

A Personal Story and Strategy

“Living Large”, part 29, Insights from Acts 22:1-30
Pastor Bob Johnson, May 5th, 2024

Paul’s Recollection

- **Before** (v1-5)
- **During** (v6-16)
- **After** (v17-21)

People’s Response

- **Jew’s frustration** (v22-24)
- **Paul’s question** (v25)
- **Roman’s hesitation** (v26-30)

Principles To Consider:

- 1. Jesus calls us to be _____ not prosecutors.**
(2 Corinthians 5:20, Philippians 2:13)
- 2. Jesus calls us to be _____ not hunters.**
(Ecclesiastes 11:6, Luke 8:5, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19)
- 3. No one is too _____ to be reconciled.**
(1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Timothy 1:15-16)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

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Welcome to our fifth week of our 12 week small group season this Spring. Each week we read and reflect on various Bible passages and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives. This week's discussion is based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Living Large". In this Spring series, we are slowly unpacking the Book of Acts.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

From reading Acts 22 and other passages, we reflected on how Jesus calls us to be recruiters and not prosecutors. Speaking of recruiting, can you think of a time where you were either recruited for something and/or that you attempted to recruit someone for something.

If being recruited, were you surprised? Why do you think you were recruited? How did it end up?
If being the recruiter, who did you attempt to recruit?
Why did you choose them? How did it turn out?

Last Sunday, we also reflected on how Jesus calls us to be sowers and not hunters. Speaking of sowing or farming, what have you tried to grow in the past few years? How did it go?
What did you learn along the way?

Reviewing & Reflecting on Sunday's Passage:

From reflecting on Acts 22 this past Sunday, was there a particular thought or verse that stood out to you, encouraged you, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. Let's re-read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 and 1 Timothy 1:15-16.

We were reminded last Sunday that no one is too remote to be reconciled to God. Can you think of a person you know whom you would be shocked to hear that they had become a Christian?

How might our attitude and actions toward them change if we were to more consistently think of ourselves as ambassadors for Christ and recruiters for Christ rather than an avoider, hunter or prosecutor of others?

2. One of the classic stories of Scripture that reflects the heart of God is the story in Luke 15:11-31. This story helps us reflect on God's heart and our need for grace. Let's read the passage and share with each other what we can learn about the heart of God from this story.

Can you think of a time in your life when you could relate to one or more of the three characters in the story - the younger son, the older brother or the father?

3. Paul, like the prodigal son, experienced a Father's love and forgiveness. Understanding God's love for us can be of great help in motivating us to be gracious and forgiving of others.

Let's read Psalm 103:8-13 and share what we notice regarding the extend of God's love and forgiveness.

What is encouraging or comforting to you from these verses?

Why do you think people struggle with understanding and accepting God's love for them?

What has helped you better understand and accept God's love for you?

4. Another classic story that is full of insights related to reaching out to others with the Good News of God's forgiveness and love that is available is described in John 4:1-26. In this story, Jesus is our example of how to be salt and light in our world.

What insights related to outreach do we see from Jesus?

What insights related to outreach do we see from the woman?

5. Let's read 1 Peter 3:15 as reminder that we are called to be ready to share with others as opportunities arise.

As Paul was ready to share his story in Acts 22, let's follow his example by becoming more confident in sharing our story.

Each of our stories as Jesus followers has a "before" (what my life was like before I became a Christian), "during" (how I realized I needed Christ and when and where I chose to accept Christ), and "after" (a difference Jesus has begun to make in our life).

Let's pick one of the three and share some of our story with each other.

Praying Together:

One of the blessings of being in a small group is being prayed for. Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for?

Is there anything else that you would like to express prayer for?