

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2023 – Acts Sermon Series - “Witness”

Week of Oct. 22 (Week 7)

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. This Sunday, October 29, we will be celebrating child dedications during our 10 AM worship service.
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 18:1-23 and we saw the ways that Jesus provided all that Paul needed to fulfill his ministry in the city of Corinth. Paul says he came to the Corinthians “I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling.” (2 Corinthians 2:3) So, everything that happens in Acts 18 is Jesus providing for Paul what he needs to fulfill his call.

QUESTION #1: What were some things from this past Sunday’s sermon that either encouraged, challenged, confused, or helped you? Explain.

QUESTION #2: The four “gusts of wind” the Spirit of Jesus put into Paul’s sails are listed. Take some time to discuss each one and how they may have encouraged you.

1. **Christian friends to do life and ministry with.** Paul came into Corinth alone, but in God’s providence, he sends Aquila and Priscilla, who are a strong Christian couple to encourage him.

How has God used other Christian friends in your life? What have been challenges with friendship for you?

2. **Financial provision after being faithful.** Paul had to provide for himself and use spare time for ministry, until Silas and Timothy brought a generous gift from other churches to free him up for full-time ministry. When has God been faithful in providing for you? How might God be leading you to be faithful with what you have now to trust him for provision later?
3. **Visible fruit after difficult seasons.** Paul had been ridiculed and blasphemed by the Jews and Greeks, but eventually he saw many conversions after Crispus (the leader of a synagogue) was converted. What have been times when visible fruit came much later than you had hoped? How did God grow you in that?
4. **Jesus makes and keeps promises.** Paul had been experiencing fearfulness, so Jesus personally promises to be with him and will guard him from harm so he can endure in ministry at Corinth. How has the promise of Jesus' presence been a source of strength for you? Where do you need to trust him again?

QUESTION #3: Pastor Mike talked about Romans 8:32 as the foundation of our assurance that God will provide all that we need when we face circumstances which cause fear and weakness. How does Romans 8:32 give us this assurance? See if you can put Paul's question into a statement. Then take some time to discuss what it looks like for us to really believe this promise.

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.)*

