

ICB COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY

WHAT WE DO: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

The message last Sunday, continued our series "What We Do". This week's message talked about what happens when we step out and let the Holy Spirit lead; when we reach out to others and when we decide to say "I CARE".

START

Share any experiences you have had in the last weeks of having your eyes opened to those around you. What opportunities has God given you to care for others and what have you learnt from them?

SHARE

On Sunday Brandi shared the different consequences that come when we choose to let the Holy Spirit lead, guide and prompt us in our daily lives. We looked at four different consequences: Being Persecuted, Being Asked to Explain, Being Bold and Being More Like Jesus.

BEING PERSECUTED: READ ACTS 4:1-4

- Imagine that you had been in the group of believers John and Peter returned to and were told what had happened. What would have been your reaction?
- What was the main issue that upset the Sadducees in Peter and John's preaching? Why is a belief in the death and resurrection of Christ so vital to our faith?
- When has your faith been challenged by others? How have you responded, how would you LIKE to respond?
- In Luke 21:12-15 Jesus foretold the disciples that persecution and difficulties were going to come and in Philippians 1:12-14 Paul also talks about the positive things that came from his persecution and imprisonment. How can these passages assure us today, when we face difficulties or persecution?

BEING ASKED TO EXPLAIN: READ ACTS 4:7-12 and 1 PETER 3:15-16

- What can we learn from Peter and John's conduct to those persecuting them, as they explained their faith? How does Peter further encourage us in his letter to the believers (1 Peter 3)?

BEING BOLD: READ ACTS 4: 18-31

- As Peter and John are released they met with the believers again and prayed together. Look at the prayer they prayed in verses 23-30. Why do you think they saw it as necessary to pray 'after the incident' as well as before it? What stands out to you from the words of this prayer? What can we learn from this for our own prayer life as

individuals and as a community?

- Verse 31 says "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." How would you define the word "boldly"?
- In what specific ways do you need the power of the Holy Spirit to face the world today?
- It is a great encouragement to see the boldness of other people's faith and it can spur us on to do greater deeds as well. How does the faith of those around you encourage you to be more bold? Give examples if you like.

BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS: READ ACTS 4:13

- What characteristics did the rulers observe in Peter and John? What does this teach us about the importance of spending time with Jesus?

GROW

- From all that we have talked about what has spoken to your heart the most? How do you think God wants you to respond to what's been shared today?

PRAY

Ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit as you face constant challenges to experiencing and communicating the gospel. Pray that God would show you how you can be more like Jesus to those around you and be an encouragement to those you meet this week.

GO

As you go into this week, be encouraged that in every situation you face God is sovereign and He alone can give you all you need, whether it's words, strength, hope, peace, love, wisdom or provision. Know that the more you look to Jesus and the more you let the Holy Spirit lead you, the more He will transform your heart and empower you to love and be a witness to those He puts in your path.

Read more about Peter and John's experience in prison and before the Sadducees in Acts 4, Peter's encouragement to persecuted believers in 1 Peter 3:8-22, and Paul's encouragement to the church in Philippians 1:12-30.