

LifeGroup Study Sheet

April 14th, 2024 – A Church That Reaches The World.

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

If someone were to ask you to describe the mission of God, how would you define it? Given your definition of God's mission, how have you engaged in it?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 13:1-4. The term "church" or "ekklesia" in the NT literally translates to "called out of" or "the community of the called." The Bible talks about the "universal" call to all Christians. What is that call? In Acts 13, God gives a "unique" call. Paul and Barnabas are uniquely called by God's Spirit to go to Cyprus. Do you have any clarity on how God has uniquely called you? If so, what is it? If not, how do you think you might go about discerning it?

Question 2: Acts 13:2. The Spirit of God spoke to the people of God to give Paul and Barnabas their work they were set apart to do. Pastor Sam said the statement, "our church must be spirit controlled and not program controlled." What does this mean? How do you see people relying more on a program or service that the church does rather than the Spirit of God?

Pastor Sam also said this statement, "our people must be Spirit-led and not self-led."

Question 3: Read Romans 8:9,14, John 16:13-15. How is it possible to have the Spirit of God inside of you as a Christ-follower, and not be controlled by the Spirit? How have you seen this in your own life? Pastor Sam used the sail-boat analogy. Is it possible we rely on other "methods" or "technology" to give power to the boat instead of using the sails? How have you relied on your own flesh instead of the Spirit to lead you? How do you identify in your life when you're doing this?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?