



HOMEGROUP GUIDE

For the week of April 8th, 2018

Real Life Ministries Treasure Valley



HOME GROUP GUIDELINES

FOR US TO HAVE HEALTHY AND SAFE CONVERSATIONS

THIS IS A SAFE GROUP

- We will all do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open and honest with their struggles and victories

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

- What is said in the group stays in the group

NO CROSSTALK

- Crosstalk is a conversation that leaves others out
- No side conversations
- Listen while others are speaking (if you want to explore more of what someone said, call or talk to them afterwards. This also builds relationship outside of the group time)

NO FIXING OR RESCUING

- We are not here to fix each other, Jesus does that part
- Give encouragement, speak truth, point to Jesus
- Life is a journey, allow people to struggle - grow

CREATE OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE TO SHARE

- Be sensitive about the amount of time you share
- Allow time for others to be a part of the discussion, don't be a first responder

USE "I" VS. "WE" OR "THEM" STATEMENTS

- This is a time for us as individuals to grow
- Work on honesty, transparency, authenticity
- Be committed to resolve conflict Biblically

As humans we will need to extend grace to one another. Conflict is not bad, but an opportunity for growth. We are all being changed to be more like Jesus so conflict and change are part of the journey.

Here are some key scriptures to refer to:

- If someone sins against you. (Matthew 18:15-20)
- Restoring someone in sin. (Galatians 6:1-5)
- Forgive a sinner. (Colossians 3:12-13)
- Reconciling differences. (Matthew 5:23-24)

House Rules (slightly different in each home)

- Honor group start and end times.
- Kid safety guidelines and clean up.

Acts #11 - Paul's First Sermon

TEXTS: Acts 13:26-42

(cf. Psalm 2:7-8; Isaiah 55:10; Psalm 16:10; Habbakuk 1:5; Romans 10:14)

USE THE FOLLOWING TO LEAD YOUR GROUP THROUGH THE DISCUSSION ...

Guidelines: *Read and/or discuss the HG guidelines (see above).*

Vision & Mission: *Share the vision & mission of RLM with your group.*

VISION: *Reaching the world for Jesus, one person at a time.*

MISSION: *Creating Biblical disciples in relational environments.*

Icebreaker: *Take an opportunity to get your group going with a question/game.*

ICEBREAKER SUGGESTION:

Tell of a time you had to speak in public? Did it exhilarate you or terrify you?

Set the Scene: *This week's story is drawn from Acts 13:26-42. Additionally, Psalm 2:7-8; Isaiah 55:10; Psalm 16:10; Habbakuk 1:5; Romans 10:14 were referred to in the sermon.*

Read/Tell the Story: *Use the following overview with notes, texts and reading cues to continue your group's journey through Acts this year!*

When we left the book of Acts last Fall, the church was beginning to mobilize for further mission. Paul and Barnabas had gone off to Jerusalem to provide a gift from the church in Antioch (*Gentile and Jewish Christians*) to the Christians in Judea (*Jewish Christians*) who were prophesied to suffer under a great famine (cf. Acts 11:25-30). In chapter 12, the church encountered more opposition. During this persecution, Peter was miraculously spared but James (*John's brother*) was killed. However, God's sovereignty over all nations and happenings was emphasized in the judgement that God brought upon Herod Agrippa (*grandson of Herod the Great*) in Acts 12:21-24 (**READ**). The purpose of God would not be thwarted by an earthly king - Jesus alone was Lord and would be proclaimed to the whole world!

Today, we jump back into the book of Acts as we look at the first recorded sermon of Paul in Acts 13:26-42. He and Barnabas had been sent out from the church at Antioch (*a major city situated at a crossroads between the western and eastern parts of the Roman Empire*) in order to spread the good news of Jesus' resurrection and His Kingdom. Their initial travels took them to Cyprus and then to Pisidian Antioch (*a Roman colony and another important city in the Empire - located in what is modern-day Turkey*).

In Pisidian Antioch, Paul preached a remarkable sermon (**READ 13:26-42**). The mixed crowd was evidently made up of ethnic Jews (*Paul addressed them as "brothers/fellow Israelites" in Acts 13:16*), Jewish proselytes (*"fellow children of Abraham" in 13:26*), and God-fearing Gentiles (*13:26 - this group was made up of Gentiles like Cornelius; people who respected and observed much of Torah but who had not been circumcised nor compelled to follow dietary laws*). Paul's sermon is very dense and complex. However, the message is also remarkably simple. Paul recounted the events in Jerusalem which culminated with Jesus' death on the cross. Then, he focused on the glorious truth that Jesus (*unlike David, cf. 13:32-37*) was the true King of God's people who had been raised from the dead. And, in this resurrected King, all people could find forgiveness of sins and freedom from the tyranny of sin and the burden of attempting righteousness by works (*cf. 13:38-39*). The people who heard this first recorded sermon of Paul were greatly intrigued and asked for Paul to preach in the synagogue again the following week! God's gospel was continuing to move forward in power as the Kingdom of Heaven/God continued breaking new ground in the Roman Empire.

Discuss the Story: *Use the following questions to dig into the story/text.*

1. What stood out to you from the texts (or the sermon)?
2. Why do you think that Paul is trying to connect Jesus with promises that God had previously made to King David?
3. Is Jesus' crucifixion/resurrection the central part of your faith and your hope? Does the resurrection give you hope?
4. Are you experiencing freedom from sin and the burden of "law" in your life?
5. Do you feel compelled to share the good news of Christ with those who are not free? Who is the Holy Spirit putting on your heart to share Jesus with?

Summary: *THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM CONTINUES TO MOVE FORWARD AS PAUL AND BARNABAS BEGIN THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY*

AND PROCLAIM JESUS AS THE RESURRECTED KING AND THE ONE WHO BRINGS FORGIVENESS AND FREEDOM.

Prayer: *Have someone from your group record the requests and pray together.*

Preparation for Next Time:

Next Week: We will continue our journey through Acts, in ***Acts 13:44-52***

Preparation: Read and work through Acts 13:44-52. Pray and think on what this part of the story means as God moves the Christian movement outward.