

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of June 5, 2022

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: Open Doors, Closed Doors (Acts 16:6-15)

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- Would you rather be three inches taller or three inches shorter?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

I. God is in Charge, Never Forget! (v. 6-7)

Additional scripture references:

The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps (Proverbs 16:9)

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hand... (Psalm 31:14-15)

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary... (Isaiah 40:28)

...but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

- Do you believe that God answers all prayers?
- Paul and his team must have been confused by this word from the Holy Spirit. Have you ever been told "wait" by God and wondered why? What were some of the thoughts/questions that came to mind? Did it make you question your faith or question that you were truly following God?
- Do you truly trust God, His Will and His timing? Do you trust

Him, even when He says “no” or “not now”? Why or why not? Give an example of where you’re trusting Him right now.

- Paul didn’t argue with God or debate or call a committee meeting. He stayed faithful and he kept moving forward with the mission. How do you deal with closed doors in your life? Do you keep moving, or do you keep pressing God to do it your way?
- God knows what He’s doing with your life. And He can be trusted. How many of you know that going your way instead of His way is always the hard way? How did you figure that out?
- God is still in charge. We can always trust that His timing is better than ours. What things in your life do you need to trust God with?
- What does your relationship with God look like right now? Do you commune with Him daily? Where could it be stronger?

II. God Directs Us and Re-Directs Us on Purpose (v. 8-10)

- God first told Paul and his team to wait. Then, He issued a redirect. Describe a time in your life when this happened to you.
- Have you ever pursued a goal for which you trained, only to be sent through a season in the wilderness first? What do you think God wanted to do through or in you before you reached that goal?
- Do you see reroutes as an inconvenience? What if you saw them as a time of growth where God is trying to work on something in or through you? What is God teaching you during your reroutes?
- God knows your wants, desires, dreams, and plans. Do you pause when you hear “not right now” and reflect on what God might want you to change? Do you embrace the change or continue to push forward and not change a thing?
- What are some reasons that you think God might reroute you?
- How do you react when God says no to something in your

passions in order to use you somehow differently?

- How do you tell the difference between a “self-opportunity” and a “God-opportunity”?

III. When God Directs, He Provides! (v. 11-15)

- Because they were willing to listen and obey the Spirit, God used Lydia to provide for Paul and his team while they were in Macedonia. Where has God redirected you because He had a plan to provide for you? How has He provided for you since rerouting your path?
- What would it take for you to see closed doors as God’s way of loving you, providing for you, protecting you, and leading you?
- Where do you need to repent for not trusting the Lord, and where do you need to ask God for transformation?
- Do you see asking for clarity as the last little bit of control that you have instead of surrendering everything to God?
- How has a redirection of your life been a blessing to someone else?

Act On It

Encourage: Have you ever spent hours, years, or decades planning for something, only to have some part of it not go the way you planned? It happens to us all of the time and why? Because as much as we try to create our own plans, God is in charge of it all. He knows your plans, desires, and dreams because he’s never not listening. But, He’s so much bigger than that. He’s a good God, an everlasting God, a purposeful God, and He’s YOUR God. You can trust God with and in everything. God has a plan for your life, a plan that is meant to bring you good things. What would it take for you to truly trust the Lord and to start seeing open and closed doors as God’s way of directing your life and protecting you from something bad? What if you saw detours as opportunities to learn and bear things with uncertainty because you trust in Him? Trust God in all that you

do. Stop going to God with what you want to do and accept what He wants to do for you and provide for you.

Ask: “What are some of the open and closed doors I’ve encountered so far?” How did you react to these opportunities? Is life better or worse because of them? Where is God asking you to trust Him? What are you struggling to submit to Him and why? What would it look like for you to truly trust the Lord? Are you willing to accept any other answer from God besides “yes”? Can you let go of the desire for clarity and surrender your plans and trust God?

Challenge: Are you in a season of uncertainty? Pause and reflect on what God could be showing you. Do you need to look into some different career opportunities? Financial planning? Additional schooling? Mentoring? Have you let a closed door stop you in your tracks? What do you need to do to get moving again? Trust God in what He has for you. Jot down the good things you’ve noticed in your season of waiting and give praise. Take some time this summer to check out the books [The Ragamuffin Gospel](#) and/or [Ruthless Trust: The Ragamuffin’s Path to God](#) by Brennan Manning.

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, we’re so thankful that You’re in control and Your timing is perfect. We repent for the areas in our lives where we’ve tried to maintain control when all You wanted for us is to lay it at Your feet. Today, we reaffirm our faith in You. Help us be people that truly walk by faith, not by sight. We need to trust You again, to trust Your open and closed doors in our lives. Help us see open doors as the way that You lead and direct us, and help us see closed doors as Your protection and covering over our lives. And in the meantime, in the “not yet” period when we’re waiting, we’re going to trust that You’re working on something greater than anything for which we could plan or even begin to imagine. Give us patience and peace in the waiting. We’re going to trust in You and in Your provision and timing. Thank You for

providing, and thank You for always making a way, even if it's not the way we want. We surrender it all to You today, and we welcome any open or closed doors You have us with joyful hearts. Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of May 29th, 2022

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: Building Others; Reaching Others (Acts 16:1-5)

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- What's your favorite food to eat at a cookout and why?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

IV. We Develop & Disciple People (v. 1-3)

- Who are you currently discipling? If no one, who could you start discipling?
- Are you mentoring someone in another aspect of your life, such as work, where you could incorporate Jesus into it? What would that look like?
- What have people called out in you? How has that made a difference to you? What are you calling out in other people?
- What is keeping you from creating disciples?
- As ways to start discipling others, Pastor Mike gave the practical steps of joining a team or being in a small group. Can you think of some other ways to develop others?

V. We Make Room for Others to Know God (v. 3)

- Timothy being circumcised wasn't for him, but it was to help others come to know Christ. What has God asked you to do to help others meet Jesus? Where have you made room in your life for others to know God?

- What do you need to sacrifice so others know Jesus, and are you willing? (i.e. Time, money, comfort, a hobby, your reputation, etc.)
- Are you willing to submit to God's mission? If not, why? Is it stubbornness? Selfishness? Not feeling qualified?
- Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. Paul was willing to do whatever it took to bring others to Christ. Do you have that same passion? Why or why not?

VI. We Build God's Church (v. 4-5)

- Every place, every event, and every season is an opportunity to share God. How can we normalize sharing the mission of God?
- Make a list of the top 3-5 things that you do in a week. After you take a few minutes to write these down, how can you take Christ with you while doing these?
- What makes you feel "unqualified" to share the Gospel? What would God say about that?
- What do you have to lose when it comes to sharing Jesus with someone you don't know? Is it a good reason?

