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How to use this book.

At St Paul's we are committed to growing as disciples of Jesus, spurring each other on to know and grow in Jesus. We know that God works through His Word powerfully to teach and transform us, and so we know the importance of seeing God's Word regularly sown into our lives and throughout the week.

We do that daily as we personally open God's Word and depend on Him in prayer. We also grow as we meet in our households to read God's Word together.

Over time we've seen that as we study the same passage from God's Word in different layers in our lives, that God builds depth in our understanding, stronger application in our lives, and encouragement in our households and in our church as we learn together.

As we spend time learning and thinking about our Vital signs this term, we are doing that in a few ways...

CHURCH

Keep this guide with your bible and have it with you as you as you participate in church. Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided, ready to reflect on these personally, as you meet with someone 121, and as you meet up with your Small Group.

SMALL GROUPS

Take this guide with you to your Small Group each week. There are Bible studies for each of the Vital Signs, and space to write down prayer points that come from the study that week as well as prayer requests from the members of your group.

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Keep an eye on our **Facebook group** for parents as we will share devotional content throughout the term that will help you as you disciple your children. (If you are not part of the group already and would like to join please email **kids@spch.org.au**)

Setting the scene for our Vital Signs series.

INTRODUCTION

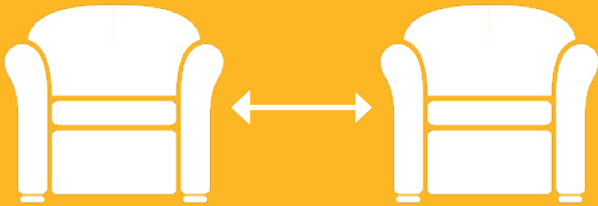
At St Paul's we use Vital Signs to measure our spiritual heartbeat. They are known by the following titles:



During this series we aim to understand these Vital Signs as well as work practically to develop good habits as disciples of Jesus.

As we begin this term and our groups are returning to meeting face to face, we encourage you to spend extra time at the start of this study catching up, finding out how people are going, and making sure people are comfortable before the study begins.

Be aware that group members will be at different places - some people may be anxious meeting again, while others will be very keen. And please be considerate of the host of your group, helping them meet COVID-19 guidelines in terms of cleaning and physical distancing



Ensure your space allows people to sit one chair apart from each other.



Cordon off areas you do not wish guests to use (use visible signs). This will reduce areas needing disinfecting.



Clean and disinfect all commonly used surfaces (tables, door handles, door frames). Do this BEFORE and AFTER the gathering. Provide hand sanitiser as guests enter your home, or where you hold small group.



If possible provide disposable disinfectant wipes and a bin ready for guests to clean the bathroom surface areas after each use (flush, disinfect the door and tap handle).



Always be willing to serve your guests to minimise them touching surfaces in your home.

STUDY ONE

Growing People Change

2 PETER 1:3-8



INTRODUCTION

The Vital Sign of Growing People Change is not always easy to see or measure as it can happen over a long period of time or subtly.

QUESTIONS

1. Can you identify a time when you feel that you have grown the most? Please share with the group should you feel comfortable to do so.

2. Read **2 Peter 1:3-8**. What is the source of power to live a godly life? Are desires evil? What evil desires are a struggle for you?

The source of power is from God himself. He is at work in us as we get to know him. Perhaps you could ask what it means to participate in the divine nature? To participate in the divine nature is to live a godly life but not be a god. We are drawn into the fellowship of the trinity as individuals and corporately (church). This does not mean we are equal with God but known and loved by him and we experience that love and joy only found in God himself. It also means that we are raised up from our brokenness and a world that would rob us of knowing our Maker, "having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires).

3. In verses 5-7 what things do you feel convicted to work on? Why do you think Peter constructs this list with one thing added to the other?

The first question is for people to answer but do not have to share but sharing makes us accountable to each other and motivates people "make every effort to add to their faith." The second question is to encourage people to think of this as a chain rather than a list (perhaps there are other suggestions). If one link is broken the chain is broken.

4. What do you think Peter means by "make every effort" (verse 5)?

It is the focus of a disciple of Jesus. Our response to Jesus grace is ongoing and a growth process.

