

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of April 11th, 2021

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: Acts 1:8 Prioritize Disciples

Speaker: Pastor Sam Johnson

Icebreaker

- What has been the best idea you have ever had?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

- What stands out the most to you from this sermon? What challenged you? Is there anything that you have questions about?

I. Jesus's Plan

- Why do you think Jesus came to be a SERVANT of the world rather than coming as the KING of the world?
- Jesus's strategy was to invest in 11 faithful men to carry the message to the world after He was gone.
 - Why do you think Jesus began with a small group of 11 disciples to begin the church?
 - What would it look like for you to join His mission to expand the church?

II. Called to Witness

- **Act 1:8 ESV - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my WITNESS in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**
 - How has someone invested into you, and who is someone you can invest into?

- We do not all have to be on staff at a church or a small group leader to be a witness. We are ALL called to be witnesses to the ends of the earth. We are the greatest Christian that someone knows in your lives. How can YOU be a witness to those around you to grow the church? (see Titus 2:1-10)
- *“By the power of the Holy Spirit you will do greater things.”* - Pastor Sam Johnson
 - Have you invited the Holy Spirit to come alongside you to fulfill the mission God has given you?

III. Faith and Evidence

- **Heb 11:1 (KJV) — Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**
 - What EVIDENCE have you seen from the FAITH you have placed in God?
 - What have you seen that COULD be, and believe that it WOULD be?
- At the end of the sermon Pastor Mike asked how many churches that Pastor Sam Johnson helped plant over the years; rather than focusing on the number of buildings constructed Pastor Johnson reminded us of the true goal, that HUNDREDS of THOUSANDS of lives were being changed by JESUS as a result of those buildings!
 - We may be doing great things but how can you make an impact in others lives?

Act On It

Encourage: It may take longer than we like but we must hold to our faith and God's evidence will come. It does not all fall on you to witness, the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, that gave the Apostles the ability to speak in tongues, also rests in you and this great HELPER will help you accomplish the task God has given you. Even Peter denied Jesus three times and Jesus still used him to build His church. The invitation to respond to His call is still open no matter if this is the first or fifth time He has called you.

Ask: Ask God to help you speak boldly as we see in Acts 9:28 as Saul (Paul) was speaking about God in Jerusalem. Pray for God to give you opportunities to witness to the world and those around you. In those opportunities do not worry about what you should say or that you may fail at the lack of knowledge for the Holy Spirit will give you the words to speak as we see in Luke 12:12.

Challenge: You can be a part of the ministry of Jesus Christ as well. Your place might look different from someone else's. Perhaps you are led to share the Gospel in your home with a small group, in your city as part of an outreach ministry, or out in the world on missions. Maybe you can donate your time or resources. How will you step out in faith? If you are interested in missions, contact Pastor Mike Campbell at mike.campbell@lifepointchurch.tv. If you have never been on a mission trip, would you be willing to go?

Prayer Request and Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, send your Spirit and make known to us the plan you have before us. Guide us in your mission for us to take part in your great commission to speak the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Father, send people alongside us that will help us achieve these things for your glory. Help us to remember that you have given us so much, even the suffering

and brutal death of your son on the cross for all of us when none of us deserved it, and now we have the opportunity to share this message with others. Father, give us the boldness when the opportunity comes to share your love with those around us, Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of April 4th, 2021

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: The Promise Fulfilled

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- What is your go-to karaoke anthem?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

- What stands out the most to you from this sermon? What challenged you? Is there anything that you have questions about?
- When someone makes a promise to you, what's the first thought that comes to your mind? Does it depend on the person? Why?

I. God Has Promised to Change Our Lives

Have group members take turns reading **Genesis 1:26, Jeremiah 31:33-34, Ezekiel 36:26-28, and John 14:15-17.**

- What does it mean for us to be “image bearers of God”? How do you feel knowing that you are the very image of God?
- What makes it difficult to trust in God’s promises? What is your typical response when you feel like your prayers aren’t being answered?
- How has your thankfulness for God’s promises helped move you toward living the life that God wants you to live? What can you change in your life today that would bring you closer to God?
- If someone were to look at your life, would they see that you are being led by the Holy Spirit? Do your actions show your love for God?

II. God Has Kept His Promise Through Jesus

Have your group read **Acts 1:3-5.**

- In what areas of your life do you often doubt God’s promises? Where have you been putting your faith instead?
- How have you seen God’s promises come alive for you so far? What ways has the Holy Spirit asked you to be faithful with where you’re at now and what has been your response?
- How does being baptized with water differ from being baptized with the Holy Spirit? Does this challenge your previous thoughts on baptism? How have you seen the baptism described in Acts 1:5 in your own life?

III. God’s Promise is For You, Today!

Have group members take turns reading **John 14:15**, **2 Corinthians 6:2**, and **2 Corinthians 5:17**.

- Compare and contrast your life before and after becoming a new creation in Christ. If comfortable, share some of the significant transformations you've noticed or some of the areas that God is still refining.
- What are some promises of God that you need to choose to believe today? How can our group help?
- Many believe in God, but do you LOVE Him? Does He have your whole heart? Are there stumbling blocks that are keeping you from your identity as a new creation in Christ?

Act On It

Encourage: Promises made by people get broken all the time. When that happens, we get disappointed, we get angry, and we start doubting who's really in our corner. That's why we are truly blessed that we can find rest and comfort in God's promises. His promises are always there, and they are always true. When we mess up, He promises to fix it, but we have to be willing to let Him work. God's best transformational work takes place when we humble ourselves, set aside our doubts, and pursue our relationship with Him. Through Christ, God has proven His love for us. And because He knows the troubles that we face, God takes His love a little further and gifts us with His Spirit as empowerment, guidance, and direction toward living an eternal life in a broken world. As we get closer to God, our love for Him will grow, our hearts will change, and our actions will follow suit. We don't have to work to get it right because God IS right.

Ask: Ask to be reminded of God's promise to change your life and for the sight to see yourself as an image bearer of God, even when you mess up. Pray that you discover the areas in your life that He desires to change and how He wants you to love Him. Pray that any obstacles that are preventing you from giving your heart to God be removed to make room for the Living Water of the Holy Spirit. Pray for the affections of your heart to be renewed and to reflect God and His ways.

Challenge: As you go through the week, stop and think about how God walks with you. Is it evident that you are a new creation in Christ? In the areas of your life in which you're struggling, pray and ask God what promises can you lean on for strength. While you're having your morning coffee, sitting in traffic, or mowing the lawn, thank Him for the promise of new life and think of practical ways that you can use to show your gratitude. Is it getting baptized? Starting a small group? Getting involved with Serve Day on April 10th? Don't wait! Move forward in the strength of the Holy Spirit, believe His promise, and receive His promise.

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the gift of your Son, who died for us so that we can live with you, and who rose from the dead after paying the price for our sins. Thank you for the promise of the Holy Spirit because through that, we can walk with and live for you every day. For any areas in which we struggle to believe your Word or that we try to hide from you, we hand them over to you and pray for peace in knowing that your promises never fail. We invite you to come into our lives, wholeheartedly. We ask for you to move us into action - help us desire to do more than just believe. Give us joy, encouragement, and peace as we let you have our hearts and start living the new life you've given us. We love you Lord, and we praise you, Amen.