

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2022 – Acts Sermon Series - “Witness”

Week 7 – Oct 25 - Oct 31

EMPHASIS FOR THE MONTH: VULNERABILITY. Now that you have begun to build relationships within your group, for the month of October our emphasis will be on trying to grow as a group (slowly is fine!) in openness and vulnerability. This may take some initiation on your part as the leader and/or co-leader to model how to be open and vulnerable and how intense the openness and vulnerability is / should be. Please know that I will be praying for you and your groups as you venture into this. May God guide you and give you wisdom and discernment.

ICE BREAKER: This time is designed for getting conversation going and to break the sometimes awkwardness of starting conversation. [Click here](#) for a helpful list of ideas for this time or create/do your own!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please announce the following to your group:

1. Join us this Sunday, October 30th as we celebrate child dedications during our 10 AM worship service!
2. We will be meeting for Worship & Prayer this Sunday, October 30th at 4 PM. All are welcome!
3. On Sunday, Oct. 23rd we highlighted several different volunteer teams during Step Up Sunday. If you would like to learn more about serving opportunities and joining a team, please email our Connections Director, Jackie Levesque at jackie.levesque@churchatbergen.org
4. Join us for prayer, every Sunday morning from 9-9:30 AM, before our 10 AM worship service. We meet in the classroom behind the Guest Services desk. All are welcome!

PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION: Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time.

DISCUSSION TIME: You can start the discussion by saying: This past Sunday Pastor Jordan Minnema preached from Acts 4:1-31 and we saw seven graces given to us by God that enable us to stand in boldness:

- #1 - Jesus is praying for us
- #2 - God gave us the message of the gospel
- #3 - God makes us qualified
- #4 - We have access to the throne of God
- #5 - God gives us fellowship with the family of God
- #6 - We have a sovereign and almighty God
- #7 - We have the Holy Spirit

QUESTION #1: Of the seven graces mentioned in the sermon, which stood out to you the most or had the greatest impact upon you?

QUESTION #2: Grace number one is that Jesus is praying for us. Have three volunteers turn to Hebrews 7:25 // 1 Tim. 2:5 // John 17:21-23 // and have them read one at a time. Knowing that Jesus is praying for you, what does this do to your heart? What are the implications of Jesus praying for us?

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2022 – Acts Sermon Series - “Witness”

Week 7 – Oct 25 - Oct 31

QUESTION #3: Grace number two is that God gave us the message of the gospel. Read Acts 4:11-12. Pastor Jordan said that if you had the cure to an incurable disease that a family member or best friend had, you would stop at nothing to get them that medicine. The gospel message has implications one billion fold. So what holds us back from sharing the gospel?

QUESTION #4: Grace number three is that God gives us qualification. Read Acts 4:13. Peter and John had been with Jesus and it was noticeable as the council was astonished. To quote Pastor Jordan, “We say we trust in Jesus on the one hand and with the next, we run headlong into the day without even acknowledgement or thought about Jesus and then we do it all again the next day and the next day. When we do this we forfeit one of the greatest gifts he gives to us: himself. Friendship with the son of God who died in our place and for our sins.” What are practical things we can do that will help us NOT neglect the incredible gift of Jesus Christ himself?

QUESTION #5: Grace number four is that we have been given access to the throne of God. Read Acts 4:23-24. The first thing that Peter and John did after being released from prison was pray to God. They went to God and communicated with Him. This access is something that all believers have. When Christ died on the cross the veil in the temple was torn in two symbolizing that the barrier between God and man was now removed. What does knowing that you can come to God in prayer and have access to the throne of God do for you and for your life?

QUESTION #6: Grace number five is that God gives us fellowship with other believers. Read Acts 4:23. When Peter and John were released they went to their friends. God’s Church is a gift and grace given to us by Holy design. This gift given to us shows us that we are weak and can’t do this life on our own, we need our brothers and sisters around us. How can we allow others to help us in this way? How can we help others in this way? In your opinion, is it easier or harder to receive help or to give help? Why?

QUESTION #7: Grace number six is that we have a sovereign and almighty God. Read Acts 4:24-31. These verses describe the worst sin that was ever committed: the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the son of God. Though this was the worst sin ever committed it was still not outside of God’s plan. Through the most evil event in human history, God brought about the greatest good. Why is it important that God is sovereign and in control of everything? What does this mean for you and for your life?

QUESTION #8: Grace number seven is, we have been given the gift of The Holy Spirit. Read Acts 4:8 & 4:31. It is to our advantage that Christ did not stay on earth but ascended to heaven, and the Holy Spirit was given to us. Read John 14:6. In what ways has the helper, The Holy Spirit, changed your life?

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2022 – Acts Sermon Series - “Witness”

Week 7 – Oct 25 - Oct 31

FINAL QUESTION & PRAYER TIME: How can we pray for one another? Spend significant time taking prayer requests and praying for one another. This is absolutely the best use of our time together.

IDEA: Record all the prayer requests shared so that they can be sent out in a follow up email the following day so we can be praying for one another throughout the week.

