

Small Group Study

Our Vision

To know God and enjoy Him forever.

Our Mission

To build a Christian community by making fully devoted disciples of non-religious and nominally religious people



Discussion

Power with Purpose: Signs of the Kingdom

Scripture

Have volunteers read the following scriptures:

Acts 5:12-16 (NLT)

12 The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon's Colonnade. 13 But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high regard for them. 14 Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women. 15 As a result of the apostles' work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter's shadow might fall across some of them as he went by. 16 Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed.

Acts 5:41 - 6:4 (NLT)

41 The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus. 42 And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah."

6:1 But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.

2 So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, "We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. 3 And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. 4 Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word."

Questions

I. In his sermon this week, Fred described several of the signs of the Kingdom of God—evidence that the Kingdom is breaking into this dark world through the lives of followers of Christ like you and I.

Ice Breaker

Use ONE of the questions to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

1. What is one club or organization you've been a part of in your life (besides the church)? What did you enjoy about being part of that group?
2. Have you ever volunteered for something that you later wish you hadn't?
3. What is the farthest you've ever travelled? Why did you go there? Did you enjoy it?

We are, first, a community of believers that should be recognized by our great love for God and our great love for one another.

How was this first century church so attractive to non-believers in this way? How did they demonstrate their love for God and their love for each other?

2. What can we learn from this first century church about what it means to be a community of believers? What do you think we should be doing differently?

3. More signs of the kingdom include the healing of the sick and deliverance from evil spirits (verses 15-16). The following is a quote from "The Presence of the Future" by George Eldon Ladd.

"God is the Lord of history; but there are hostile elements, opposing forces which seek to frustrate God's rule. It is not the biblical view that... all of history moves toward the Kingdom of God. There are demonic forces manifest in history and in human experience which move against the Kingdom of God. Evil is not merely absence of the good, nor is it a stage in man's upward development; it is a terrible enemy of human well-being and will never be outgrown or abandoned until God has mightily intervened to purge evil from the earth."

Where do/have you seen evidence of evil in your life and in this world? How do we, as citizens of the Kingdom, come against this evil?

4. More evidence of the Kingdom is the multiplication of believers (verse 6:1). How can we here in Kansas City strategically work towards the multiplication of believers, collaborating with the Holy Spirit to bring more and more unbelievers out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of God?

5. As the Kingdom expands there will inevitably be opposition to the good news of Jesus Christ (verse 5:41). From your experience, in what form does that opposition come? How can we oppose it?

6. As we read in verses 6:1-4, one evidence of the in-breaking of the Kingdom is the feeding of the poor. What strategy did the apostles use to do this? Do you agree with how they chose to do it?

7. Compare how much more we can accomplish by helping people discover their gifts, passions, etc. and equipping them to be leaders as opposed to simply choosing to just meet the needs ourselves. Which is a more effective strategy? Which is easier? How can we multiply our effectiveness in the Kingdom of God?

God bless,

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