



## Week 17 | February 10 Sermon

**Community:** [This is the final week that story sharing will be the focus of the written community time; however, please take your time to ensure that everyone gets to share and be honored in this.]

This is a good season in which to start intentionally sharing stories together. No doubt you have at least picked up on bits and pieces of each other's stories as discussion and growth have taken place. Now it's time to be intentional, giving each individual significant time to share his/her story with the rest of the GROUP. This can include as much or as little as any given person is comfortable sharing. As leaders, model this by going first! Consider establishing a "schedule" so that each person knows when it will be his/her turn and can come prepared. This will take you several weeks and will be the focus of our community time together between now and Lent. Here are some key points to consider when sharing:

When people tell their faith stories, five things appear over and over again—five things God uses to grow our faith. They're ways of recognizing how God is already involved in each of our lives. It's a great way for you to think through your own story.

**Practical Teaching** Studying the Bible and listening to sermons make Scripture seem alive and relevant in our daily lives. They show us who God is, who we are, and who God wants us to be.

**Providential Relationships** God uses the people in our lives to influence us in extraordinary ways. He speaks to us through others—whether lifelong friends or short-term acquaintances. Even difficult relationships can be used by God for our good.

**Private Disciplines** Things like prayer, personal time reading the Bible, fasting, and solitude deepen our relationship with God. They get our hearts in synch with His.

**Personal Ministry** Jesus showed us that we find life by giving our lives away. When we serve others. We are privileged to partner with God in what he's doing in the lives of those we serve.

**Pivotal Circumstances** When big things happen, good or bad, they change the way we interact with God. Circumstances often cause us to pay attention to what He's doing in our lives.

As you think about your own story, consider how the five things have played a part in your journey with God. You don't have to talk about all five things, but chances are there are significant things to be shared within at least one or two of these categories to let your GROUPIES get to know the real you.

"Community" by Andy Stanley

## Sermon Title: Onward to the Nations | Text: Acts 13

### Auditorium Discussion Questions::

Consider reading Chapter 13 as a group again. What are one or two things that highlighted for you from this chapter? Why do you think that stood out for you?

Saul (also called Paul) was a Roman citizen, a Jew in his religious training, a Greek culturally and a Christian by the grace of God. What unique influences (religion, nationality, cultures, etc.) are part of your story?

If “Righteous Anger” is speaking out against anything/anyone who tries to keep you from hearing the truth, then Paul, being filled with the Holy Spirit, experienced “Righteous Anger” in verses 9-12. Have you ever experienced “Righteous Anger?” If so, would you share about your experience?

Read 1 Peter 2:5 and Hebrews 13:15. According to these passages, who are you and what are you called to do?

AW Tozer talks about the ‘Root of Righteousness’ where we can’t just harvest the fruit of the Holy Spirit, we have to nurture the root (or tree) on which it grows. Consider spending some time in prayer as a group asking the Lord if there are ways He is inviting you to set aside yourself to focus on Him. Share where you feel the Lord is leading you to whatever degree you feel comfortable.

### Sanctuary Discussion Questions::

Please read and discuss this week’s passage. What does the Holy Spirit draw to your attention? Are there any common themes which the group is being drawn to by the Holy Spirit? If so, what are they? Why might this be worth paying attention to?

Antioch’s leadership included prophets and teachers. Is this true for the churches in Pella today? Why or why not? What are the implications of your answer?

Kevin notes two power encounters in Acts 13 (13:6-12, 13:50-51). Kevin defined a power encounter as “a practical, visible demonstration that the power of Jesus is greater than the power of the spirits worshiped or feared by the members of a given social group or individuals.” Are you familiar with the idea of power encounters? If so, can you describe a power encounter?

13:13-48 contains Paul’s first sermon in Acts. What does the Spirit draw to your attention? Kevin suggested that Paul’s sermon in a sentence is “we are justified by faith in Jesus” (13:38-39). Do you agree? If so, what does justification by faith mean and what does it provide?

Will you conclude your time by praying for each other?

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. **Hebrews 10:24-25***

# GROUPS