to be running parallel tracks: Divine Son of God, Peace and Prosperity, Fullness of Life, Remission of Sins, The Gospel, \*\*But it is the deeds that ran perpendicular to the Roman Empire.
2. The Roman Empire said, “Notice me.” The Christian worldview says, “Notice others.”
3. Everything the early church did was about giving people a new identity found in Christ.
4. We will face difficult questions and obstacles when we follow Jesus. The way to navigate them well is not to figure out a way around them. Rather, it is find ways to hold to Grace and Truth at the same time. This takes a community.

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

1. Read Acts 4:32-37. What can we see in the text that the early church was actually doing here and what resulted from it?
2. What was so appealing about their “others-focused” approach in such a “self-focused” society? How might our world today be similar or different?
3. Read Philippians 2:3. In what ways might you be acting out of selfish ambition or conceit? How might your actions suggest that you’re more significant than others?
4. Share one thing you can start doing that would solely benefit others.

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