



Week 31 | July 7 Sermon

Community:

Over the past several months, you've gotten to know each other a little bit or a little bit better (or hopefully a lot!). You're learning about each other beyond the surface details of jobs and hometowns and where you went to school.

[NOW WHAT?]

For the most part, you need to keep doing what you're doing. Building trust is an ongoing process.* And it may not be fully built by the time this sermon series closes. Think about what it feels like to be at the point at which you are with the group of people sitting around you. What have you learned that you didn't think you'd learn? What do you appreciate about your new community that you didn't even know to appreciate before this? What does it look like to move forward in community from this point on?

If your group is ready, begin talking about what will happen when the sermon series ends at the end of the month. Will you stay together? Will you take a break? Will you multiply and start new groups in the fall? These decisions don't need to be made today, but it is healthy and helpful for you to begin talking and sharing ideas about them so that everyone goes into these last couple of weeks with the same expectations. When it comes time to make a final decision, you'll be glad you've had some preliminary conversations about it.

** Content adapted from "Community" by Andy Stanley*

*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

Sermon Title: What to do With Such a Troublemaker? Part 4 | Text: Acts 25:1-26:32

Auditorium Discussion Questions::

Read Acts 24-25

Is Paul the one on trial? Is it someone or something else? Explain.

Read Acts 26:14. Now, have someone use a phone or computer to look up “GOADS”.

What did Paul mean by “Kick against the goads?”

Read Acts 26:24. Why do you think Festus interrupted Paul?

Do you think nonbelievers misunderstand your relationship with Christ? If so, how?

How could you make the reality of your relationship clearer to them?

Sanctuary Discussion Questions::

Over the past weeks, Kevin has attempted to focus our weekly study and application of the book of Acts in a single word. The words are:

6/16-Resurrection

6/23-Prayer

6/30-Blameless

7/7-Testify

Have any of these descriptive words encouraged or strengthened you in your relationship with Jesus? If so, could you share how/why?

Please read Acts 25-26. How does the word “testify” lift for you in the text of Scripture? In what ways, in the past 2 weeks, have you been enabled to “testify” (through words and/or deeds) for Christ and His Kingdom?

To be led by the Holy Spirit is not a matter of waiting each moment for some mystical experience of divine direction. It is a matter of trusting the Lord Jesus for the power to obey what He has already told you to do. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Consider Jesus’s Acts 1:8 mandate and Paul’s willingness to “testify” nearly 30 years later before King Agrippa and Bernice.

What has the Lord revealed to you? Are you obeying? Why or why not?

Will you consider praying for each other? Pray that when the Spirit prompts you to “testify” (in word and/or deeds), you will gladly obey.