Act On It

Encourage: As Christians, no matter if we've just went "all in" or been "all in" for a while, we have a mandate from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to build others up and to reach others with the Gospel. If you've said yes to Jesus, you've been commissioned by Jesus. We're called to make disciples and develop people. Our Christian lives aren't just for us, but for the ones around who still need to meet The Lord. We're ambassadors for Christ. We're on mission for God, but we're not on the mission field alone. Trust that the Holy Spirit is always with us. We're equipped and qualified enough to make disciples, but have to be filled with Him. And, we must be willing. Luke 12:11-12 tells us that when we lean into the Holy Spirit, The Lord will give you the words to speak at the right time. So, do whatever it takes to

make discipling and developing others a normal part of your life so that the Church keeps growing and strengthening.

Ask: “Who’s in my life now, that I can start pouring into?” Is there someone that’s been observing you and how you love God? “Have I been living and acting in a way that would make disciples?” Ask who are the ones that consistently pour into your life. Where in your life do you need to make room so that others can come to know Christ? What’s something that you do now, that you can use to share the Gospel with someone?

Challenge: Share something about Jesus with the next person you encounter, after you leave the group today. Offer to pray for someone. Leave a nice note or scripture on your receipt for your waiter/waitress. Figure out who you want to start pouring into and schedule some weekly coffee or lunch dates with him or her. Invite someone to church or your small group. Give generously when the opportunity shows up. Join a Dream Team or volunteer at a local serve organization. Look into some missions trips.

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, thank you for the people you’ve personally sent to help disciple and develop us, and thank you for the opportunities that we get to pour the Gospel into the lives of others. Thank you for the Great Commission, that we get to be on mission for Your Kingdom. Thank you for using us to grow and strengthen the Church. God, help us be people that go forth and make disciples. Give us a heart to develop others and to share all that You’re doing to transform our lives with other people. Show us who around us needs to know You so we know where to begin. Thank you that we don’t have to be qualified, but as long as we’re willing to move, that’s all that matters. Help us make rooms in our lives for others to come to know Christ. Help us get rid of anything that stands in the way of us developing people. Fill us with Your Spirit and give us wisdom, discernment, and the

words we need to have these conversations. Help us make sharing the Gospel a daily task that we get to do. Give us the boldness to share Jesus with everyone that we meet. Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of May 22nd, 2022

Sermon: What God Loves (2 Corinthians 9:6-13)

Speaker: Pastor Dino Rizzo - ARC Network

Icebreaker

- What is the coolest present that you've ever received?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

VII. "...for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7

- What's your definition of "cheerful"? How does this passage say we should describe this word? Would you describe your generosity as "cheerful"?
- What are some decisions in your past that are blessing you now, and have the potential to continue blessing you in the future?
- How has giving changed the trajectory of your life? What has other peoples' giving done for you? How have you been able to be a blessing for others?
- What do you think are the consequences of not being a generous person?
- How does our generosity impact other people's response to God?
- What is the difference between giving cheerfully and giving out of reluctance? How do we balance giving cheerfully with our obedience to Christ?
- The first step to being a cheerful giver is to just start. What are

some practical steps to just get started?

- Pastor Dino shared, “You can’t reap the benefits of a good crop if you don’t plant the seeds. There is a hope in the release of the seeds and the planting.” Where in your life do you need to do some planting? Where can you give before you are even asked? What do you have or what can you do specifically that would be a blessing to others?
- How do you show your love for God in your life?
- Is your generosity adequately representing the overflow of your love for God? What holds you back from being generous?
- Read James 2:14-17. Why is serving others such an important part of the Christian life?

Act On It

Encourage: God loves a cheerful giver. God loves when we set aside our preferences and seek His heart. He loves when we put others above our own needs. And, He loves when we choose to do these things because of our love for Him and nothing else. Our generosity needs to be an overflow of our love for the Lord. When we’re in the presence of others, we should “spill the love of God all over the place.” There are so many people who are waiting to see the love of God but haven’t because we’ve been selfish. In 2 Corinthians 9, we are promised that as we give in abundance, we will be blessed in abundance. God never breaks His promises, so let’s start being more generous and “watch Jesus move with your more.”

Ask: Ask yourself, “How can I be more generous?” Is there something you’ve been wanting to do? Where is God leading you to help? What gifts has God given you specifically that He wants you to use to bless others? How can you lead the charge? Ask God to open your eyes to the needs around you. What are you hearing God saying to you?

Challenge: Start now. Do the next kind thing that you see, follow through on the acts of kindness that pop into your head. Look for ways to bless people without them having to ask or even knowing. Leave a generous tip the next time you go out to eat. Offer to pray for someone on the spot. Leave a kind note or card for some to make their day. Join a team or find a serve group to get involved with this month. Choose to give a couple of hours out of the month to serve people.

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, thank you for Your blessings. Thank you for the opportunities You're going to bring us that will allow us to show others Your love. Thank you for using us to bring glory to Your name. Help us to be cheerful givers with our time, money, and resources. Help us to see giving as an overflow of our love for you and nothing else. We want to share the blessings you've given us, not hoard them. Remove any barriers that have been standing in the way of our generosity. Give us wisdom on what to give, how to give it, and who to give it to. Give us a heart that seeks to praise You and give You thanks and share Your love with those who need to feel it. We want to love what You love. Fill us with Your Spirit. Lead us where You need us. Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of May 15th, 2022

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: Christianity and Conflict (Acts 15:36-41)

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- If a taco and a grilled cheese got into a fight, which one would win?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

VIII. Sometimes, Church Folks Don't Get Along (v. 36-40)

- How well do you handle and engage in conflict? How do you approach it? Guarded? Abrasive? Do you try to avoid it?
- Have you ever experienced conflict in the church? How did you handle it? What could you have done differently?
- How do you take it when people approach you with an offense? How do you accept criticism?
- How can we be assertive without being rude? Or, how can we be assertive when it's something that doesn't come easily?

IX. How to Have Conflict as a Christian (Matthew 18:15-17)

- What surprised you or stood out to you about the steps of conflict resolution modeled in this passage?
- Think of your last conflict. What would it have looked like to apply Matthew 18 to it? What would have happened differently?
- How has your experience with conflicts changed your spiritual life? Or did it not change? Have your conflicts hardened your

heart towards God?

