

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2023 – Acts Sermon Series - “Witness”

Week of Oct. 1 (Week 4)

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. Our Young Adult gathering for 20s & 30s called “The Turnout” will be meeting next Friday, October 13. For more information including the address, contact our young adult leaders at young_adults@churchatbergen.org.
2. 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.
3. Join us for prayer every Tuesday night from 7-8 PM. All are welcome!
4. 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.
5. 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 16:25-40 where we saw the Philippian jailer in charge of Paul & Silas converted to Christ. This was done not by their (Paul & Silas) mouths, but by their actions, as they displayed hope in Jesus amidst incredible suffering and darkness. Pastor Mike posed the question: How can our suffering and pain be evangelistic and preach Christ to those who are watching us? Or another way to pose the question: How can our pain preach? He answered the question in three ways: (1) Our pain will preach when we remember that we never know who is watching, (2) Our pain will preach when we hope in Jesus in the dark, and (3) Our pain will preach when we reach out to others who are hurting in the dark. Have someone read the passage: Acts 16:25-40.

QUESTION #1: How can our own personal experience with pain and suffering preach and be a witness to others who are watching us?

QUESTION #2: Has your perspective on suffering changed after studying this passage?

QUESTION #3: How did it make you feel when Pastor Mike said that you are not disqualified and/or “on the sidelines” in sitting with others in their prison/darkness just because you may be in a prison / in darkness yourself?



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QUESTION #4: Similar to Pastor Don Hoitsma’s testimony that was shared by Pastor Mike in the sermon, is there a personal experience that you have had in onlooking someone else’s suffering that has impacted you?

QUESTION #5: Has someone ever sat with you in an inner prison / in darkness before? What was that experience like?

QUESTION #6: Do you need someone to sit with you in an inner prison / in darkness right now? How can we pray 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.)*