5. What do you think is a consequence of verse 9?

We do not grow. Perhaps it also robs the cross of its power. We do not make every effort if we fall back into old patterns.

MAKING IT STICK

Below is a link to our Vital Signs survey. As we begin our series it would be good to gauge where we are at and to encourage us to grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus. The Vital Signs are a way of indicating how we are going (but not definitive). This should not be an exercise to make sure you are ticking the right boxes, but encourage growth as the things listed in this passage are becoming natural.

[**COMPLETE THE VITAL SIGNS SURVEY >>**](#)

PRAYER

In addition to responding to today's passage and praying for your group members, please be praying for:

- Pray that we will grow into the likeness of the Son.
- Pray that God will uphold us as we change even if it is painful.
- Grant us a growing affection for Jesus as we grow so that we might be faithful and grateful toward Jesus which is reflected in our lives.

STUDY TWO

God's People Gather

REVELATION 7:9-10



INTRODUCTION

Just who are God's people and whom do they gather around? How are they all united together as one body? This passage of scripture in the book of Revelation describes to us who God's people are, what makes them his people and who his people are gathered around.

QUESTIONS

1. Without reading Revelation 7:9-10, based on your thoughts, what does it mean to be God's people and what does it mean for you to gather before God? Encourage people to share their thoughts within the group.

2. **Read v9.** How does John describe the people of "The Great Multitude"? What does this tell us about how God's people meet?

John describes the people of "the Great Multitude" as being from every nation, tribe, people and language. John's vision further clarifies God's promise to Abraham that He will be the Father of many descendants (Gen 17:3-6) and those descendants will be blessed (Gen 22:18, 26:4) This description of God's people tells us that they meet together with each other despite them being from every nation, tribe, people and language. There is no racial or cultural barrier that should stop God's people from gathering.

3. **Read v9** again. Who is the "Great Multitude"? Why is it so significant that they are all standing together before the throne and the Lamb?

The great multitude are standing before the throne and the lamb. This is significant because this answers the question in Rev 6:17 "For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?" Sinners cannot withstand the wrath of God, but John's vision sees the redeemed multitude standing before the Father on the Throne and the Son at the right hand of the Father.

4. What are the Redeemed Multitude wearing and holding in v9? What do these represent?

The redeemed multitude are wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hand. The white robes represent cleanliness from sin. John writes in Rev 7:14 "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb". Daniel 12:10 also describes the redeemed multitude as purified, spotless and refined. The Palm branches represent a future redemption. In John 12:13 palm branches are laid out for Jesus the King of Israel who redeems the nation. Leviticus 23:40-43 branches are taken and used in a seven day festival to rejoice in the Lord as an act of worship and appreciation from bringing them out of slavery in Egypt.

5. **Read v10**. What do the Redeemed multitude cry out? What does this say about God?

The great multitude cries that Salvation belongs to our God and The Lamb. God is the source of salvation. He initiates salvation, his love and mercy motivate it, and his grace grounds it. Salvation comes only from the Father, and only through the Son.

6. What does this passage tell us about God gathering his people?

God gathers those who are His! He has promised to gather EVERYONE who calls on him, regardless of race or culture. God's people can gather without shame and ridicule in small groups or large groups because they have no need to worry about the wrath of God, because Jesus has cleared them of their wrongdoing. God gathers his people as a redeemed multitude to praise and glorify His name.

MAKING IT STICK

Discuss the importance of prioritising gathering as God's people.

Evaluate the way God's people gather in the Western Culture.
What do we do well? What can we improve on?

How has this affected you during COVID season?

PRAYER

In addition to responding to today's passage and praying for your group members, please be praying for:

- Pray that God would continue to gather His people despite hindering circumstances.

GROUP PRAYER POINTS FROM TODAY:

STUDY THREE

God's People Gather

HEBREWS 3:7-14



INTRODUCTION

When God's People Gather, why are they gathering? What happens to individuals and the church as a result of gathering? This study will help unpack these two questions. Last week's study was based on the who, what and how of God's People. This week's study is focused more on the why. **This article** may be a great resource and point of discussion

QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever wondered exactly why we gather as God's People? Discuss why you think it is Important to Gather as God's People.

