

We Have a Mission Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Overall, would you say you put more attention on relationships, ideas, or activities? Explain.
2. If you had plenty of time and money for it, what is one skill you would like to learn?

Read the following passage: Acts 1:1-8.

When we don't know the "why" behind an activity or organization, we are unlikely to persevere when we face obstacles. In the person and ministry of Jesus Christ, the kingdom of God entered the world in a whole new way. The early church knew their mission was to bring the life of the kingdom and the life of the king (Jesus) to every people group on the planet. Acts 3 and 4 provide a powerful example of Peter and John embracing this mission.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. When Peter and John encountered a lame man at one of the temple gates, they offered him healing in the name of Jesus Christ. They didn't ask him about his beliefs, or challenge his life decisions, or give him a theological quiz, they led with grace. What might it look like to lead with grace in our interactions?
2. Do you ever feel like you don't have anything of spiritual significance to offer other people? What can we do when we feel this way?
3. When a crowd gathered at Solomon's Colonnade (Acts 3:11), Peter was ready to "tell the story." How would you summarize the Gospel message?
4. All of us have stories we tell ourselves: it all depends on me; my worth comes from my success; no one can understand what I've been through. Usually these stories are bad news. What are some ways the Gospel offers us a better story?
5. The priests, the captain of the temple guard, and the Sadducees were greatly disturbed by the actions of Peter and John, so they seized Peter and John and threw them in prison. This was the same group that arrested Jesus. And this was the same group that Peter feared when he disowned Jesus. This time, however, Peter made a bold stand for the Gospel. How might our past and present failures sabotage our participation in the mission? What can we do to push past our failures and engage in the mission anyway?
6. In Acts 4:12, Peter told the religious leaders, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is not other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." What does "salvation" mean here? Why is this such an important issue? Do you feel any personal responsibility to share the message of salvation with

others? Explain.

7. Do you regularly pray for any specific people who are not yet following Jesus? What are some practical ways you can participate in the mission of leading people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ?

Pray