- If you're not willing to confront an offense, what are the consequences of not letting it go?
- How has unresolved conflict shown up in your life? Has it hindered your spiritual life? Family life? Work life

X. Conflict Doesn't Excuse Us from Obedience (v. 40-41)

- Read Ephesians 4:25 through 5:2. What are some practical ways we can be obedient in following Christ after experiencing conflict?
- Read Matthew 18:15-35, and, as a group, talk through forgiveness. What does it look like for you now? What should it look like?
- Is it easy for you to own up to your mistakes? Are you willing to admit where you got it wrong? Explain.
- Do you allow conflict to distract you from God and His tasks for you? Why or why not?
- How should Christian conflict differ from the conflict of a non-believer?

Act On It

Encourage: Until Christ returns, we will have conflict. It's a part of our lives; we can't control it, but we can control how we handle it. Conflict can make us better and bring us wisdom and strength, or it can distract us from God's plan for our lives. As Christians, we're called to do our best to get along with everyone, but that doesn't mean it'll always happen. In those cases where it does get tough, we can either be willing to have those hard conversations or be willing to let it go. No matter what, we can't let conflict fester. Unresolved conflict can hinder our spiritual lives and get in God's way. Don't let disagreements cause you to become disagreeable to God or to others. Never let conflict with others grow bigger than the God you serve.

Ask: Ask yourself, “Is the way that I handle conflict now, God-honoring?” Who do you need to confront? Who do you need to forgive? Is there something that you need to take ownership of? How have you let conflict get in the way of your obedience to the Lord? Is the offense really worth holding on to? Is it something that could be let go?

Challenge: Confront who offended you. Create some healthy boundaries. If you can, choose to let go of the offense. Pray for God to help you extend true forgiveness. And, just for fun, learn more about yourself and your small group members by taking the free assessment at 16personalities.com.

Prayer Request and Prayer

God, thank you for showing us how to handle and engage in conflict. You knew that conflict would be a part of this work, thank you for loving us so much to guide us through it. Help us to see conflict as a way to learn and make ourselves better and not as a chance to be a winner or the one who’s right. Give us your grace, mercy, and wisdom to live in peace with one another. Help us extend your forgiveness to those who’ve offended us. Reveal to us where we need to be humble and admit our faults. Strengthen us with Your Spirit to confront unresolved conflict, and give us discernment and peace in knowing when and what to let go. Most of all, Lord, help us not let any conflict or any disagreement get in the way of our lives with You. Give us the desire to be people that agree to stay on mission for You, even when we disagree with each other. Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of May 8th, 2022

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: Let the Lord Take the Lead (Acts 15:22-35)

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- Who controls the remote in your house? Why?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

XI. Pray for Good and Godly Leadership (v. 22)

- How can you know that God only has good things for you?
- What are the qualities of godly leadership? What are examples of what that looks like in the workplace? Parenting? Marriage?
- How much confidence do you have in your pastors' godly leadership? If a "bus load" of lost people, with different views than you, showed up at your church, would you trust their leadership?
- What traits do you look for in a leader? Are you drawn towards more extroverted leaders, or leaders that lead when the spotlight isn't on them?
- How do you trust or test spiritual leadership? Do you follow your leaders blindly, or do you pray diligently for God to direct them and give them the discernment to follow His will?
- What would it look like for you to be a Godly leader in your workplace? Do you have the confidence to say, "Let me pray about this and get back to you?"

- How do you pray for the leaders in your life?

XII. Follow the Will and Directions of God (v. 23-29)

- When you have an important decision to make, how do you seek God's will first?
- How are you listening to the Holy Spirit? What does He sound like to you? How do you discern that the Spirit is speaking to you and nothing else?
- The Holy Spirit affirms what the heart of God is. Are you being led by the Holy Spirit or by your own spirit of feelings, opinions, and control?
- Pastor Mike shared the quote, "Doing the right thing for God doesn't save you, you do the right thing BECAUSE He's saved you." Have you felt that your salvation was dependent on your actions? Why? How does this quote make you feel about that now?
- Idols are anything that gets in the way of your relationship with God. What idols do you have in your life that need to fall?
- What are some guardrails that you have in your life to help you stay in the Will of God?
- Have you ever wondered why it's so hard to keep your life on track after accepting Jesus? They say – Keep these as a way of doing your Christian life, and you will do well! Notice, keeping this won't save you! Jesus saves you! Now that you know this, HOW will you actively let Jesus take the lead in your life and follow the will and direction of the Holy Spirit?

XIII. God's Word and God's Will Brings Joy and Peace (v. 30-35)

- How have you experienced peace and joy by following God's Word, especially when it seemed like a "tough rule"?
- What is something you want, but God is calling you away from?
- How would you explain to a new believer that giving up worldly ways shouldn't be frustrating, and following godly ways will

bring them joy and peace?

- The people responded to God's Will and Clarity from leadership with JOY and a sense of being ENCOURAGED! This is how we should respond to God's Word and His teaching. We should all write this down and pray over it daily. How else can you daily remind yourself of this truth?
- What are some ways you can let the LORD take the lead in your life, in your heart, in your family, in your MIND? How can you LET JESUS take the Lead? How can you LET THE LORD lead you By His Holy Spirit?

Act On It

Encourage: What would happen if we gave up the right to have control and submitted everything in our lives to the Power of God? God wants to be the ruler of our lives, over every area. He wants to direct us, lead us, guide us, and speak into those areas where we have questions and concerns. No matter what, God wants to reign in our lives. Will you let Him? Will you let God lead you through His Spirit, His Word and the spiritual leaders He's placed in your life? If you've been struggling with control, find rest in knowing that God won't ever lead you to a place of harm or confusion. There's strength and wisdom in stepping out of the way and letting the Lord take the wheel.

Ask: Ask yourself, "What have I truly handed over to God?" and "What am I scared to let Him have?" What is leading you right now? Are you being led by thoughts, feelings or opinions? Are you allowing room for the Holy Spirit to speak into your life? Which leaders in your life need your prayers? Pray for God to help you see submitting your life to Christ not as something negative, but as a blessing of peace and joy. Ask God to show you where He wants you to step up as a godly leader: Home? Work? Small group?

Challenge: Choose a leader in your life and say a prayer for them everyday this week. Read your Bible, listen to a podcast, or get on RightNow Media

and seek a topic to learn more that will give you more insight on godly leadership.

Prayer Request and Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for Your Word, for Your Spirit, and for the amazing spiritual leaders you've put around us to encourage and guide us. Thank you for wanting to take the lead in our lives, that nothing is too big or messy for You. Lord, help us submit to You. Give us wisdom and discernment to know the difference between Your voice, our voice, and the voice of the world. Help us respond to Your Word with joy and encouragement instead of resistance and discouragement. We also pray for the leaders in our lives, for You to be the center of every decision that they have to make. Protect our leaders, fill them with Your Spirit, and help them make right and wise choices as they lead others. Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of May 1st, 2022

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: Believe in Jesus (Acts 15:1-21)

Speaker: Pastor Mark Delaney

Icebreaker

- What's got your attention today, and why?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

XIV. Believe in Jesus - First Point, Last Point, Main Point, Only Point

Read Acts 15:1-21.

