

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 21

Josh. 9-11
1 Cor. 6

Monday, Mar 22

Josh. 12-14
1 Cor. 7

Tuesday, Mar 23

Josh. 15-17
1 Cor. 8

Wednesday, Mar 24

Josh. 18-20
1 Cor. 9

Thursday, Mar 25

Josh. 21, 22
Ps. 47
1 Cor. 10

Friday, Mar 26

Josh. 23, 24
Ps. 44
1 Cor. 11

Saturday, Mar 27

Judg. 1-3
1 Cor. 12

Sunday, Mar 28

Judg. 4, 5
Ps. 39, 41
1 Cor. 13



In the Line of Fire

SUNDAY, MAR 21, 2010

SPEAKER: MARC GAUVREAU

Scripture: Acts 6-8

Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people (Acts 6:8)

When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said (Acts 8:6)

When it comes to the mission of God...

God is at _____ and _____.

Acts 6:8 & 8:6, 13

Miraculous signs and wonders _____ mission.

Persecution prevented the church from becoming _____ focused.

God's _____ comes to us both _____ and _____.

Acts 6:10, 7:2ff & 8:4-6; 12-14

A good _____ will _____ and _____ all _____ to speak about Christ.

Acts 7:2; Acts 8:26-40

An effective witness involves both our _____ and our _____.

CLG Notes

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



In the life example of Stephen and Philip we see two individuals who are committed to connecting with others in hopes of being able to share the Gospel and being empowered by the Spirit to do so!

Both Stephen and Philip were 'empowered by the Spirit' (Acts 1:8) to be able to relationally connect with people who needed to hear the Gospel. Both seemed to lack the 'fear of reprisal or consequence' as a result of their obedience to God to tell others the truth.

Why do we often give in to fear and intimidation and refrain from sharing Christ with others when we've been given the Holy Spirit to enable us and empower our witness?

Why are we prone to shrugging off or suppressing that gentle nudge or urge to make that initial connection with another person whom God is sending us to?

Is there anything about our current lifestyle or surrounding culture that makes connecting with others in hopes of sharing Christ difficult or awkward? How can we overcome this? What are the consequences if we don't?

Digging Deeper: Consider the story of Queen Esther (Esther 2 & 4) How was God able to use her ordinary everyday relational connections to further His great purposes?



From Acts 6:3,5,8,10 & 8:6,12, 26,29 we can see that both Stephen and Philip had grown in their capacity to respond to the Holy Spirit in their daily experience as followers of Christ 'on mission.'

What would you counsel or instruct an inexperienced Christ follower to practice or do as a way of cultivating their capacity to be aware of, attentive and responsive to the Spirit's prompting to live missionally ?

Is it unreasonable to think that becoming more like Christ ought to result in a greater missional heart towards people who are far from God? Are we really growing if we don't have a greater heart of compassion and concern for lost people?

Digging Deeper: In what ways did Paul have to grow, change, and re-adjust in order to have greater missional impact in the lives of others?



Though some people are specifically Spirit-gifted for evangelism we are all called to be witnesses of Christ. How does each spiritual gift serve the greater missional purpose of sharing Christ with others?

Are you able to see how your specific Spirit-given gift helps advance the mission of God?

What are the long term consequences of neglecting to see the missional impact that our Spirit given gifts can have?

What can we do to be able to see our gifts through the lens of mission?

Can you see how your specific gift helps to support or further the missional impact of someone else's gift?

Digging Deeper: Read Philippians 1:7-8; 2:25-30; 4:2-3. How did the Philippian church help Paul to have a greater missional impact? Consider the supportive impact upon Paul that other congregations had (Eph.6:19-20; Romans 16).