

I like Church... that empowers the saints! Acts 18:18-28

Small Group & Personal Bible Study Lesson: Pastor Dennis Hadley



Daily Scripture Reading:

1. Acts 16:16-40
2. Acts 17
3. Acts 18:1-17
4. Acts 18:18-28
5. Acts 19

➤ What has God revealed to you from the book of Acts this week?

Empower Individuals

In Acts 18:24–28, Priscilla and Aquila knew that the message of Apollo’s was good and true but that it lacked some important understanding from the Holy Spirit. They also recognized the potential of his skills and the passion represented for the church. So they took the initiative and almost immediately began his mentoring. Apparently others in the church were brought into this empowering process as well, because Apollos traveled to Achaia with a letter of recommendation, and his gifts proved a great help to the believers there.

Most people want to become all God wants them to be. But this often requires perceptive of people like Priscilla or Aquila, who see potential in others and then provide help of one kind or another. This New Testament couple had mastered a skill of discipleship that also can bring great blessing to the modern church. Jesus demonstrated the importance of mentoring discipleship with His twelve men. Even more so he spent a considerable amount of time and focus on Peter and John.

God has called us to His kingdom purpose. You may say, I can’t do that, I can’t speak very well or I don’t know my bible well enough... but remember that God does not call the equipped, He equips the called. The Body of Christ (The Church) is the equipping center. So, do you hear Him calling?

Remember, God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things!

Optional Lesson: Empowering Each Individual by Dr. Charles Lake (Copies Available in Lobby)

Small Group Lesson: Acts 4:1-14

1. What surprised the educated religious leaders most about Peter and John?

**These men were uneducated ordinary fisherman who suddenly spoke with power and with truth.
God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things!**

2. Peter and John were fisherman before Jesus called them to follow him, how had being with Jesus changed their lives?

They had watched and learned as Jesus taught, challenged, and demonstrated how to live for God. They had learned, slowly, what it was to be a disciple and when the power of the Holy Spirit came upon them He breathed life into their understanding and their ministry exploded as they walked as Jesus had walked.

Read: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

3. God saw David as a diamond in the ruff. How does this passage challenge the way you look at people?

Man looks at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart (verse 7). David had a heart for God and although he was not the obvious choice of the people to be king, God chose him and used him in a powerful way. We should remember that the people God chooses may not always be the flashy super star that we want. Instead, it is the person with a heart for God!

4. Sometimes people in church feel unprepared or insufficient for ministry. What do these two messages (about David and about Peter & John) teach us about that notion?

That God can use anyone regardless of who they are or what they know and that we usually can't look at their resume to determine their ability to make an impact for the Kingdom of God. As the Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 12:7, "when I am weak, then I am strong."

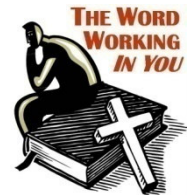
5. What can you do to help someone who may be having the feelings of inability or insignificance overcome those feelings and get engaged in the calling God has for their lives?

Let people share. Use this to lead into the seventh action step challenge. I call it "Discipleship" and it is perhaps the most important thing we do on earth.

Action Step #7: Help Each Other Be All God Wants Us to Be

Don't you long for a congregation that empowers individuals to live up to the full potential God has for them? We need Christians who will look for ways to invest their efforts, their encouragement, and perhaps even some money to give others a chance to serve God with their talents.

Directions: Everybody has some interest or skill that isn't fully developed. Look for areas of potential in individuals you encounter at church, at work, or in your neighborhood. Pray about your observations, and then take a step to help one person become all God wants him or her to be.



Your impact on their life will start when you begin to spend time together, talking, studying God's Word, and praying together. Your time may include coaching and mentoring that individual. You may need to encourage and direct this person on how to use their gifts. It may include telling others how this person is gifted and a potential support to a specific ministry. It also may include supporting the person in some way to advance their education and training. But remember, the most powerful preparation will come from the Holy Spirit, not education or advice.

Action Step Follow-up

- I am looking for potential in others that can be developed.
- I am praying about people that I can help become all God wants them to be.
- I working to meet a need in the world around me.
- I am getting to know the person I selected better.
- I am listing one good thing every week about my church sharing it with someone
- I am asking the Holy Spirit to help me identify pollution in my life
- I am prepared to meet with My King in worship this week
- I am praying the looking & listening with Jesus Prayer

Reflection: Write down what you sense God is calling you to do but in the past have felt unable to do. What steps and who will you contact to begin?