- The very first Christians were Jewish, and they taught that circumcision was required to be saved, putting conditions on salvation that were not intended to be. Have you ever seen a church that required conditions like this today, like dressing a certain way or Saturday door knocking? Can you see how these things are small in comparison to God's FREE gift that requires NONE of these things?
- How do you share the Gospel? Are you adding anything other than Jesus when you're talking to others?
- Do you have any cultural or emotional habits or thoughts that conflict with Christ? Have you ever made it hard for someone who is living differently than you to come to know Christ?
- What are some things that you used to believe in that you later found out were wrong? How has that become part of your testimony? Are you sharing your story to lead people to Christ?
- What are you requiring from people in order for you to consider

them to be saved?

- Are you willing to listen to conflict, so that you and the other person can be on the same page? Why or why not?
- How do you think the Jewish people thought when they heard their sin that has always been paid for through a tangible sacrifice could now be paid for by simply believing in and accepting God's gift of Jesus? Salvation was meant to be simple and without obligation, because that is the definition of grace. How does it make you feel to know that salvation costs you nothing, yet cost Jesus everything?
- How does the Holy Spirit speak to you?
- What does it mean for us to "move in God's direction of grace"? What are some practical ways we can do this?
- What did you need to see, hear or feel in order to believe in Christ?
- Have you ever been picked last for the team? How does it make you feel to know that God does NOT play favorites? That we are saved just as we are?
- Can you imagine one of your siblings as the Messiah? How must that have made Jesus' family feel? How did that change after Jesus had risen and reappeared after his crucifixion?
- Describe what it means when to be saved from certain things, but also saved for certain things.
- How has God recently shown you grace? Who in your life do you need to show grace to? In what way?
- In grace there is no condemnation, but there is correction. Grace is the power to not have to live in sin. What do you struggle with in your life that could be turned over to Jesus in exchange for His grace?
- What does "God takes tragedy and transforms it into strategy" mean?

Act On It

Encourage: Remember, we serve a God of resurrection, that takes tragedy and turns it into strategy. We've been given the amazing gift of grace that we get to receive and walk into everyday. Jesus came for us to live a life free of heaviness and condemnation. We can't pay for grace, and we can't earn it. We wouldn't be where we are if there were regulations and laws put on grace. So let's help others experience the same. Believe in Jesus and surrender to grace. Move out of God's way, so you can get in God's will by sharing Christ with others.

Ask: Ask yourself which old traditions or thoughts you may be holding on to that are getting in God's way for the people around you. Ask who in your life needs to feel God's grace and how you can help with that. What do you need to completely surrender so you can start living in the freedom that God wants you to have? Ask God to show you where you've gotten comfortable just doing life rather than being with Jesus?

Challenge: Jesus was sent to earth to die on the cross for our sins so that we can have eternal life and start living for it now. Figure out how to share this with someone this week. Step outside your comfort zone and invite someone to church or to your small group that you normally wouldn't speak to.

Prayer Request and Prayer

God, thank you for loving us. Thank you for reminding us that we don't have to follow laws and rules to receive your grace. Through Jesus, you have given us grace, and through grace only, we're saved. We can't do it on our

own, help us to receive and embrace your gracious gift to us. Help us walk in it everyday. Lord, we surrender to your grace. Help us set aside old thoughts and habits to make room for what You want to do in our lives. Fill us with your Spirit. Lead our hearts, direct our paths, and correct and transform us on the way. Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of April 24th, 2022

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: Trust the Holy Spirit (Acts 14:1-23)

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- Share this riddle with the group and have them guess the answer:
*With pointed fangs, I sit and wait; with piercing force, I crunch out fate;
grabbing victims, proclaiming might; physically joining with a single
bite. What am I?* Answer's located at the end of today's guide.

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

XV. Introduction

- Read John 14: 16-17, 2 Corinthians 13:14, and John 16:5-15.
How would you explain the Trinity to someone who has never heard of it?

XVI. The Spirit of God Helps Us, Stay Flexible (v. 1-7)

- How do you discern when to stay and when to leave a situation?
- How do you persevere while staying on assignment for God?
What practices, prayers, or scriptures help keep you focused?
- At what point in a situation do you stop relying on God and try to take over for yourself?
- How do you live boldly for God without being "weird"? How do you get over feeling weird when you share your faith?

XVII. Keep Seeking the Lord More than Anything Else (v. 8-18)

- Have you ever found yourself praying so hard for an end result, that you missed God working during the journey? What should you have done differently?
- Have you experienced a situation where someone was chasing a speaker/pastor or a miracle instead of God? What happened?
- Has there ever been a time where God nudged you to do something, like waking you up in the middle of the night to pray? Share a time where you experienced a “God nudge”.
- When God works in your life, do you take credit or do you give God the credit? How do you use your blessings to glorify God?

XVIII. The Spirit Covers Us, Be Ready (v. 19-23)

- How do you handle it when you get knocked down? What encourages you to get back up again?
- Do you retreat from the church in bad times, or do you allow people to surround you? How does it help you?
- How has your small group and/or relationships helped you through difficult times?
- What obstacles keep you from obeying God’s plan and following His direction?

Act On It

Encourage: Once we start serving the Lord, it’s the power and dependence on the Holy Spirit that helps us live our lives for God. The Lord sendething where He won’t equip us to be? Let’s have faith that wherever God leads us, we can trust the Spirit to give us discernment on whether to stay put or move on. When we start leaning into ourselves or others, that’s when we get distracted and off course. So in both good and bad times, let’s keep our eyes on the God of miracles. Nothing should get in the way of us obeying God’s plan and following his direction. Trust the Spirit to cover you, to live in you, to meet where you are, and to use you.

Ask: When was the last time you did something that truly wouldn't have happened without the Power of the Holy Spirit? Do the people around you see that you live for Christ? Ask yourself, "Am I really being Spirit-led?" How much do you lean on the Spirit? Do you trust the Lord? Ask God to use you. Ask him to show you where you need to trust Him more, where you've been leaning on your own strength and not in His. Pray bold prayers. Pray that God shows up in your life in places and in ways you've never seen before.

