

Dig Deeper @Home – “Kingdom Mindsets”

Complement to lesson on 10/01/23 – “For the Common Good”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Is it easier for you to offer help to others or receive help from others? Why?
2. You are in a play/musical. Would you rather have the lead role, a background role like a towns person, or be on the stage crew?

MEMORIZE – Acts 2: 38-39

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

READ – Read Acts 4: 1-31

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What are the verses revealing about God? About people?
In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. How are Peter and John living out their identity as witnesses to Jesus?
 - a. How did they respond when told to be silent?
 - b. How did they respond to the threats of the rulers and elders?
 - c. How are they demonstrating living for the common good? Be specific.
3. Why were Peter and John arrested? What message were they declaring?
 - a. How often do you share this message with others?
 - b. How often do you remind yourself of this truth?
 - c. How can you share this message more regularly with others where you live, work, study, worship and play?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – *Standing on Resurrection Ground*

The resurrection of Jesus was primary in the lives of the earliest followers. This truth was proclaimed everywhere they went. It was what fueled them with hope no matter what they faced ... whether opposition, threats, persecution, or hardships like shipwreck, disease and death. They responded to all of these situations with confidence because Jesus rose from the grave and so they stood on a foundation of resurrection ground.

1. What are you facing right now? What hardship are you navigating?
2. What hope do you have because you stand on resurrection ground?
3. What is possible in your situation because you stand on resurrection ground?
4. Spend time talking to the Holy Spirit about these questions.

Look again at the prayer of the disciples in the face of threat. What did they ask for? For the threats to stop? For God to eliminate the threat? No, they prayed for boldness. Boldness for what? Boldness to keep sharing about Jesus, the One who was dead but now lives forever. Spend time praying for boldness to keep sharing about Jesus in the midst of your current struggle/hardship.

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Echo Holy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pz5t7XTCxNE>

Holy is the Lord - <https://youtu.be/uInmeLDRcK8?si=MyUTiD-LIlyplnsX>

Jesus Strong and Kind - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eP_2Z39IGzl

Glory to God on High – Mennonite Hymnal #101

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the message:

Father God, I want to live my life for your glory and the good of others.

Holy Spirit, empower me to do so by giving me the mind of Christ and give me boldness to share about Jesus with others where I live, work, study and play.