

Home Group Questions

The week of 5/3/2020

Various Passages

TIME TO REFLECT!

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel took a Sunday to reflect on the lessons learned from the early church and how we can apply these lessons today to our lives, especially as we face the challenge of living under the shadow of an epidemic.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

Take some time as a home group to reflect on lessons you may have learned from the first 8 chapters of the book of Acts. Think about what you might have experienced if you were there in the early church and the range of emotions you would have had as the church is triumphant and yet, now, under heavy persecution.

Talk about each of the six lessons below and read the Scriptures that pertain to each lesson:

1. God is totally sovereign! Acts 4:27-28; Matthew 16:18; Romans 8:28; Matthew 10:29-31; Colossians 1:16-7. What does the sovereignty of God mean to you as you seek to live your life in relationship with the Lord? How does God's sovereignty relate to his holiness and the application both of those attributes have in our lives as believers?

2. The trials we experience our temporary! Romans 8:35; Romans 8:37; John 16:33; Revelation 21:4. Perhaps there is an intellectual assent to the fact that trials are temporary but what makes trials so very difficult to live through at the time they occur? How can we better prepare ourselves for the trials that come our way? What spiritual and mental disciplines are needed to handle these trials in the right way?

3. Do right things even when "wrong" surrounds you! Acts 4:19; Acts 4:32; Acts 5:29; Matthew 5:44

Doing the right thing when wrong actions surround you can be very difficult because you think negative thoughts....who typically do we think negative thoughts about when we are going through trials? How can we change those negative thoughts into more positive thoughts and what are the positive thoughts we are to have during trials?

4. Be "faith-fully" wise and not fearfully defeated! Acts 8:1; Matthew 10:16; John 10:30, 39

Describe in very practical terms and ways in which a believer can live by faith. Share a time of struggle in your life when you chose to live by faith and not by fear.

5. Remember the power of your testimony during trials! Acts 2:46-47; Acts 5:13; Matthew 5:16

How important should it be to us that we have a testimony with others in this world? I'm guessing that you will say "very important" ...so what does that mean to us when we endeavor to have a testimony even when we are unjustly treated by others?

6. Make of the most of this time to draw near to God! Acts 2:46-47; Acts 5:42; Ephesians 5:16

Share honestly with others about how you can use your time more wisely and seek to make the most of this "lockdown" that we are experiencing as a result of this pandemic. Share with your home group ideas that you have to strengthen your walk with the Lord in the way you use your time wisely.

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray for the church around the world to be a light during this time of difficulty in the world.