Thought provoking questions could be:

-Do we gather solely for friendship and God comes second?

-Why do we gather as a small group if we gather as a whole congregation on Sundays? (and vice versa)

-When God's people gather, do they have to gather around the word of God or can they still gather together without the word of God for a "social night"?

2. **Read 1 Peter 2:9.** Why do God's chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His special possession gather? How do these descriptions of God's people guide the way we gather as God's people?

Jesus alone is the reason we can be redeemed. God's people gather to testify to Jesus as King in both his rule and salvation. Without the church's testimony, most likely the outgoing of God's word will lessen and as a result the Church will decrease in number. This guides the way we meet together as God's people. We testify through songs of praise, prayers of praise and conversations of praise before and after the meeting ends. This will look different for different forms of gathering, however it is an integral part of gathering as God's people. It is important that the church meets in small or large groups, so that it can testify to Jesus as King.

3. Read **Matthew 28:19-20** and **Ephesians 4:11-13**. Why is it important that the Church meets together?

When the church meets together, scripture is taught. An important reason that the Church gathers is to teach everything that Jesus commanded. The Holy Spirit shapes individuals and collective groups through preaching, through song, through reading the bible and prayer. All of which are ways that teach and show God's people what it is like to be God's people. It's important that the church meets in small or large groups, so that they may continue to be formed as God's people.

4. Read **Ephesians 5:18-20** and **Colossians 3:16-17**. Why is it important that the Church meets together?

The gathering of God's people not only exists to equip and edify God's people, but also exists to point those outside the church to Christ through the worship and exaltation of him. If Jesus had not bear the wrath of God, there would be no reason to give thanks! Without the Death and resurrection, there is no hope. It is important that the church meets together to "give thanks" or to worship and exalt God for who He is, and what he has done.

5. Read **Hebrews 3:7-14** and **Hebrews 10:19-25**. Why is it important that the Church meets together?

When the Church gathers in small or large groups, it ought to encourage each individual to persevere in the faith and lead one another towards a humble and contrite heart as opposed to a sinful and hardened heart. God's people should be spurring each other on through both the good and bad times, not so much that they may gain from their perseverance, but that God is glorified.

6. After going through the past passages of scripture, discuss some of the ways your small group can ensure that when God's People Gather (121 discipleship, small groups, cohort events and Sunday services etc...) they are testifying that Jesus is King and individuals and groups are being formed as God's people. As well as worshipping and exalting God for who he is and what he has done and that God's people are encouraged to persevere in the faith.

MAKING IT STICK

When I gather with God's people, how do we testify Jesus as King?

When I gather with God's people, how can I make sure that the congregation and I are being formed into God's people?

When I gather with God's people, am I giving thanks to God for who He is and what He's done?

When I gather with God's people, how can I encourage them to persevere in the faith?

PRAYER

In addition to responding to today's passage and praying for your group members, please be praying for:

- Pray that God would continue to form His church.
- Ask God to show you areas in your life where you can give thanks.
- Pray for those who may not be able to gather with God's people as easily during COVID-19

GROUP PRAYER POINTS FROM TODAY:

STUDY FOUR

Forgiven People Give

EPHESIANS 4:7-28



INTRODUCTION

In this passage Paul insists (v17) that we no longer live as we used to. Having been forgiven we need to put on our new self of righteousness and holiness. Our thinking should no longer be futile, nor our understanding darkened, for our hearts are no longer hard. We are no longer insensitive and ignorant. One of the new attitudes he commands is to work, remarkably not so we have money but so we can share with those in need (v28)!

Too often Christians are known by the world as self-righteous hypocrites. Imagine if we were known for our generosity! How much easier would it be to speak of being created to be like our generous God (v24), or to explain the gospel of grace ("freely you have received, freely give"; Matthew 10:8).

QUESTIONS

1. Watch **this video**. (Sarah Montana TEDx talk)
2. What do you like about this talk? Does God fit the criteria of someone who forgives? How is God different from what is talked about?

This talks about one incident in her life that happened to her. God's forgiveness comes from a place of complete innocence. God has never done evil toward anyone. He is not in need of forgiveness only we are. The cost to him is greater than any that we would have to wear (Eph 4:20-24).