Challenge: Celebrate a blessing that God's done in your life with someone this week. Talk with someone about a burden that's weighing you down and ask for prayer and encouragement. Lay hands and pray, with confidence, for the next person that expresses a struggle to you. How are you plugged into your church family now and what does your next step look like? Hosting a small group, joining the Dream Team, or going on a mission trip? Trust the Spirit to lead you in taking that step so you can become a part of the miracle of the Church.

Prayer Request and Prayer

Holy Spirit, we welcome you. Thank you dwelling within us and filling us with Your power, discernment, and wisdom. Thank you for being with us, in good times and bad times. Thank you for equipping us to live this Christian life where we'll be faced with opposition and harmful words when we mention the name of Christ. Help us to be bolder than ever before. Lead us in praying big, powerful prayers. We surrender our work life, relationships, seasons of life, we give it all to you and ask for You to give us direction and let us know where You want us to stay put and when You're ready for us to leave. Help us stay focused on the right thing so that we follow your Plan and direction despite what's going on around us. Remove any distractions that would take our eyes off of You. Surround us with Spirit-filled people who will provide us with prayer and encouragement, and show us who in our lives we can surround and provide the same. We trust in You to empower us, strengthen us, use us, and send us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

[Answer to today's riddle: A stapler.]

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of April 17th, 2022

Sermon Series: Easter at LifePoint Church

Sermon: Welcome Home (1 Corinthians 15:1-10)

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- Let's keep the candy debate going! Which day has the better candy: Easter or Halloween? Be ready to support your answer!

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

XIX. Our Foundation is God's Gospel (Good News) (v. 1-4)

- How has standing firmly in the Gospel changed you?
- What do you do to remind yourself of the power of the Gospel? (Pray, fast, write scripture on sticky notes, etc.)
- What's the current foundation of your life? Is it a temporary foundation or a firm one? How can you start building your life on the firm foundation of God and His Gospel?
- Where have you let go of the Gospel in your life? Work life, home life, finances, relationships, etc.? What would it look like for you to invite God back into that?

XX. God is a Personal God! He Welcomes YOU! (v. 5-11)

- Share a time where God personally showed up in your life. How did you know it was Him?
- How does it make you feel knowing that a personal relationship with God is available to you?

- Is it hard for you to truly believe that no matter how you've lived your life before, that God still loves you? Why or why not?

XXI. Welcome Home! (v. 10)

- How do you welcome people into the family of God? How can you do it better?
- God's work in our lives goes way beyond salvation. He always wants to make Himself known to us. Have you given God the right to keep working in your life and changing you, past salvation?
- As a Son/Daughter of God, what traits can be seen in you that are like those of the Father? What traits would you like others to see? How can the group pray for you?

Act On It

Encourage: Easter Sunday is a moment to choose joy and rejoice in the Risen King! Jesus dying and being resurrected brings us hope for the future. The salvation of our lives is not based on us, but on Christ's grace on our lives. In spite of everything, God loves us. Christ is alive, and because of this, we get to live a new life and walk in full relationship with God. No matter the time we're living in, the Lord has shown and will continue to show himself to be real, loving, forgiving, and welcoming. God wants to make Himself known to all of us today, but it's up to us to really receive that. He's welcoming you home, will you accept the invitation?

Ask: Ask yourself what's the current foundation on which you're standing. Ask, "What's getting in the way of my standing firm in God's word?" "Have I truly received His word?" Pray for God to reveal His heart for you and for eyes to see yourself as He sees you. Ask for the Lord to make Himself known to you in ways like never before. Ask for thoughts and fears of being undeserving or unworthy to be replaced with thoughts of grace and acceptance.

Challenge: Celebrate, give thanks, and rejoice in what the Gospel is doing in your life. This week, as people ask how you celebrated Easter Sunday, talk with confidence, excitement and joy knowing that you serve a Risen King. Share more than just what kind of candy you enjoyed. Tell how you celebrated what the Gospel has done in your life and embrace the questions and conversations that will follow with open, welcome arms.

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, thank You for your Good News! Easter Sunday is more than just candy and big dinners, we get to celebrate the Gospel. Jesus paid the ultimate price for our sins so we could have eternal life. He physically died, was buried, and then He was raised from the dead, all so we could experience the best invitation we could ever receive. God, help us not just hear and believe this, but also to truly receive it. Because of and only through the Gospel, we get to experience new life and we get to be in relationship with You. Father, help us cling and fasten our lives to this. Thank you that we don't have to prove ourselves or meet a certain standard in order for You to appear to us and welcome us into Your family. Help us set aside anything that we hold against ourselves that makes us think we're unworthy of Your presence so we can stand firm in the Gospel. Thank you for welcoming us, loving us, restoring us, and giving us the best message ever to share with the world. Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of April 10th, 2022

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: Our World Needs This Gospel (Acts 13:36-52)

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- Let's debate: Beach holiday or ski trip?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

XXII. The Power of The Resurrection (v. 36-41)

- What does the Resurrection of Christ mean to you?
- What does living a resurrected life mean to you?
- Is your faith powered by a passion for your traditions or a passion for the Cross? How do you know?
- Acts 13:39 reads, "and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses." What are the implications of this freedom?
- Acts 13:41 is a cross-reference to the Book of Habakkuk. Read Habakkuk 1-6. How does this verse relate to our world today?

XXIII. People are Hungry for the Truth (v. 42-44)

- Are we living our lives in such a way that creates a hunger in others to know the God we live for?
- How is your home different from the home of a non-believer?
- When you see the traffic leading up to the church or a full parking lot or when the online chat starts blowing up and you have to mute it, how do you respond? Do you praise God or do

you complain? Why?

XXIV. Haters Don't Stop the Gospel (v. 45-52)

- Read Acts 13:51-52. What do you do when people judge you because of your faith? Or when you're rejected?
- What are some strategies we can use to deal with rejection when sharing the Gospel? Can we trust God to give us the words to speak when we're faced with opposition to our faith?
- Have you ever seen God change the life of someone who previously rejected the Gospel? Please share.

Act On It

Encourage: Without the resurrection of Christ, we have no relationship with or access to God and no freedom from our sins. This is what makes our Christian faith so unique. As Christians, we're holders of the greatest message ever, but it's not just for us. Our whole world needs Jesus. Live passionately and faithfully for God, so much that people get hungry for the truth of the Gospel. Share the Good News, unapologetically and unashamedly. Seek out moments to share the Gospel. You're not expected to reach the whole world by yourself, but you can reach out to the world around you. Share Jesus with your coworkers, roommates, classmates, family members, etc. If people reject it, don't change the message, just change the place. Don't overlook the power of God to change a life. Keep the message moving.

