

Based on this week's sermon...

SCRIPTURE

Write down the scripture verse(s) that caught your attention.

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you in this scripture?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now.

PRAYER

Write out your prayer based on what God has said to you today.

This Week's Life Journal Readings

Sunday, Mar 14
Deut. 25-27
Gal. 5

Monday, Mar 15
Deut. 28,29
Gal. 6

Tuesday, Mar 16
Deut. 30,31
Ps. 40
1 Cor. 1

Wednesday, Mar 17
Deut. 32-34
1 Cor. 2

Thursday, Mar 18
Josh. 1,2
Ps. 37
1 Cor. 3

Friday, Mar 19
Josh. 3-6
1 Cor. 4

Saturday, Mar 20
Josh. 7,8
Ps. 69
1 Cor. 5

Sunday, Mar 21
Josh. 9-11
1 Cor. 6

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the Line of Fire

SUNDAY, MAR 14, 2010

SPEAKER: JEFF FUTERS

Scripture: Acts 6

Neglected _____ lead to _____ and _____.

But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. {Acts 6:1 (NLT)}

Exodus 15:23-24; Numbers 11:4-6

_____ leaders _____ their own leadership _____.

So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." {Acts 6:2-4 (NIV)}

Eph. 4:11-12; 2 Peter 1:10; Ex. 18:18-22; 1 Peter 4:10

The _____ and _____ of the Holy Spirit greatly
_____ our leadership _____.

And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. {Acts 6:3 (NLT)}

Romans 12:4-8; Eph. 3:16

_____ leadership cultivates _____
and church _____.

The word of God continued to spread, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem grew very large. A large number of priests accepted the faith. {Acts 6:7 (GW)}

Acts 9:31; Ex. 18:18-23; Acts 16:3-5

CLG Notes



Refer back to your notes from Sunday's sermon as you work through the following CLG material.

As part of the faith community, we see existing needs among us up close and personal. Seldom do we miss the opportunity to comment to each other about how these needs should be met

by 'the church'. Yet in Acts, we are discovering once again, that the church is the gathered community of faith, the 'ekklesia.'

Is merely recognizing a need enough? Should recognition serve as a call to be responsible for addressing the need as well? Is there any grounds for seeing needs within our faith community and not doing something about it?

Digging Deeper: Consider Paul's revolutionary call to be 'our brother's keeper' (Philippians 2:1-5/cf: Genesis4:9). If we practiced this consistently, how would that impact our challenge with ongoing needs in the body of Christ? How would the spiritual environment of our church change if we followed Timothy's example in Philippians 2:19-21? Reflect upon the impact that each person can have upon the church's health as envisioned in Ephesians 4:15-16.



Growing pains— we've all had them, whether we liked it or not! Growth is the inevitable result of anything that is healthy and so it is with the church. A healthy faith community will inevitably grow numerically and in Christlikeness.

What kind of adjustments does a numerically growing faith community face? Are those adjustments comfortable? Convenient? Costly? Time consuming?

What is required of a faith community to ensure that the basic internal needs are being addressed and not neglected? Who is ultimately responsible for anticipating the needs and addressing them?

Digging Deeper: Consider the story of Nehemiah, how did he address the needs of the Jewish faith community in Jerusalem? See Nehemiah chapters 1 & 2.



Serving effectively requires that we not only know what our unique gifting is, but how it impacts the whole of the body of Christ, especially if it is not being used faithfully and consistently. Discuss the challenges of this dilemma.

In the Acts 6 story, the apostles had to remain true to what they were called to do (Acts 6:2,4). This brings us to the mission/maintenance tension that exists in every church. The tension between the need to remain true to the Church's mission, while at the same time addressing the legitimate needs of a growing church, can sometimes come into a conflict of priority.

What are the challenges of doing one well at the expense of the other?

How does the discovery, development and the deployment of our spiritual gifts help in alleviating this challenge?

Digging Deeper: Please read 1 Corinthians 12:7, 12-26 and discuss Paul's emphasis of the importance of each member of the body of Christ.