3. Watch **this video**. What did you like about the video? What did you not like? What did you learn? According to **Ephesians 4:7-28** what excess do we have with which we can be generous?

We have been made new, verse 23-24 (nor our doing or are we deserving). Undeserved favour or grace verse 7. Perhaps you could ask what this means for people.

4. What reason does the Apostle Paul give in verse 28 for working? Why is this surprising?

We work to share with those in need. This is surprising because most of us work to fill our coffers, to build our wealth, because it's a measure of success. Perhaps you could ask how is this an implication of the gospel? The answer would be that when we work to meet the needs of others it is other person centred and God glorifying. Jesus gave up his wealth so that we might become rich. He did not give up his wealth to gain for himself but for the sake of others.

5. How does this passage define generosity? What do we learn about generosity?

Generosity means that we work to share with others. Generosity has a source and that is Jesus verse 7 and 20-24. We learn in verse 32 that it stems from forgiveness.

MAKING IT STICK

Can you share a time when you have benefitted from someone's generosity and it does not have to be financial?

Can you share a time when God has given you the opportunity to be generous?

Do you ever find it hard to give to church? If so, why do you think this is?

PRAYER

In addition to responding to today's passage and praying for your group members, please be praying for:

- Thank God for his great and ongoing generosity in forgiving us.
- Pray that we are able to forgive those who sin against us.
- Pray that we will grow in our generosity toward God and others.
- Pray that God will uphold our church through the generosity of his people.

GROUP PRAYER POINTS FROM TODAY:

STUDY FIVE

Forgiven People Give

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-21



INTRODUCTION

Last week took time to think through what it is for God to forgive and the generosity that results from us in response to that. This week we want to think more practically about how we can be generous.

Our passage from 1 Timothy 6 Paul teaches Timothy, among other things, on contentment, what we ought to pursue and generosity.

QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-21. What in the passage seems too difficult? Why do you think this?

Discussion Points

- V8-10 Contentment

- V11-16 Pursuit of Righteousness, Godliness, Faith, Love, Endurance, and Gentleness

These are difficult things to address because they are very counter-cultural especially in today's world.

2. In verses 6-10 for what reasons should we be content?

We have nothing that we can take away from our time in the world. This doesn't mean that having certain things is a bad idea. It means that the things we have are temporary in their state and relationship to us. A pursuit of such thing to fill us to content will leave us empty. However the pursuit of Christ is wholesome because he will lead us to true wealth and prosperity compared to our foolish and harmful desires.

3. In verses 11-16 what does Paul say they ought to pursue? What does it look like to pursue these things?

Pursue Righteousness, Godliness, Faith, Love, Endurance, and Gentleness. To pursue these is to deny oneself and ask God to humble our hearts.

4. In verses 17-21 what are the different ways that we can be rich?

There are two different ways we can be rich, either with worldly possessions or riches in heaven.

5. What is the result of generosity? What do you think it means to lay up treasure in heaven?

The answer to the first question is in the second question. To lay up treasure in heaven means that we are establishing a firm foundation for the coming age, in order that we might live a life that is truly life. The things we do here that lay up treasure in heaven show that we are part of the kingdom of God. We are preparing for our future in the context of Jesus as our king. Perhaps 2 Corinthians 8:8-9 can help us understand this.

MAKING IT STICK

What can you do with your time as an offering to others?

When do you find it difficult to be generous with your money?

What is something you can change this week to be more generous?

PRAYER

In addition to responding to today's passage and praying for your group members, please be praying for:

- Pray for our Compassion children that we will be generous toward them.
- Pray for Anglicare.

GROUP PRAYER POINTS FROM TODAY:

STUDY SIX

Found People Find People

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8



INTRODUCTION

One of the key aims of these studies is to get Small Groups going out and doing ministry. It's one thing to have knowledge about God, but genuine belief should spur you into action. With this in mind, a number of our studies are going to have really practical applications – the studies themselves will be shorter, and we'll try and find you a practical way that you can put what you're discussing into action. This week is one of those weeks. We encourage you to organise a time to go through this study that isn't your normal time so that you can undertake the practical element of this study as a group – maybe seek to meet up for a Saturday lunch instead of a Monday night, for example.

