

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | ACTS | WEEK 30 of 30 | SERMON DATE July 31, 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.)

Galatians 6:2 says, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” There is no greater example of someone bearing another’s burdens than that of Jesus Christ. Through his death on the cross, he bore the penalty for our sins. In order for us as disciples of Jesus to bear another’s burdens, another person has to confess their burdens. Take some time to personally wrestle with the following question: why is it sometimes difficult to confess your need for community?

Leading (Facilitate your Life Group effectively.)

Our focus this week is on observing what the early church was doing and then seeing where we're at in comparison. Question One (Head Level) establishes a biblical foundation pointing us to Scripture. Question Two (Head Level) explores how your Life Group is both similar to and different from the early church. Question Three (Heart Level) personalizes the areas we individually struggle with in helping our Life Group look more like the biblical community we see in Acts. Question Four (Hands Level) challenges us to action in light of our discussion. Press for personal responses here of how each person can contribute over merely consuming.

Shepherding (Know, feed, lead and protect your Life Group.)

This week you will be sharing the difficulties we have as a church living into His call, our gifts, baptism, authority, meeting together and fellowship. As you lead vulnerably this week in the places you fall short and why, be sure to actively listen to the responses given by your Life Group. Pride, fear, rejection, etc. are all very real and hard things to confess aloud. There will be opportunities for you to empathize with the struggles of those in your Life Group. Pray with them and/or for them and call them into a deeper level of accountability where needed.

Church Announcements

“Refocus” is our annual mid-season Life Group Leader Training designed to help keep Life Group Leaders focused on our top priority of spiritual growth, while ensuring continued alignment to the mission and vision of Life Groups. “Refocus” is one of two major Life Group Leader trainings (annually) that all Life Group Leaders are asked to attend. It will take place on August 28, 2022 from 12:30pm-3:30pm. A free lunch will be provided! Registration coming soon.

Remember: “Every group deserves a great leader.”

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FACILITATOR PAGE | ACTS | WEEK 30 of 30 | SERMON DATE July 31, 2022

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS + OPENING PRAYER (5 Minutes)

ICE BREAKER, GOD MOMENTS, OR HIGHS + LOWS (5 Minutes)

WEEKLY VISION (Announcements, The “Why”, Goal, Outreach, Guidelines & Branching – 5 Minutes)

Guidelines: use confidentiality; avoid cross talk; avoid fixing and rescuing; use “I” statements; contribute over consume; and be mindful of self

ASK A HOOK QUESTION (5 Minutes)

Outside of your family, what other community did you first enjoy?

RECAP THE MESSAGE (5 Minutes)

Ask a few people to recap the message.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Acts 2:41-47

IMPLICATIONS (Takeaways from the message)

1. “Church” needs to look the way God intended. We do not have permission to turn it into something different.
2. There are at least four of these components of church (Authority, Spiritual Gifts, Fellowship, Meeting together) that you cannot do apart from a church body.
3. Prayer and worship give us the strength we need to do the hard stuff.
4. Doctrine is important. But it isn't the point. Doctrine should be an arrow that points us to Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (55 Minutes - Going beyond the surface)

1. Read Acts 2:41-47. What do you see the early church doing in this passage?
2. If this is biblical community, how do we see this reflected in our Life Group?
3. If this is biblical community, what part of this do you most struggle with?
4. What is one step that we can take to become more like the early church?

CLOSING PRAYER (Ask openly for a volunteer – 10 Minutes)