

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2023 – Acts Sermon Series - “Witness”

Week of Sept 25 (Week 3)

EMPHASIS FOR THE MONTH: The month of September is all about ***building relationships and building trust within your group***. You really want to be sure to give some time to just getting to know one another if people don't already know each other or know each other very well and allowing time for those that do know each other to just catch up.

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. We would love for you to get plugged into community and serve here at Church at Bergen! If you didn't get a chance to fill out your serving preferences online survey during our Sunday service last week, please email jackie.levesque@churchatbergen.org. After she sends it to you and you fill it out, she will be in touch with you to see where you can use your time and talents to serve your local church body!
2. This Friday night, September 29, local churches in our area are gathering for a night of worship! Doors open at 6:30 PM at Christian Community of Praise (183-185 20th Ave Paterson, NJ 07501). We hope you will join us as we celebrate what God has done and what He is doing, as we foster unity and love between local churches in Northern New Jersey.
3. Our next Baptism Class is scheduled for Sunday, October 15 at 12 PM. If you would like to attend the class, please stop by the Guest Services desk on Sunday to pick up the short required reading and sign up to attend.
4. Join us for prayer every Tuesday night from 7-8 PM. All are welcome!
5. Every Wednesday morning at 6:30 AM a group of women meet for prayer at the church! Reach out to covenant members Danielle Hoitsma (leavnalegacy@aol.com) and Al Cimino (alexandra.m.cimino@gmail.com) for more information.
6. Join us for prayer every Sunday morning from 9-9:30 AM. 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. Pray that the The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

SERMON DISCUSSION TIME: You can start the discussion by saying: This past Sunday we looked at Acts 16:16-24 and saw a demon-possessed slave girl set free when Paul commanded the evil spirit in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. Because of this, Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into the inner prison. Read or have a volunteer read the passage (Acts 16:16-24).

QUESTION #1: Why do you think an evil spirit would want to possess someone? What do human beings have that demons absolutely despise?



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QUESTION #2: Have you ever stopped to think about the fact that the God of the universe has imprinted himself upon you, making you in His own image and likeness? What do you think of and how does it make you feel hearing that?

QUESTION #3: One of the reasons that we think we don’t desperately need Jesus as we should is because of our lack of belief in spiritual warfare. What contributes to this lack of belief in spiritual warfare? What are things we can do to not “dull our spiritual warfare senses”.

QUESTION #4: Confronting evil as Paul and Silas did comes with a cost and what we see in this passage is a portrayal of the gospel: Paul and Silas traded places with this girl as Jesus traded places with us. From this beautiful example and portrayal of the gospel we learn three things: (1) We learn about the meaning of manhood, (2) we learn about the value of women, and (3) we learn about the enduring truthfulness of Christianity. Which of those three things pointed out in the sermon had the greatest impact on you and why?

QUESTION #5: Jesus is the only one who possesses the power to get to the inner places where the enemy has his grasp on you, but you have to be willing to admit that you need his help. This takes a lot of courage and vulnerability as it requires the obliteration of pride. It may be uncomfortable and you don’t have to share, but is there anyone who is gripped by something that they just can’t seem to get free from and wants to expose that something, bringing it to the light and to Jesus as we ask for his help in prayer for you?

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.)*

