

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

For October 18, 2020 sermon:

Empowered (Book of Acts): "Reversing the curse"

Warm up: (Questions for discussion)

What is God doing (in my life/family)?

How am I doing?

Where am I growing?

What might be my next steps of faith?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

- God's original creation was good...good...very good! The first man and woman enjoyed an intimate, unhindered fellowship with God that, in a sense, we can't even imagine. Their terrible decision to disobey God brought a curse that not only effected them, but all of their offspring (including us) and even creation. Read the account of "the curse", because we can't really appreciate the reversal without understanding this.

Read Genesis 3:16-24 and point out all the effects of the fall and resulting curse.

- There is nothing necessarily wrong with "thinking BIG"...wanting church our church to be well attended, but there is a clear downside: Focusing on and celebrating large groups can cause us to overlook the hurts and needs of the individuals God puts right in front of us. Read the following passages and talk about how Jesus, though he came to be the Savior of the world, took time to focus on the needs of "just one". How did each person have a deep need met in this personal conversation with Jesus?

John 3:1-7 John 4:4-10 Luke 23:39-43 John 21:15-17

- It would be easy to miss how complete the healing and restoration of this lame man was. Not only could he stand for the first time in his life, but he discovered that he could walk and then went right into LEAPING for joy! He is given muscle and even tone...amazing! Isaiah 35 encourages the Jewish people, that when their Messiah comes, everything will change in a big way, not just "tweeks". Read Isaiah 35:5-6. How is that prophesy fulfilled in the life of the lame man healed in Acts 3:8?

Apply it: (10 minutes)

We are witnesses! In this week's passage we see Peter and John taking seriously Jesus commission from Acts 1:8 to be witnesses. In a Court room a witness simply shares their experience- what they have seen. It's same for us...this is what we are called to do. To share with others what we have seen and experienced in Jesus. What has God done in your life? Has he brought healing to some part of your life? Where has He set you free? As witnesses we're to simply share the reality of all Jesus has done in us with others. Start with your small group...share where Jesus has recently brought about change, growth, victory...TRANSFORMATION! End in prayer together.