The aim of this study is to look into what it actually means to be a found person, and give you and your Small Group a practical, concrete way to go out and find people. Hopefully by the end of this study you'll have a greater understanding of your identity in Christ and be motivated to go out and seek the lost as a group!

QUESTIONS

1. Read **Luke 19:10**. What does the word found tell you about us as humans? Who does the finding?

Jesus does the Finding! God first sought after us, and because he has made himself known to us, only then are we able to make a decision to be in relationship with Him.

2. With Luke 19:10 in mind, why is being *found* by God so important, and what eternal implications does it have for us?

Being found by God means that we are able to be in relationship with Him. This has eternal consequences in that if God had not first sought for and found us, then we would not be eligible for Salvation!

3. Read **2 Peter 3:9**. What is our motivation for finding people?

We must find people so that they may not perish, but repent and believe that Jesus is Lord. The greatest commandment is to Love God, and the second is to love others. Love is the motivation for finding people. To love God is to do as he says (John 14:15) and to love people is to communicate and display the love God has for them.

4. Read **1 Thessalonians 2:4**. How does God enable us to find people?

God approves and entrusts the actional and verbal communication of the gospel to his people. Essentially God gives us a license to speak on his behalf to those who have not repented and believed in Jesus. Without having His authority over the words we speak while evangelising, we would be unable to find people. God enables us to speak on his behalf by approving and entrusting us with the Gospel.

5. What practical steps can you take to find people this week?

MAKING IT STICK

At this point, we're going to practically undertake what we've just discussed. As this week is all about finding people, we want you to engage in a group evangelism activity. How you do this and what this looks like is up to you, but here are a couple of practical ideas you could do:

Street evangelism – go out into the street finding people you don't know and sharing the Gospel with them, inviting them to church, and teaching them about Jesus.

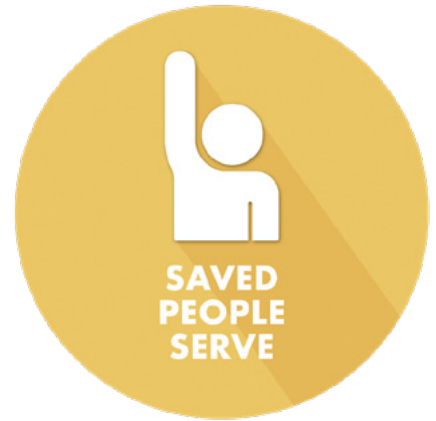
Saturday/Sunday lunch, focused on bringing non-Christians into Christian community – each member of the Bible Study is obligated and asked to invite one/more non-Christian friend/s to lunch, where they can meet other Christians. This is a great opportunity to, as Sam Chan says, help your non-Christian friends meet your Christian friends, and for you to share your Gospel-centred story. Get a couple of members to share their testimony of how Jesus has transformed/impacted their lives!

GROUP PRAYER POINTS FROM TODAY:

STUDY SEVEN

Saved People Serve

EPHESIANS 4:7-16



INTRODUCTION

Again, this week is going to be focused on the practical side of ministry. We want to hear of how you and your Small Group has been out serving other people, in the hope of advancing the kingdom! It would be great if you could organise to have this study at a time where it's possible for you to practically exercise the things you're discussing!

QUESTIONS

1. Read **Ephesians 2:1-10**. What does it mean to be saved and how are we saved as Christians?

To be saved means that we have been spiritually resurrected from the dead (we also have a bodily resurrection later). This resurrection means that we no longer crave the things of the world in the same capacity we had once done when we were dead in our transgressions. This previous behaviour meant that we deserved God's wrath, but God gifted mankind with Jesus Christ to save us from our old ways leading to eternal separation. This is what grace is, a salvation that cannot be earned by merit or hard work but from pure love from the father. We are saved by grace, through faith.

2. What eternal implications does salvation have for you?

Salvation means that I no longer am eternally separated from God! It means that we are able to enjoy his presence not only while on earth, but also in the New Heavens and New Earth when we are called home.

