

## GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2023 – Acts Sermon Series - “Witness”

Week of Nov. 12 (Week 10)

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. All women are invited to join us for a breakfast buffet and time of fellowship on Saturday, November 18, from 9:30-11:30 AM at church. [Click here](#) to sign up to attend!
2. Shoe boxes are due back this Sunday, November 19 for Operation Christmas Child! Shoe boxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies will be sent as a means of reaching children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ.
3. If you are interested in learning more about our doctrine and vision, church leadership structure, and qualifications for membership, join our Membership Class on Sunday, December 3 at 12 PM. Email [jackie.levesque@churchatbergen.org](mailto:jackie.levesque@churchatbergen.org) to sign up to attend!
4. “Tackle the Trafficking” is a football tournament aimed at raising support and awareness in the fight against human trafficking. This year it will take place on Saturday, November 25. In addition to the football tournament, there will be a Fair Trade Market and so much more! If you are interested in attending the event or would like more information on how you can support this event, please reach out directly to covenant members, Jessica Grande ([jessgrande@yahoo.com](mailto:jessgrande@yahoo.com)) or Danielle Hoitsma ([leavnalegacy@aol.com](mailto:leavnalegacy@aol.com)).
5. We are looking for 5-10 volunteers on Monday, November 27 at 5 PM, to help us decorate for Christmas. No skills required - just an interest in helping us hang lights, garland, and set up some Christmas trees! Email [jackie.levesque@churchatbergen.org](mailto:jackie.levesque@churchatbergen.org) to let us know you'll be there!

**PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION:** Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that the The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

**SERMON DISCUSSION TIME:** Have someone read the passage: Galatians 3:23-28. You can start the discussion by saying: This past Sunday we took a pause from our current sermon study in the book of Acts for Baptism Sunday and looked at Galatians 3:23-28. In this passage the Apostle Paul addresses Christians and as posed by Pastor Mike in his sermon we see three things addressed: (1) Where Christians were, (2) Where Christians are, and (3) How Christians got there.

**QUESTION #1:** It was said in the sermon that God’s law is like a mirror to reflect our sin clearly back at us. The law exposes how truly wicked and sinful we really are. The law of God alone can never change your heart, at best it can control your behavior. Why is this understanding of God’s law so important when thinking about and resting in The Gospel?

**QUESTION #2:** As a Christian, if you are a Christian, then right now, you are no longer held captive to God's law, but you are now held captive to God's love as His child and there is nothing that you could ever do to escape from the love of God. Do you really, truly believe this? Why is this / can this be so hard to believe?

**QUESTION #3:** As a Christian, how is it that we are no longer being held captive to God's law but are now being held captive by God's love? How is it possible to move from being held captive to God's law to being held captive to God's love?

**QUESTION #4:** What does it mean to be clothed and covered by the righteousness of God? What is the only way that this happens? (answer: by grace through faith - it is a free gift from God)

**QUESTION #5:** At the end of the sermon it was said that although baptism does not save you it is still an integral part of giving your life to Jesus. Baptism is the culmination and capstone of your conversion to Christ and entrance into the body of Christ which is His church. Why is it so important to be baptized? Why are baptism and being a part of the family of God (The Church) so important and inextricably linked?

**QUESTION #6:** If you have not been baptized and are feeling a tug and pull on your heart to be baptized (or if you have been baptized but feel as though you would like to talk to someone about your baptism and the possibility of being baptized at Church at Bergen) please reach out to Dave Levesque at [dave.levesque@churchatbergen.org](mailto:dave.levesque@churchatbergen.org).

**PRAY TOGETHER:** Spend time taking *and recording* prayer requests and then pray together as a group. (You may want to consider sending out the prayer requests weekly to your group to keep everyone informed and in the loop on how to pray for one another throughout the week. This also makes it easier to check-in with people who have shared requests to see how the Lord has been working in their lives.)