

“A.D. The Bible Continues”- Wk 5
“You Can’t Stop the Unstoppable”
New Life Community Church

INTRODUCTION

As the early Christian church emerged, God revealed His power through signs and wonders. Despite this revelation of God’s power, believers found themselves facing persecution on many sides. But the persecution and disbursement of believers only served to spread the message of the gospel even farther. As we study the early believers we see what we must do as we live in the unstoppable power of God.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

Have you ever owned something that just wouldn’t stop? (a car, refrigerator pet)

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

The Meaning of Signs and Wonders

Q1. Read Isaiah 35:4-6; Luke 7:22; Luke 9:1-2; Hebrews 2:3-4; Acts 14:3

The fulfillment of the prophesy of Isaiah 35:4b revealed that God had come to save us and the people were witnessing signs and wonders that confirmed this. Signs and wonders were evidence to point people back to what important truths? (see Luke 9:1-2; Hebrews 2:3-4; Acts 14:3)

We Must Fully Commit Our Lives

Q2. Read Luke 9:23-25; Romans 12:1; Romans 8:13

After the power of God’s Holy Spirit came over the disciples their lives were not only changed, they were forfeit, being fully given over to God, even to the point of martyrdom. What does Jesus plainly state in Luke 9:23-25 that we must do to be His followers? What are some of the everyday situations we face that require us to choose to lay down our life for Christ? What is at stake if we attempt to hang on to our lives and the things of this world?

We Must Openly Share Our Faith

Q3. Read 1 Peter 3:14-17; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

When you think about sharing your faith, how would you describe your reaction? 1 Peter 3:14-17 tells us we should be prepared to defend the reason for our hope in Jesus. How does Peter address those who are fearful to share their faith (see 1 Peter 3:14)? But in 2 Corinthians 5

Paul describes us as ambassadors for Christ with what wonderful message? If you know someone who needs to be reconciled to God, be sure to include them in your group’s prayer list today.

We Must Totally Trust in God

Q4. Read Philippians 1:12-14; Romans 8:1, 4; Proverbs 3:5-6

There will be times when life doesn’t seem to make sense. Those are the times we have the greatest opportunity to grow in our faith. Paul, Joseph, Stephen and the early believers each experienced abysmal personal circumstances. How did each circumstance result in God’s greater purpose? Have you experienced a difficult circumstance that resulted in a greater good? How does Proverbs 3:5-6 give us direction in how to totally trust God in such circumstances?

WRAP-UP

The early believers saw miraculous signs and wonders from God. These bore a powerful witness to the unstoppable good news that God’s kingdom and His salvation had come to them through Jesus. Despite opposition and persecution the disciples fully committed their lives to God, openly shared their faith, and totally trusted God, no matter the cost. If we are to see God’s power in our lives, we must do the same.

Memory Verse

...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

1 Peter 3:15b NIV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:_____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space)_____

Challenge: If you, or someone you are close to, is experiencing difficulties in life, begin to seek God for an increase in faith to trust Him despite the circumstances.

Q1

Luke 7:22 ESV - 22 And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.

Isaiah 35:4-6 ESV - 4 Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

Luke 9:1-2 ESV - 1 And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

Hebrews 2:3-4 ESV - 3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, 4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Acts 14:3 ESV - 3 So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Q2

Luke 9:23-25 ESV - 23 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. 25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

Romans 12:1 ESV - 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 8:13 ESV - 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Q3

1 Peter 3:14-17 ESV - 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make

a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 ESV - 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Q4

Philippians 1:12-14 ESV - 12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Genesis 50:20 ESV - 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Read Acts 7:59- 8:1, 4 in your Bible

Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV - 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Prayer requests con't _____

