

“(un)common”

week #4

INTRODUCTION

As we conclude our sermon series on the uncommon church of Acts, we will consider how they impacted the world by being witnesses. God gave his people power which enabled them to live life differently, in every way. The power that was displayed at the time of the formation of the new church was for God’s purposes. Because that difference was apparent to everyone around them, it drew people to God. This study reminds us that we are also called to live differently so that God is glorified in our community.

Ice Breaker (Optional):

What community do you live in?

Study Questions (45 MIN)

The Power to be Witnesses

Q1. Read Acts 1:6-8; Acts 8:12; 1 Corinthians 4:19-20

In Acts 1:6 the disciples were asking Jesus when the kingdom would be restored. The definition of a kingdom is wherever there is royal power, kingship, dominion, and rule. When have you observed the evidence of God’s kingdom and power? Phillip preached the good news of the kingdom of God and many were saved (Acts 8:12). What is one thing that might demonstrate to someone that the kingdom of God is good news for them?

Part of a New Community

Q2. Read Acts 2:42-47; Matthew 28:18-20

It was impossible to ignore the changed lives of the new believers in Acts. In addition to “signs and wonders” being done by the apostles, what were the every day changes that were evidence of changed lives in the believers (Acts 2:44-47)? What was the result of their witness to the world? (Acts 2:47) God’s intention is for us to bear witness of Him to the world. But that means we need to be present among the world in order for them to see our witness. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus tells us to “go and make disciples.” What are some of the everyday opportunities we have to “go and make disciples” by bearing witness of our changed lives to others?

Bearing Witness to Hope

Q3. Read Proverbs 23:18; Jeremiah 29:11; Revelation 3:15-16

One of the ways we draw others to God is by witnessing to the hope we have. In Revelation 3:15-16 God expresses a desire that we would be hot or cold. Both can bring healing to the weary, and God’s desire is for us to bring healing to the world, not to remain neutral and unengaged (i.e. lukewarm). The world can be a frightening place, but our God is a God of hope. (Jeremiah 29:11; Revelation 3:15-16) How does your hope give you a different perspective on tragic world events compared to those who have no hope? How can you offer this hope to others?

Wrap-Up

God has given His people power, by His Holy Spirit, to be witnesses of Him. This witness involves more than signs and wonders, it includes changed lives. When we live our everyday lives differently, the world notices and is drawn to God because of it. The community of God we see in Acts lived, not for themselves, but to spread the good news and love of God to others. When we touch the lives of others with the love of Jesus we bring the hope that the world so desperately needs. One way to do this is to leave the walls of the church and serve the community with the New Life family on October 28 & 29. We can bring hope and healing to a hurting world in one of the many projects taking place that weekend in the 5 Cities area. Won’t you be part as we “Affect the 5”?

Memory Verse

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8 ESV

Prayer (20 MIN)

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

Challenge:

Find a way for your group to Affect the 5 cities by joining us on Oct 28 & 29 to serve in the community. You can sign up at newlifepismo.com/affectthe5

