

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2023 – Acts Sermon Series - “Witness”

Week of Oct. 15 (Week 6)

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. “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) or Danielle Hoitsma (leavnalegacy@aol.com).
2. We are currently accepting donations of new adult socks to benefit those in need through St. Joseph’s Hospital. We will be labeling each pair of socks with our church information so we can also share the love of Christ! You can drop off your new packs of socks in the box located in the church lobby by Sunday, November 5.
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 17:16-34 and saw Paul engage the people of Athens with the gospel. Pastor Mike laid out three points from the text for us when engaging others with the gospel: **(#1) The groundwork of engagement**, **(#2) The method of engagement**, and **(#3) The results of engagement**.

For **(#1) The groundwork of engagement**, we looked at: **WHEN** we should engage people with the gospel, **WHY** we should engage people with the gospel, and **WHAT** engaging people with the gospel actually looks like.

For **(#2) the method of engagement**, we saw a four step process laid out from the text when sharing the gospel with others: (1) - Listen for longings, (2) - Connect those longings to God, (3) - Challenge old longings, and (4) - Bring those longings to Jesus.



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And lastly, for **(#3) The results of engagement**, we saw that the results of engaging people with the gospel are completely out of our hands and that true conversion is only in the hands of God.

QUESTION #1: It was said in the sermon that God is not expecting us to go outside our normal rhythms and routines when sharing the gospel but rather as we go about our normal lives, rhythms, and routines we are merging into evangelistic opportunities as they arise. These can also be known and referred to as “Holy-Interruptions”. After hearing this, did your perspective on sharing the gospel change at all? What thoughts went through your mind? What are things that can be done to better put us in a place where our awareness is heightened for these opportunities that come about or these “Holy-Interruptions”?

QUESTION #2: When talking about the **WHY** of evangelism, the point was made that our love for God is always connected to our love for our neighbors. Why is this important? Why do you think God has designed and set it up this way?

QUESTION #3: It was said in the sermon that oftentimes we may feel an obligation to share the gospel out of a motivation of guilt because we don’t want to feel like “bad Christians”. This motivation of guilt is a self-centered motivation where engaging others with the gospel doesn’t come from love for others, but out of appeasing our guilty conscience. Why is this a bad motivator for sharing the gospel? How is this in opposition to the gospel itself?

QUESTION #4: When talking about the method in which Paul engages the people of Athens, Pastor Mike laid out 4 sequential steps from the text that we can keep in mind when engaging others with the gospel: (1) - Listen for longings, (2) - Connect those longings to God, (3) - Challenge old longings, and (4) - Bring those longings to Jesus. Out of these four steps laid out here, which one made the biggest impact on you and why?

QUESTION #5: Christian apologists, philosophers, and theologians have determined that there are essentially six main categories of longing that ALL people, everywhere, have: meaning, satisfaction, freedom, identity, hope, and justice. Of these six, which one had the greatest impact on you and/or stood out the most to you and why? Why is it important to listen to these longings when engaging people with the gospel?



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QUESTION #6: It was said at the end of the sermon that the results of sharing the gospel are out of your hands. Conversion is in the hands of God so you don’t need to get evangelism perfect or be legalistic about it. God can use anyone he wants to share the gospel. Do not fear, be kind and respectful, engage and listen to other’s longings, show them the beauty of Jesus that he alone satisfies their longings, bring their longings before Jesus who demands a response, and trust Jesus for the results. At the end of the day you are safe in his hands and you can take risks. What does this make you think or how does this make you feel in regards to sharing the gospel in the future?

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.)*

