



Week 28 | June 16 Sermon

Community:

Perhaps as you gather you have developed some rhythms or habits that you follow each time you meet. Do you always check in on each other's week? Do you have specific prompts or questions that you start with? Consider what it might look like to build in these rhythms if you don't. There can be a lot of security in the familiarity with the structure of your time together. Or maybe that's just not the style of your GROUP or the people in it. Perhaps starting with something different each week is good for you. There is no set way that you "have" to do community in order to do it well. In fact, there is a lot of good in knowing who your people are and how they operate and structuring your time together in a way that makes them feel at home.

Here are a few ideas of rhythms you could build in to your time together.

- Start or end your time together by sharing "pits and cherries" or "highs and lows" of your week.
- Light a candle after everyone has arrived to acknowledge the Holy Spirit's presence among you.
- As you transition from community time into discussion questions, pause to pray and focus hearts and minds toward the discussion.
- Consider giving different GROUP members responsibilities that align with their gifting. i.e. Groupie A brings food, Groupie B opens with prayer, Groupie C transitions from community time to discussion. Remember, you are not all things to all Groupies; you can't be! Empower them to play the role that God has for them in the GROUP.
- Start with food! Or end with food as a way for people to have the option to stay and linger.
- Some GROUPS might need to set firm boundaries on time in order to honor babysitters and their parents or GROUP members with set schedules. Consider a rhythm of setting a timer for 5-10 minutes before GROUP ends so that you can wrap up and close in prayer and not feel rushed. The timer will take the pressure off of you as a leader to always be checking the time and will be a neutral reminder to all that closing time is approaching.
- Close with a crafted prayer that your GROUP crafts together (based on last week's prayer lesson).
- What ideas do you have? Find what works best for your GROUP! Engage them in the process to determine what is best. It's a great way to get everyone involved and share the leadership.

GROUPS

Sermon Title: What to do With Such a Troublemaker? Part 1 | Text: Acts 21:20-22, 29

Auditorium Discussion Questions::

Have you ever had an experience in which you were resolved to do something that others questioned?

What gave you the resolve? How did it turn out?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-22. Paul said to the Jews he became a Jew and to the Gentiles he became a Gentile all in order to share the gospel. Is there a parallel for us in today's culture?

Tom highlighted similarities between Jesus' setting out for Jerusalem and Paul doing the same. Are there other similarities between their resolve and the circumstances they encountered?

Paul submitted to James' request to purify himself at the Temple to prove to the Jewish believers that "you yourself are living in obedience to the law." What motivated James and the elders to ask this?

If you were Paul, would you have hesitated to do so? Why or why not?

As we have journeyed through the book of Acts this year, have you experienced any spiritual "resolve" that you didn't have before? If so, please share how that has happened and where you sense God leading you.

Sanctuary Discussion Questions::

Please read Acts 21:17-22:29. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to? Why?

Do you agree with Kevin's observation that in Acts 21-26, Dr. Luke's central theme is resurrection?

If so, why is this important? And, how do you apply this reality to your daily life?

The risen Jesus appears to and talks with Paul in:

22:6-10

22:17-21

23:11

What stands out to you as you read or hear the words of Jesus?

Do any of these words/phrases offer help or encouragement to you? If so, please explain.

What do you think Kevin meant when he offered sentences punctuated by the words hope, truth and power?

The hope of the Resurrection brought Paul back to Jerusalem and then on to Rome.

The truth of the Resurrection was Paul's "main thing" in each of his trials.

The power of the Resurrection was his source of strength in trials, travel and prison.

Would you consider attending the film entitled "Paul" on Saturday night, June 22nd at Third Church?

Please close your meeting by asking the Lord to focus your lives on the Resurrection. Would you identify situations/people who need to experience the goodness of the risen Christ?