Ask: Ask God to speak to you and help you think through the following thoughts. Ask yourself if you truly understand the power of the Resurrection and why it's so central to the Christian faith. What does the Resurrection mean to your faith? Are you living out your faith in a way that stirs a hunger for God in the people around you? What can you do to live more passionately and faithfully for God? Who in your life needs to hear the truth of the Gospel and what can you do to share it with them?

Challenge: Acts 13:47 reads, “For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’” Invite people to join you for church on Easter Sunday. Make space in your small group for new people to come. When people ask how you’re doing or how your day is going, use that as a way to share God’s goodness. Share words of encouragement to someone new this week. Or let your actions be a message of encouragement and do something kind for someone.

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, we thank You and we praise You for the power and victory in the resurrection. Thank You for defeating death so we get to have a relationship with You. God, help us to live on purpose for Your Kingdom. Help us live in a way that makes people hunger for Your Truth. We know our world needs You, and we want to live in a way that moves others to seek You. Lord, we pray for those in our lives who reject You and ask that You use us to show them Your love. Protect our hearts against this rejection - That we don’t get discouraged when people don’t want to hear about Jesus, but that we’re encouraged to keep the Gospel moving and continue on to the next person that needs to hear. No matter what the response, we will press on and keep Your Truth moving forward. In this world that’s feeling pain, brokenness, fear, and chaos, use us to bring people hope, love, and the Truth of The One who heals, restores, and makes all things new. We pray this all in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of April 3rd, 2022

Sermon Series: Book of Acts

Sermon: Keep God's Story Fresh (Acts 13:13-36)

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- What kind of bear is best? (Hint: Bears, Beets, Battlestar Galactica)

Jim: Question, what kind of bear is best?

Dwight: That's a ridiculous question.

Jim: False. Black bear.

Dwight: That's debatable. There are basically two schools of thought.

Jim: Fact. Bears eat beets. Bears. Beets. Battlestar Galactica.

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

I. New Places, Same Passions (13:13-15)

- Paul had a squad. These people also had a passion for God, and it is very important that we are all in healthy relationships with other Christians. Who is in YOUR squad?
- Some relationships last forever, some have seasons. Has anyone left your squad? Have you left the squad yourself? What was the reason? Are you remembering to always leave room for people to show back up in your life one day?
- If someone leaves your squad, do you use the opportunity to grow yourself?
- What is the mission of your squad?
- Do you carry your passion for God everyone you go? Do you find it easier to share your hobbies than God?

- When you travel like Paul and his squad, do you find a place to attend church wherever you happen to be that Sunday? Do you have a passion for God's house, no matter where you are? Why or why not?
- We are called to give words of encouragement. How can you give a word of encouragement when you are going through hard times or under pressure?

II. Timeless Story, Still Powerful (13:16-35)

- If you were asked to stand up and give testimony in church, what would you say? Would you be too embarrassed, or would you stand up and BE READY with GOOD NEWS ON YOUR LIPS?
- How have you seen God's faithfulness in your life?
- When you read your bible, do you visualize what is going on? Are you in the audience? Do you hear his voice? Can you imagine what they sounded like/tone of voice?
- Paul took their own story and he brilliantly tied the story of their shared past and all that GOD Has done in their people, and made ALL OF THAT clearly about all of their FUTURE IN JESUS! How do you think that made them feel?
- v.19-21 - "And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, He gave them their land as an inheritance. All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years." Have you ever used someone else's story to share the gospel? What are things that people know that you could use to share the gospel? What are some creative ways that you can share the gospel?
- A testimony can simply be how Jesus has changed your life. Who can you share it with?
- The MAJOR FOCUS of Paul's story is to introduce people to the GOSPEL and to tell them about SALVATION IN JESUS! What was it like the first time YOU heard the gospel of Jesus?
- This was probably the first time these people had heard this GREAT NEWS! Can you imagine being there when these people

heard this for the VERY FIRST TIME?

III. **Big Story, Our Purpose (13:36)**

- The purpose of every Christian is to know God fully and to make God known. Are you fulfilling God's purpose for your life, or are you fulfilling your own purpose?
- God's purpose for our lives is to tell people about Jesus. We have opportunities every day with people at work, in the store, our neighbors, and our family. Who will you serve your purpose of God in your life with this week? Who will you share the gospel of Jesus with this week?
- Why is David a man after God's own heart?
- Do you have a heart of worship?

Act On It

Encourage: No matter how many years go by, the gospel will continue to be good news to all of God's people. There are so many reasons to share His Word today, with everyone.

8 reasons WHY WE SHARE the Gospel with people, the message of the Gospel, the life, death, and Resurrection story of Jesus Christ.

1. Because Jesus is God's Greatest Gift to the World. John 3.16
2. Because Knowing Jesus is Only way we can Know God. John 14.6
3. Because a Relationship with Jesus is Full of Abundance. John 10.10
4. Because a life Without Jesus is a Death Sentence. John 3.17-18
5. Because Believing in Jesus Gives us Eternal Life. John 11.26
6. Because Jesus ASKED/TOLD us to Share the Gospel. Matthew 28.18-20
7. Because Jesus WANTS a Relationship with People. Rev. 3.20
8. Because Jesus Changed MY LIFE. 2 Cor. 5.17, Rev. 12.11

Ask: What is a good word that God would like you to share with someone this week? With whom will you share it?

Challenge: Invite people to Church this week, on Easter, on Sundays, to your Small Group. Invite them to KNOW JESUS! That is our PURPOSE! Let's FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSE while we live – like David!

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, we thank you for today's message, and we pray that you will use it to convict us in our daily lives this week. Use it to remind us that the everyday people in our lives are who desperately need you, and help us to have the courage to share your Word with them. Help us to be reminded that those who leave our lives to go their own way still need our prayer, and help us to welcome them back into our lives, should that season come. As we go forth this week, we pray that the Holy Spirit will be with us, and that we will find people all around us to tell about you, to invite to church, and to welcome into our small groups. We pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of March 13th, 2022

Sermon Series: Book of Acts

Sermon: When God Allows the Mighty to Fall (Acts 12:20-25)

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- If you were an animal, what would you be and why?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

I. Devotions that Develop into Revival

1. They lived Every Day with Intentional Devotion to SCRIPTURE
 - We know what the world thinks because of the news and social media, but what does the Bible say? Does scripture inform or influence your politics? How does our culture influence your politics?
 - Does the Bible lead your life and direct you on how to act, think, or believe?
 - Are you hungry for God's Word? What have you done to act upon that hunger?
2. They lived Every Day with Intentional Devotion to PRAYER
 - Do you see prayer as a privilege or more of a burden?
 - Do you have a prayer life that you can rely on *first* when you need something in life? How can you sustain this prayer life during the mundane?
 - Do you continue to pray with confidence, even in moments of discouragement when you don't see life change or change in the circumstance?
 - How does knowing that God takes notice change or influence how you pray?
3. They lived Every Day with Intentional Devotion to RELATIONSHIPS with other Believers
 - Think about your non-Christian friends. Do they help you grow

as a Christian, or do they hold you back? Do you hold them back?