3. Re-read **Ephesians 2:10**. What do you think the good works are that Paul describes here?

The Good Works that Paul describes in v10 are a direct result of our salvation. They may be the fruits of the spirit but can also be the proclamation and communication of the Gospel. The good work that God has prepared in advance for us to do involves us in God's work. He will use his people to draw others near to him, both believer towards sanctification and non believer towards salvation.

4. Read **Philippians 2:5-11**. What does having the same mindset as Christ Jesus involve? How can we do this today?

Having the same mindset as Christ involves the humbling of our hearts in order that we may look past our interest towards the interests of others. Imagine making yourself nothing in order that you may serve someone else! This is a massive challenge to take on but it is what we are called to do as we serve God and one another.

5. What are some practical ways that you can serve others around you?

MAKING IT STICK

At this point, we're going to practically undertake what we've just discussed. As this week is all about serving people, we want you to engage in a group service activity. How you do this and what this looks like is up to you, but here are a couple of practical ideas you could do:

Organise to join together and participate in SPCH's Help at Home on a Saturday.

Give up a night to volunteer at a specific organisation (Samaritan's Purse and Anglicare, among others, all have regular opportunities to volunteer).

Spend a night cooking food for the homeless, and delivering it to those in need. If you don't have the physical ability to do this, spend a night cooking meals for SPCH's care roster.

GROUP PRAYER POINTS FROM TODAY:

STUDY EIGHT

Called People Follow

EPHESIANS 4:1-6



INTRODUCTION

Being called by God is a crucial and central doctrine in the Christian faith. This week we unpack what it means to be called by God (looking at the two main “callings” people receive) and how being called by God can and should impact your daily walk with God and your ministry too.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-6. What do you think it means to be called by God in this passage?

Think about calling to be saved and the situations you find yourself in life. Perhaps you could ask what part God plays in salvation and other parts of life such as friendship, parenting, job?

2. In what areas of your life do you find it hardest to follow Jesus? What impact should this calling have on your day-to-day life?

We want people to be specific and maybe follow up with ‘why?’ if they are willing to share. Verse 2 has some of the qualities we want to see in a person’s life. Verse 1 also expresses living a life worthy of the calling we have received. Perhaps you could ask what things stand out today that make it hard to follow Jesus. Is it new social structures, polarisation over issues, things changing too quickly, facing issues it appears the bible is silent on...?

3. Why is it important that "Called" people follow?

Ephesians 4:1 says that we live a life worthy of the calling. We give our lives to follow Jesus and this is possible because we are called by him in the first place. A calling also makes our salvation sure, Jesus brings us to himself and on his terms. We are not called to something and then do whatever we want.

4. Read **1 Corinthians 7:17-24**. To what calling do these verses refer? What changes when we follow Jesus and what does not change?

Most people are in situations that God has already called them to. Whatever situation we are in when we become a Christian. Things that do not change can include our job, our family role, friendships, ministry in church (if that is part of our lives) etc. Things that change are that we do them with patience, gentleness etc (Galatians 5:22-23). What also changes is that we work as though working for the Lord because whatever we do do it for the glory of God. God has made to us work and to live and enjoy life and we thank him for it. All the things we have in our lives are not an end in themselves but point us to our maker and therefore glory.

5. Read Ephesians **4:11-13**. What do these verses say about how called people follow?

There are those Jesus puts in place to equip others so that together we might build up the body of Christ. As called people this may not change our situations but redirects our focus. We should also not resent those Jesus puts over us as a church family so that we might be built up and unified. This also means that those who are put over the body of Christ to build others up must not exercise power or privilege that brings Jesus' name into disrepute or hurts or oppresses his people.

6. With the calling to salvation (as expressed in Ephesians 4:1-6) as the basis for the calling to ministry (as expressed in Ephesians 4:11-13), how can you use your gifts to build up the church and glorify God?

People who are called to follow treat others with compassion and love and as described in (Galatians 5:22-23). There is often talk about spiritual gifts but these must be thought of in the context of discipleship not opportunities for us to express them. When we are discipling others the opportunity to use our gifts will arise.

MAKING IT STICK

What areas can you work on to “live a life worthy of the calling you have received”?

How might you overcome any obstacles to this?

