

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

For January 10, 2021 sermon:

Empowered (Book of Acts): "Good News for the stranger you don't know"

Warm up: (Questions for discussion)

What is one way you grew through the challenges of 2020?

Did you set any goals (make any resolutions) for 2021 you could share?

What is a fear or concern that keeps you from sharing your faith?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. Being led by God's Spirit should be a sense that every believer regularly experiences in their walk of faith. Jesus promised that the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives would give us courage, give us insight into God's word, teach us right from wrong, and let us know what to say in difficult situations. Read the following verses and discuss what they teach about this amazing gift to every Christian:

John 14:16-17, 26

John 16:5-8

Romans 8:26-27

Galatians 5:16-18

Romans 8:12-16

Ezekiel 36:26-27

Mark 13:10-11

2. In Acts 8, Philip took the passage in Isaiah and used it as a springboard to talk about Jesus. The redemption story is the thread that runs through the entire Bible. Humanity's sin broke fellowship with God and the promise of a Savior is immediate. The Old Testament Law shows we can't be good enough to please God. The Psalms cry out for and praise God for the coming Messiah. The prophets predict and describe him. Think through how the following verses show that the whole Bible points to Jesus:

Exodus 12:1-13

Isaiah 53

Luke 24:25-32

Acts 26:22-23

What other passages?

Apply it: (10 minutes)

Let's be honest...even the thought of talking about our faith to someone who doesn't yet believe is intimidating for most believers. The "what if...?" questions are many, but praying "The Disciplemaker's Prayer" every morning and making ourselves available to the opportunities that GOD himself brings right to us...that should be both liberating and even exciting. Review the prayer together:

"Heavenly Father,

Thank you for giving me a disciplmaking way of life in Christ Jesus. As I go through every part of this day, help me to love you and love the people who cross my path- starting with my family. Don't let me miss the adventures you are sending my way to speak the Good News about Jesus today. Draw my heart to you and to specific people you want me to pull close for Jesus-like disciplmaking friendships. By your Word and Spirit, transform me into a follower of Jesus who loves you, loves people, and makes disciples-who make more disciples, ad infinitum. In Jesus' name, amen."

(Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Mark 3:13-14; 12:30-31 Matt. 28:18-20, John 17:20, Acts 1:8, 1 Cor. 4:16-17) Used with permission: Cadre Ministries