4. They lived Every Day with Intentional Devotion to SHARING THE FAITH

- You always have something to share with others, what is that way for you?
- When was the last time you shared the Gospel with someone else? What motivates you to keep sharing? What keeps you from sharing the Gospel with others?
- Most of us have invited friends and neighbors to come to church. Do you stop at the invitation, or do you continue to tell them about what Jesus has done in your life? How can you do that more?

5. They lived Every Day with Intentional Devotion to CRAZY GENEROSITY

- Do you use doubt as an excuse to not give generously? If so, have you done your due diligence to check where finances will end up? Do you feel called by God to give and can you challenge yourself to still be obedient through the doubt?
- What have you held back for yourself that you could have shared with other Christians?
- Are there certain things that you're more willing to give to than something else? Do you ultimately trust God with your finances?

6. They lived Every Day with an UNDERSTANDING about SUFFERING and PRESSURE

- The new believers didn't live underground, but lived their faith out loud. Think of a time when you hid your Christianity in order to avoid an uncomfortable situation. How could you have been more like the new believers in Acts and live your life out loud for Jesus?
- What does suffering look like for you?
- Do you take a pause to evaluate your circumstances and see how God could potentially be using this suffering to grow you?

II. God Will Not Share His Throne (v.20-23)

- What are some ways that you react when you see the evil that's present in our world today? Do you respond like early Christians did, with prayer and generosity and trust in God? Do you show a face of fear, or a nature of serving?
- Do you find yourself criticizing and judging, or do you turn towards prayer?
- Imagine an evil leader in our own time. He kills his own people, invades neighboring countries, and never gives God the Glory in anything. Why does God allow this? Do you trust God to have His will in this situation? Do you trust in God to remove the evil in the world? Do you trust in the Lord's timing? Do you trust God to change hearts to accept Jesus, even after this type of situation?
- Pastor Mike shared a story about Christians kneeling down and praying in front of a tank in Ukraine. Do you trust God enough to be bold and have the same posture?
- Herod is like Putin, but Herod could also be us when we fail to give God the glory for anything that happens in our lives. What area in your life do you need to consciously and openly give God the glory for today? Do you have any idols in your life that are trying to share the throne with God?

III. The Gospel Keeps Going (v.24-25)

- When and where can you preach the Gospel today so that the whole world can be reached? It all starts with you and the person next to you, at home, work, school, the store... Where will you start today?
- What devotion (scripture, prayer, relationships, sharing the faith, generosity, understanding pressure) do you need to work more on? What devotion do you feel is your strongest for winning the world for Jesus?

Act On It

Encourage: The Church in Acts built their life on God's word and faith in Jesus. They lived every day with a devotion to scripture, prayer, relationships with other believers, sharing the faith, being generous, and having an understanding that suffering will happen in this world. Regardless of what world leader there is, God is God over all the earth. Be encouraged that even when things are hard and the pressure is on, that God is still in control and that us, The Church, will continue to share His word. The gospel will keep going into all the world!

Ask: Ask yourself this week how you are responding in your interactions with others (both in person and social media) Biblically or worldly? Stop for a second before you speak or respond and ask that question. What are you promoting? What are your motivations? Is God guiding your responses?

Challenge: Make a list of three things that you can do today to spread God's Gospel. Actively engage every day this week to achieve those goals. Find a fellow believer to hold yourself accountable. Set a time in your planner or calendar, just like an appointment with God.

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, we thank you for this word today. Would you grow us and make us like the early church, to be bold in our faith. Would you lead us in sharing the gospel with others, even when it's hard and face opposition from culture and non-believers. Give us strength to continue to pray even when we don't see immediate change and help us to always come to you honestly with what is on our heart. We know that you are a good Father who cares about His children and that you are always listening. May we always remember that! Lord, we love you and we praise you! In Jesus name, Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of March 6th, 2022

Sermon Series: Book of Acts

Sermon: When Pressure Hits... We Grow! (Acts 12:1-17)

Speaker: Pastor Jordan Smalley

Icebreaker

- What is your favorite color fruit and why?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

I. Under Pressure, Turn to Prayer (v. 1-5)

- What's your first reaction to pressure?
 - Post on social media?
 - Complain/bad mouth?
 - Have a temper tantrum?
 - Shut down/retreat?
 - Prayer?
 - How has pressure pushed away your comfort zone for the good?
 - Do you run away from pressure or do you embrace it? Why?
 - Who helps you deal with pressure?

Prayer helps...

1. Shift our perspective
2. Remind us of Who is ultimately in control
3. Remind us where our help comes from!
4. Is how we fight our battles
 - Share a time where and how prayer helped change your perspective in a situation.
 - What pressure(s) in your life do you need to turn over in God?

II. God Gives Us Peace Under Pressure (v. 6-11)

- How long do you wait to bring God into your problems?
- Do you think that the peace that Peter had is attainable for you? Do you feel like you're undeserving? Why or why not?
- In your seasons or moments of peace, do you hear God's voice more clearly? Why do you think this is?
- Is there something else in your life that has become louder than God's voice?
- The Word of God is a firm foundation. How much do you trust in God's promises? What kind of pressures causes this foundation to shake for you?

III. Keep Moving Forward with God's Plan (v. 12-17)

- Does pressure overwhelm you? What does it mean to "grow through what you go through"?
- How do you stay encouraged in times of pressure?
- Have you ever experienced or thought that you were a roadblock in God's plan because you were listening to the lies of the enemy?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Are you able to continue to pray when difficult things happen around you? Can you continue spreading the Gospel? Why or why not?

Act On It

Encourage: When the pressure was on for the Book of Acts followers, they didn't hide or retreat, they stood strong on their firm foundation and faith and prayed, but not just any ol' prayer. They turned to earnest, sincere, PASSIONATE prayer instead of moaning and complaining about the problem. What if we started doing the same? What if we started seeing times of pressure as gifts? As moments to grow closer to God instead of being consumed by the world? We can. No matter what, we can pray, and

we need to pray because our world needs us to pray. Prayer helps us shift our perspective, it helps remind us that God is in control, and that The Lord is our true source of help, and it helps us fight those spiritual battles that we're bound to find ourselves entangled in from time to time. Prayer and turning God in our troubles brings us the peace that surpasses all understanding - peace that can only come from drawing near to the Lord. This is the peace we need to keep the Gospel moving forward, even when we're under pressure. Just because we get stressed doesn't mean our calling as Christ followers gets to take a backseat. Let's take the pressures of our lives and surrender them to God so He can turn them into something beautiful.