PRAYER

In addition to responding to today’s passage and praying for your group members, please be praying for:

- Pray for God to sustain us as we follow him.
- Pray we will have wisdom as we follow him in a way that is honouring to him.

GROUP PRAYER POINTS FROM TODAY:

STUDY NINE

Called People Follow

ACTS 17:10-12



INTRODUCTION

How well do you think you follow God and how well do you know His Word? Do you dwell in it day and night? What is your attitude towards scripture? In this small passage in acts we hear of the Berean church who are well known for their eagerness to examine carefully in order that they might be able to discern the truth.

QUESTIONS

1. Discuss within the group what you find hard about reading and learning from scripture. It could be anything from long words that are hard to understand to dense theological passages that are hard to follow or even passages that seem like they offer no meaning whatsoever.

2. Read **2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 3:16, Philippians 2:12**. Discuss why it is important as a called believer to self teach and educate ourselves with the Word of God?

3. Read **Acts 17:1-9**. How did Paul go about persuading some of the Jews in Thessalonica? Why is this so important?

The text is very clear that Paul “Reasoned with them from the scriptures”(v2). This is significant because Paul would have had the same scripture as the Jewish leaders, however he was able to explain and prove to them and other Jews (and some Gentiles v4) that:

- a) The Messiah had to suffer***
- b) The Messiah had to rise from the dead***

Paul goes on to say in v3 “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah”. Paul’s persuasion of the Jews was not a well oiled argument or clever words. It was simply the unpacking of scripture, in which Paul had spent a large amount of time examining the scriptures to find what is true (Galatians 1:15-20).

4. Read **Acts 17:10-12**. What can you identify in this passage about the way the Bereans went about spending time in scripture? Do you think your small group examines scripture with the same intent as the Bereans? What can we take away from the way the Bereans examined scripture?

The Bereans received Paul’s message with “great eagerness”(v11). They also examined the scriptures to see if what Paul was saying is true. The Bereans were people who read the text well (exegesis or unpacking the text), they spent time understanding what it meant (good theology) and then some responded appropriately to the truth that the holy spirit had revealed to them and acted accordingly. We ought to be doing the same when we examine the Word of God.

5. Read **Matthew 22:36-40, John 8:31-32, John 10:27 and John 14:15**. **[Watch this video.](#)** From this video and the verse above how do you think a Called Believer can follow Jesus well? In what ways do you think you follow Jesus well? Which ways do you think you can improve on?

MAKING IT STICK

Remember that God's Call on our life is to follow Him! To follow him well we must dive head first into the scriptures and allow them to teach us how to do this well. Perhaps when you read the bible this week you could the following three questions of the text:

- What does it say about God?
- What does it say about us?
- What will I do to follow Jesus more closely?

PRAYER

In addition to responding to today's passage and praying for your group members, please be praying for:

- Pray for insight into God's word as we read it.
- Pray for our Care ministry and those on our Care teams

GROUP PRAYER POINTS FROM TODAY:

Sermon Notes.

SERMON ONE – SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER

Growing People Change

2 PETER 1:3-8

Sermon Notes...



Personal Application...

SERMON TWO – SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER

God's People Gather

Revelation 7:9-10

Sermon Notes...



Personal Application...

SERMON THREE – SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER

God's People Gather

Hebrews 3:7-14

Sermon Notes...



Personal Application...

SERMON FOUR – SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

Forgiven People Give

Ephesians 4:21-28

Sermon Notes...



Personal Application...

SERMON FIVE – SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

Forgiven People Give

1 Timothy 6:6-21

Sermon Notes...



Personal Application...

SERMON SIX - SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

Found People Find People



1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Sermon Notes...

Personal Application...

SERMON SEVEN – SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

Saved People Serve

Ephesians 4:7-16

Sermon Notes...



Personal Application...

SERMON EIGHT - SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

Called People Follow

Ephesians 4:1-6

Sermon Notes...



Personal Application...

SERMON NINE – SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER

Called People Follow

Acts 17:10-12

Sermon Notes...



Personal Application...

SERMON TEN - SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER

Growing People Change

1 Peter 1:13-16

Sermon Notes...



Personal Application...

