

OKOTOKS EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

PLUGGED INTO THE MISSION, NOT JUST THE SABBATH

LUKE 16:1-6, JOHN 5:16-18

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021



INFORMATION

As a church we are slowly moving back to normal, however, our current communication strategy will still be digital in nature. Please review your weekly eBulletin and encourage your group members to do so as well.

In the next few months we will be rolling out other ways of communicating.

I hope you can join me, and other leaders for lunch on Sunday the 19th, after the service.

COACHES' CORNER

For 2,000 years the persecuted church has always found refuge in the homes of its believers. If only as a fall back, when she can't gather, she finds solace in her ability to operate behind closed doors.

Until now.

This wasn't the piece of global church history i was hoping to live through. yet we survived. and now we have tasted what a long-term lack of community does to our internal worlds.

As I interact with my leaders I see pockets of our community in different stages of survival. Some of you are just as good as you always were, while others have and continue to struggle.

I don't think we are out of the woods just yet. However, the time is now to put our energy into our brothers and sisters. The world needs strong and committed Christ followers more than ever, and in order to accomplish that, we need one another.

SERMON BASED GROWTH GROUP

Leader: Review chapter 3 in preparation, as it gives context for chapter 4.

> HAVE VOLUNTEERS READ ACTS 4:13-22

5. As Chapter 4 progresses the stakes are raised for Peter and John. Verse 13-15 demonstrates how Peter and John's simple act of obedience lead to the bolstering of faith for others. Share a time your faith was strengthened by someone else's example of faith. Why is it important we reflect God to each other while we meet?

6. Review this passage again, how many people can you list who are having their faith transformed by what is happening? What is happening to the faith of the lame beggar (vs. 14) and what is he doing for the faith of others?

7. While physically not there, list and discuss the ways Jesus is present in this situation.

8. How were people encountering Christ in this passage? How do we encounter Christ as we gather 2000 years later?

9. Times of trial and tribulation tend to drive us towards God, or away. How does the hardships listed in this passage bring people closer to God? How have recent hardships in your life moved you towards, or away from God?

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 4:23-36

10. What did the previous sections (from 3:1-4:22) do to the body of believers?

Leader: There was a time of sharing in God's goodness (vs 23) which resulted in a ~~long session of chit chat and coffee drinking~~ fervent session of prayer, so powerful the believers and the ground they stood on was shaken. They proclaimed the word of God **BOLDLY**. They began to live sacrificially. They naturally fell into a pattern of unity. They shared everything. The teaching of the apostles had power. God worked **IN** their lives, transforming individuals, families and communities. No one was needy. Everyone looked to the needs of others, even giving up of their wealth (digging into long-term savings) to provide for others.

11. Going forward what would our Growth Group and families look like if we began to practice some of what is demonstrated here?

12. Going forward what would our Growth Group look like if we began to practice some of what is demonstrated here?

Leader: Sometimes when we talk about this stuff we do it at arm's length, as if its cerebral and doesn't really apply to us. If we are really going to experience God it will require we live with a high expectancy of God to show up, and a willingness to obey. Essentially the believers in this passage were stunned into a deeper life in Christ. Is your group prepared to be stunned?

SERMON BASED GROWTH GROUP

PRAYER

ACTS 4:24 "SOVEREIGN LORD," THEY SAID, "YOU MADE THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND EVERYTHING IN THEM. ²⁵ YOU SPOKE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH THE MOUTH OF YOUR SERVANT, OUR FATHER DAVID:

"Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
²⁶ The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one.

MEMORIZE

Acts 4: 18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! ²⁰ As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.