Ask: Ask the Lord to speak into the pressures of your life and to show you where they are coming from. Pray to be given a new perspective, to see where God is working in those pressures so you can praise Him. Pray to be shown how God wants to use your pressure and what you're learning for His purpose. Pray to be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led. Ask God to bring you the peace that only He can bring. Ask God what you need to do to make yourself available to receive His Word. Finally, ask God what He wants you to do to continue spreading the Gospel.

Challenge: Find someone at work, at home, or while you're out running errands during this week and offer a prayer. For the rest of this week, set aside at least 10 minutes each day for prayer. Pray for the pressure in our world, on our economy, and in our culture. Be intentional and set aside some time to be still and to hear what God wants to speak to you.

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the times that grow, stretch, and challenge us. God, right now, we're stopping and reminding ourselves of who is truly in control. We know that amazing things happen when we pause and commit ourselves to prayer time with You. God, help us make prayer a first response instead of a last resort. In times where we have every right to

panic and pace, we get to have unconditional peace because You love us and desire to fight for us. God, help us posture ourselves in a way that we can receive the Word that you want to speak about in our lives. Lord, help us build a firm foundation on Your Word. Help us strengthen that foundation with Your Word. Help us lean and rest in Your promises, no matter what the world throws at us. Help us be confident in who we are in You, and that You are in control. Fill our minds and hearts with peace so we can keep spreading the Good News and advancing the Kingdom. Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of February 27th, 2022

Sermon Series: Book of Acts

Sermon: The Church Being the Church (Acts 11:26-30)

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- Would you rather have everything that you touch disappear or everything that you touch stick to you?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

I. Christians, Embrace Your Label! (v. 26)

- How would you define the label of “Christian”?
- How would others label you? What labels are you currently wearing proudly?
- Have you ever been labeled as “odd” or “different” because you’re Christian? Did you accept it, or did you reject the label? Why?
- How are you doing at “being the Church”?
- What are you devoted to right now?

II. We Pay Attention and Respond to Needs (v. 27-29)

- How are you responding in these present, difficult times? Are you hoarding for yourself or preparing to meet the needs of others around you?
- What’s the difference between enduring in your own strength and enduring using the strength of God?
- When a famine is prophesied, the early Church didn’t store up their own supply, they gave to help others! Look around you today. Where is an area around you that you could serve others like these disciples did?
- Read James 2:14-17. What can you do today to truly help others in these difficult times? What thing can you do, however small,

that would make a difference to someone in need today?

- Who are the “prophets” that you are listening to today? How are they influencing you? What kind of action do they stir in you? Are they in line with the Bible?
- What does it mean to you to be ready? Are you determined to provide relief?

III. **The Local Church, Mobilized, is the Hope of the World! (v. 30)**

- Be generous, be active, be prayerful, and be responsive to the pains of our world! Don't wait for others to do it, and don't wait on your feelings to lead you with compassion or generosity. Look around you and find a place to SERVE, GIVE, PRAY, and even GO TO HELP. What is one thing you can do today to start that process?
- A.W. Tozer said, “A Scared World needs a Fearless Church!” Would you pray for those in need today? Would you pray for the leaders of the world, for those affected by war, and even for those in our cities and neighborhoods who need Jesus?
- As Christians, we can't be the hope for the world if we don't pray for everyone, including their enemies. How do you pray for your enemies?
- How do we walk out fulfilling the spiritual need after the physical need has been met?
- How much do you trust your church leadership? Why? Are you willing to address it?

Act On It

Encourage: Our world is under some real pressure right now, and the Church, more than ever, needs to stand together and be the Church that God desires us to be. The Book of Acts tells us how we should be reacting under pressure. Those radical Jesus followers, instead of letting the pressure of persecution dull their faith, they let it shine brighter and stronger than ever before. Once they knew that disaster was coming, they

sprung into action. They rose as the Church and went out to serve and give, and be a blessing to those in need. Let's follow their lead! Don't ever be embarrassed or ashamed for standing up for your faith in Jesus. Of course people will think you're odd, but as Christ followers, we're called to be different. We're called to stand out against the culture of the world. Wear and live out your Christian label loud and proud. Keep standing up and standing out. Take your next step. Live different, our world and the Church needs it.

Ask: Pray 1 Peter 5:7 over any worries you may have and bring them to God. Ask to be given a reignited devotion to prayer. Pray for God's salvation and transformation in the hearts of people. Pray to see the label "Christian" as an honor, something that you're more than willing to embrace. Pray for boldness and courage to live different and stand apart from the rest of the world. Pray to be empowered by the Holy Spirit Pray to be the light God desires you to be. And, ask God to move you from a place of pity to a place of action and to show you how you can use your life to make a difference right where you're at.

Challenge: When in doubt, you can always offer prayer. Spend five minutes when you wake up and five minutes before you go to bed praying for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia. Pray that God will have His way, and people will come to know God through Jesus in these areas. Also, pray for our world leaders. Pray that they would have wisdom and discernment as events unfold in Europe that will affect the entire world. Finally, pray for Clarksville, as we are a military town with Soldiers and families that these events will have a great impact upon. Pray that God will place His hand of protection over us and keep us safe. Pray this for everyone, even people that you struggle to pray for. Do this today and every day this week.

And, start taking your next steps. Go to our Next Steps class, in-person or online, and learn how you can start serving others right where you're at now

with the way God designed you. Look for serve opportunities with local non-profits and coordinate a serve project with your small group.

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, we praise you for life change and transformation. We thank you for making us different. Thank you for the example of the early Church as Christ followers. Because of this, we trust that we can stand tall in times of pressure. Lord, help us truly embrace our label as Christians. Not only do we need to acknowledge it, but help us to reflect our beliefs in everything that we do. Before we're anything else, we are sons and daughters of God Himself. Help us to be proud to be named with Christ. God, open our eyes to the needs around us and move us into action in whatever way we can offer. Whether it's being generous in prayer, serving others, and giving financially, help us become people who are known for responding, showing up, and giving, now hiding, staying quiet, and hoarding. Use us where we are right now to lead people to You. Use us to bring hope to hopeless times. Help us be the Church you desire us to be. Amen.