



CHURCH CHANGES: PEOPLE

Pastor Derek Sanford

September 10, 2017

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, is there a particular point you recall that caught your attention or you found challenging or confusing?
2. **Read Acts 2:37-47.** Peter preached a sermon in Acts 2:14-36 explaining Jesus is the messiah. What does it mean in verse 37 that people were 'cut to the heart'? (convicted of their sin) Many received Jesus Christ and then what did they do? (vs. 41-47) Why did they do those things?
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 and 27.** All who follow Christ are part of His body—the Church. How does that Church differ from the individual churches we attend and how does Christ do His work through us in both?
4. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.** Derek talked about some ways Christ-followers (members of Christ's body—the Church) are different from others in our society. The Holy Spirit brings about change as we follow Christ. How can the church support His work?
5. **Read John 17:13-21.** This is one of the last prayers Jesus prayed for his disciples (and for us) before He went to the cross. What did He pray for in vs. 21? Why did He say unity among believers AND with Jesus and the Father was so important? How can unity in our churches help people believe in Jesus?
6. **Read Colossians 1:25-29 and Matthew 12:15-21.** Christ is the hope of the world. How did the lifestyles of the early Christians show this hope to their world? How can we share this hope with those around us today?

Next Steps:

- a) Just coming to church won't bring people to Jesus. Pray for those you are inviting and ask God to 'cut their hearts' and call them to Himself.
- b) Derek said the early church was characterized by: absence of racism; high value of life; sexual purity; radical generosity – ask God to work in your life in one of these areas

Prayer Time: Following the ACTS method, Ask the group to: A – ADORE God for His work in the Church. Next: C—CONFESS areas where you need change: T—THANK God for His faithfulness in your life S—SAY WHAT YOU NEED and ask God to shine His glory through you and through members of the Body of Christ at Grace Church.



Church Changes: Families

Pastor Brian Kelly, McLane Church

September 17, 2017

Life Group Discussion Questions:

7. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
8. Read **Acts 16:13-15** and **16:25-34**.
9. In both of these accounts households in Philippi come to faith in Christ. How are the stories similar? How are they different?
10. (On the following page is a list of "one another" verses from the New Testament that talk about how Christians are to behave toward one another. Ask for a few or all to be read aloud.) What would it look like for us to apply these "one another" commands to our families?
11. Where do you see the hand of God in your life? In your family? How has He changed you? How might He want to continue to change you and/or your family?
12. Read **Acts 16:1**, **1 Timothy 1:2** and **2 Timothy 1:2**. Who began teaching Timothy about faith? Who continued to mentor him? Share who has influenced your faith.
13. Think- who is God using you to build up in the faith? In your home? In your church? Why is this important? (**Deuteronomy 11:1, 18-19; Judges 2:10-12**)

Next Steps: What next step can you take to influence the faith of your family or someone else God has placed in your circle?

Prayer Thought: Praise God for creating the family. Confess to Him how you are not influencing the faith of your family. Thank Him for how He has grown your faith. Ask Him to grow the faith of your faith and to use you to influence the faith in others.

Suggested Memory Verse:

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:35)

Additional Resources: Grace Church offers marriage mentoring and there is a day-long Marriage Seminar coming on October 14th. Also, Focus on the Family (www.focusonthefamily.org) and Family Life (www.familylife.com) are two ministries with excellent resources for parenting and marriage.



“One Another”

The “one another” verses in the New Testament give instruction on how to treat other believers. Below is a list of some of the “one another” verses that are found in the New Testament.

- Mark 9:50: Be at peace with one another [also 1 Thessalonians 5:13]
- John 13:34: Love one another [occurs 20 times in New Testament]
- Romans 12:10: Be devoted and give preference to one another
- Romans 12:16: Be of the same mind toward one another [also Romans 15:5]
- Romans 14:19: Build up one another [also 1 Thessalonians 5:11]
- Romans 15:7: Accept one another as Christ does
- Romans 15:14: Admonish one another [also Colossians 3:16]
- 1 Corinthians 11:33: Wait for one another
- 1 Corinthians 12:25: Care for one another
- Galatians 5:13: Serve one another
- Galatians 6:2: Bear one another's burdens
- Ephesians 4:25: Speak the truth to one another
- Ephesians 4:32: Be kind to one another
- Ephesians 4:32: Be tender hearted to one another
- Ephesians 4:32: Forgive one another [also Colossians 3:13]
- Ephesians 5:19: Speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs
- Ephesians 5:21: Be subject to one another
- Philippians 2:3: Regard one another as more important
- Colossians 3:13: Bear with one another
- Colossians 3:16: Teach one another
- 1 Thessalonians 4:18: Comfort one another
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11: Encourage one another [also Hebrews 3:13 and 10:25]
- 1 Thessalonians 5:13: Seek for what is best for one another
- Hebrews 10:24: Stimulate one another to good deeds
- James 5:16: Pray for one another
- James 5:16: Confess your sins to one another
- 1 Peter 4:9: Be hospitable to one another
- 1 Peter 4:10: Use your gift to serve one another
- 1 Peter 5:5: Be humble towards one another
- 1 John 1:7: Fellowship with one another



Church Changes: Cities

Pastor Derek Sanford

September 24, 2017

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. **Read Acts 5:12-14.** Do you believe that Erie (and its surrounding communities) can be changed? As you read through the book of Acts, what similarities can we identify with the first church and our work to "serve Erie"? What will be our challenges?
3. Again, **read Acts 5:12-14.** In spite of witnessing miraculous signs and wonders, "none dared join them". What are our modern-day risks and fears as we work to become fully devoted followers of Christ?
4. **Read Acts 6:1-7** Grace Church and McLane Church have placed a high priority on serving those in need in Erie. Our reading in Acts 6 offers a very specific example of the early church rising up to meet a need. How can your Life Group and the individuals in your group move from "ears and rears" to becoming the hands and feet of Jesus?
5. The church was never meant to be confined to four walls. What does Pastor Derek mean when he says it's all about relationships?
6. As we serve the people of our city, how do we check our hearts to assure that we send no signals suggesting that we are better than those we serve. Discuss the obvious and more subtle ways that we may offend people as we volunteer and serve.
7. For an overview of the book of Acts and the early church, watch two short videos on Right Now Media: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/181310#48> (For RNM access email aaron@whoisgrace.com).

Next Steps: Read Acts 18:8-11 Pastor Derek reminds us that God has already declared our unity; we don't need to pray for it and hope for it. Discuss the many ways that we can demonstrate unity, both within our church and as we serve beyond our walls?

Prayer Thought: Use the "ACTS" prayer method as you pray to change our city:

Adoration: Share your love for the Lord and declare the many ways that you adore Him.

Confession: Search your heart and confess your brokenness as it relates to service to others.

Thanksgiving: Thank the Lord for your many blessings and offer ways that you may share these with the people of Erie.

Supplication: Ask the Father for strength, wisdom and resources so that you may better serve.