

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2022 – Acts Sermon Series - “Witness”

Week 4 – Oct 3 - Oct 9

EMPHASIS FOR THE MONTH: Now that you have begun to build relationships within your group, for the month of October our emphasis will be on trying to grow as a group (slowly is fine!) in openness and vulnerability. This may take some initiation on your part as the leader and/or co-leader to model how to be open and vulnerable and how intense the openness and vulnerability is / should be. Please know that I will be praying for you and your groups as you venture into this. May God guide you and give you wisdom and discernment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please announce the following to your group:

1. Hearing and listening to a song multiple times is a great way to learn that song in order to be able to sing it well. The better we know the songs we sing as the gathered people of God, the more robust our corporate worship will be (Ephesians 5:19). In an effort to make it as easy as possible for us to learn, know, and sing our corporate worship songs, please visit churchatbergen.org and under the resources tab click the page titled: “Corporate Worship” to access playlists of our corporate worship songs wherever and whenever you want to. We pray that this resource is helpful and encouraging to you. Looking forward to hearing us worship our God, united as one in song!
2. Our next Men's Breakfast will take place this Saturday, October 8 at 9 AM. No sign-up required! Please contact Mike Savino at mjsavinos@gmail.com if you would like more information or if you have any questions.
3. All young adults (20's & 30's) are invited to join us for the Turnout, next Friday, October 14 at 7 PM. Our time together will include fellowship & food, worship & prayer, and the teaching & meditation of God's word. Email our Young Adult Leaders at young_adults@churchatbergen.org if you have any questions!
4. Our next Baptism Class is scheduled for Sunday, October 16 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.
5. We are doing a volunteer outreach with Servant's Heart Ministry on Saturday, October 22, from 8:30AM - 5:00PM. We will have details of location and exact scope of the work as we get closer. No construction experience is necessary. Coffee and lunch provided. Sign up in the weekly newsletter or email info@churchatbergen.org to attend!
6. Join us for prayer, every Sunday morning from 9-9:30 AM, before our 10 AM worship service. We meet in the classroom behind the Guest Services desk. All are welcome!

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PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION: Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time.

DISCUSSION TIME: You can start the discussion by saying, “This past Sunday Pastor McKinney preached from Acts 2:36-41 with the main focus being in verse 39 and the three-fold promise given: ‘For this promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.’”

QUESTION #1: What stood out to you the most from this past Sunday’s sermon?

QUESTION #2: In Acts 2:37, being “cut to the heart” could also mean “violently shake the conscience”. Why is it important that the Word of God be preached?

QUESTION #3: Have someone read Hebrews 4:12-13. How does Hebrews 4:12-13 encourage us? How does it convict us?

QUESTION #4: The promise of the gospel of Jesus Christ is for you. The wrath-absorbing cross of Christ is made available for sinners like us. The Apostle Peter mentioned this to the very people that had participated in wanting Jesus to be delivered to death. How does this promise change the way you view your own sin? How has the promise of this good news changed you?

QUESTION #5: The promise is for your children. Fathers and mothers are expected to be the primary exhibitors of the promise of the gospel. However, the local church is made up of different families and individuals going through different life stages. How can we as the family of God at Church at Bergen participate in bringing the next generation to maturity? How does our visible engine of prayer play a role in this?

QUESTION #6: The promise is for all those who are far off. Have someone read Ephesians 2:11-22. The gospel was not meant only for the Jewish community but it was meant for the whole world. Isaiah 57:19 speaks of peace and healing coming to those near and far. Pentecost was actually the reversal of the Tower of Babel (Gen 11). This multi-ethnic redemption speaks directly to the racial and socio-economic nature of churches worldwide. What should our union in Christ, and our primary identities in Him, tell the rest of the world?

QUESTION #7: Pastor McKinney said, “Every generation is morally bent and twisted in their own way”. How does The Holy Spirit help us in the midst of this current crooked generation? What should our mindset and actions be as a covenant people in engaging a generation that needs the promise to the gospel? See Philippians 2:14-16.

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QUESTION #8: Prime the pump - preview of the next sermon: What does a community look like that has received the gospel?

FINAL QUESTION & PRAYER TIME: How can we pray for one another? Spend significant time taking prayer requests and praying for one another. This is absolutely the best use of our time together.

IDEA: Record all the prayer requests shared so that they can be sent out in a follow up email the following day so we can be praying for one another throughout the week.

