

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

Long Story Short: Jesus Sends the Church



Opening

1. Share about your BLESS rhythms for this week. (see summary below)
2. If someone were to ask you “why are you part of a church,” what would say?

Going Deeper

Read Acts 1:1-11

1. What is the relationship between Israel in the Old Testament and the church in the New Testament? How are they similar? How are they different?
 - a. In verse 6, Jesus disciples ask him an important question about the kingdom. What does this question reveal about their understanding of the kingdom?
 - b. How does Jesus’ response broaden their understanding of the kingdom?
2. Jesus tells his disciples that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on them. What does this power enable them to do? (see Acts 2:42-47)
 - a. How have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit? What do you see the Holy Spirit enabling you to do?
3. Jesus describes his followers as witnesses. What comes to mind for you as when you think of being a witness?

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4. Read the following quote by Lesslie Newbiggin:

The early Church did not see itself as a private religious society competing with others to offer personal salvation to its members; it saw itself as a movement launched into the public life of the world, challenging the rule of Caesar, claiming the allegiance of all without exception. As a community they rejected the idolatrous claims of their culture and lived their whole lives under the authority of another Lord.

- a. Do you think our culture sees the church in this way?
 - b. What might it look like for us to recover this sense of public witness?
 - c. After sharing these thoughts, Newbiggin goes on to say that churches that embrace their calling to be a public witness will suffer. Do you think he's right? Why might this be the case?
5. There is a lot of talk today about being a missional church. What exactly does it mean to be a missional church?
6. As a whole, how does this passage nudge you forward as a follower of Jesus?

Close in Prayer

BLESS Rhythms Summary:

BLESS: This is the practice of blessing another person. It can be big or small (buying coffee, encouraging text/email, etc.). *Who have you blessed this week?*

LISTEN: This is the practice of listening, both to God and to others. *How did you set time aside this week to be a listener?*

EAT: This is the practice of sharing food with people. This can happen in a home or in a coffee shop. *Who are you eating with/inviting into your home?*

SPEAK: This is the practice of speaking our faith. It can happen through encouragement, story sharing, and evangelism. *How have you spoken your faith this week?*

SABBATH: This is the practice of resting from work and taking time to rest and enjoy creation. *How are you practicing Sabbath this week?*