

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

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KEEP JESUS WEIRD: The Book of Acts and the birth of non-religious Christianity

Session 4 – Obedience

DAY 1

Introduction:

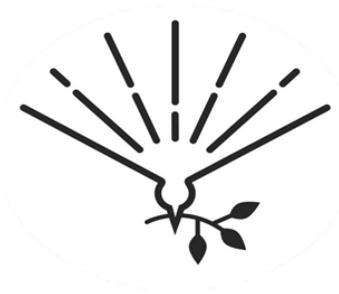
Like seasoning that flavors the entire dish, Jesus called his disciples to be the “salt of the earth” in Matthew 5. Salt gives food flavor.

Tim Keller wrote, “The early church was strikingly different from the culture around it in this way- the pagan society was stingy with its money and promiscuous with its body. A pagan gave nobody their money and practically gave everybody their body. And the Christians came along and gave practically nobody their body and they gave practically everybody their money.”

In the kingdom of God is the inverse of the kingdom of the world. Through their trust in God, the early believers modeled the Good News of the gospel, and the world around them noticed. This week, we will see how the early believers flavored the world around them.

Questions:

1. If salt gives food flavor, what do Christians give the world?
2. Can your non-believing friends see the presence of Jesus in your life? Does the way you live draw non-believers closer or farther away from faith?



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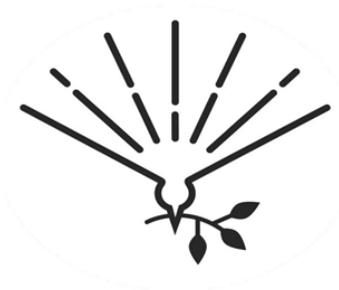
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DAY 2

Read Acts 4:23-31

1. What did Peter and John do right after they were released from questioning? What did they first say to God? How do you respond in similar situations?
2. What two requests do the believers ask of God in verses 29-30? What can we learn from how they pray?
3. The believers pray big prayers. Do you? What holds you back from praying like these early believers?
4. In a few passages in the Old Testament, God answers prayer by shaking or thunder (Isaiah 6:4, 1 Samuel 12: 17-18). Sometimes He elicits a big



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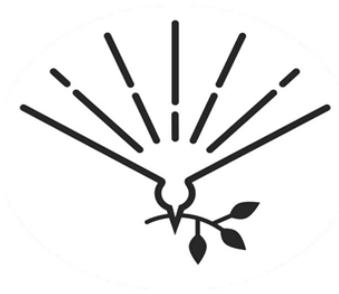
response, what prayer is He answering here?

5. Discussion Question: Read John 5:14-15. It has been said that God answers prayer with a “yes, no, or not yet.” How do you respond to unanswered prayer?

DAY 3

Read Acts 4:32-35

1. In verse 32, we learn that “all the believers were one in heart and mind.” Read John 17:21-26. How does this align with Jesus’ prayer? How can we be a people who are of one heart and mind?
2. What examples does the author give that describe how the believers were of one heart and mind?
3. What is the significance in knowing that Joseph’s nickname, Barnabas, means Son of Encouragement?



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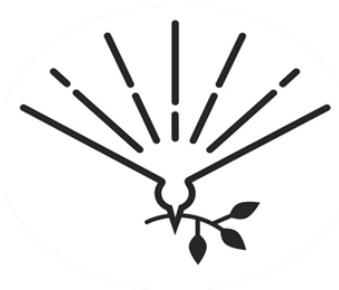


4. Discussion Question: What are the practical ways we could emulate the sense of care described in verses 32-35?

DAY 4

Read Acts 5:1-11

1. Compare the qualities of Barnabas and Ananias and Sapphira. How do their accounts differ?
2. What was the true transgression of Ananias and what was Peter's response?
3. Peter asks Ananias why he conceived this deed in his heart. What can we learn about the condition of our heart and our behavior? Name an example of how the condition of your heart has influenced your behavior, either



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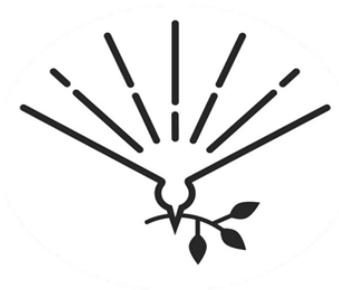
positively or negatively.

4. Discussion Question: Verse 11 states that "great fear seized the whole church". What the believers feared was half-hearted commitment. Where in your life are you half-heartedly committing to God?

DAY 5

Read Acts 5:12-16

1. When all the believers met together, this was the formation of the first "ekklesia" or church gathering. What were they doing during these gatherings?
2. Read Matthew 10:7-8. The apostles are being obedient to the commands of Jesus. What does this obedience look like? How are you called to freely give as you freely received?
3. In verse 14 we read that, "more and more men and women believed in the Lord." How does the obedience of the believers play a role in people



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accepting Christ?

DAY 6

What did you learn about God this week?

What steps can you take to walk in obedience to His word this week?