

Bold and Powerful
Week's reading: Acts 23:12-28:31
Discussion Guide: December 10, 2023

CHECK UP:

Memory work: I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. - Acts 20:24

How did you lean on others to persevere in your faith this past week?

OPEN:

- Who did you B.L.E.S.S. this past week? What action steps did you take?
 - o How did you live bold and powerful this past week?
- What stood out to you from this past week's reading?
 - o What questions do you have?

The book of Acts is written in a way that sees us (the reader) as continuing the story. Let's review some high light passages from the book and talk about what our faithfulness needs to look like going forward...

READ and ASK: Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-6, 36-47; Acts 4:23-31, 5:17-20; Acts 11:1-18; Acts 15:1, 11, 19-21; Acts 20:17, 25-35; Acts 28:21-31

- If you had to summarize the book of Acts how would you do it?
 - o What are some of the key themes?
 - o What aspects of the book of Acts do you think we need to learn to obey better?

There are churches in some of the most challenging parts of the world (Africa, Asia, and the Middle East) that are faithfully and fruitfully making disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). They are doing so in ways that is reminiscent of the church in the book of Acts. There are some principles that can be observed of these churches that is consistent with the narrative and teaching of the book of Acts.

Here are some of the principles that can be observed:

- The church radically depends on the Holy Spirit through prayer and fasting.
- Scripture (alone) is the church's curriculum for discipleship.
- The church's mission (the great commission) is clear all the time.
- Disciple making is the underlying cultural identity of the church and expectations for disciple making (for everyone) are high.
- The church's leadership is focused on making and coaching disciples.
- Stories of disciple making abound.
 - o How do you see these principles being prevalent in the book of Acts?
 - o How can we learn from these principles?
 - o How urgent and important is disciple making for us?

- How much do you think we (as a whole church) should risk in order to try and make disciples better?

APPLY:

- After studying the book of Acts, in what ways does your Christian life need to be redefined?
- What personally challenged you most from our study of the book of Acts?
 - o If you had to pick one thing that you don't want to forget what would it be?
- NEXT STEP: What ongoing commitment do you need to make in your commitment to King Jesus? What is God doing in your heart?

Memory Work:

This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.

- Luke 24:46-49

Next Week's Reading:

Children's Musical (brief introduction of Linger sermon series- Psalms)