

Series: Purposeful	Reference: John 20:21	Title: John: Sent & Centered	Date: 3-3-19
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Community Group Questions

Take time to pray through the Six:Eight Prayer Foci for 2019

*If the Holy Spirit gives anyone a specific word for the church
share them with the other Community Group Leaders.*

1. **FREEDOM:** Pray against spiritual attack on our church body & it's members, so that kingdom ministry goes unhindered.
2. **SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION:** Pray we'd abide in the Presence of Christ, honoring the Word & Spirit of God, being transformed & becoming more effective in witness. That we'd be drawn deeply into worship & prayer in powerful ways this year.
3. **LEADERSHIP:** Pray for leadership to be filled with the knowledge of the Word & power of the Spirit, operating out of the two as gracious strong servant leaders.
4. **MINISTRIES:** For all 8 church ministries to run smoothly, having all current & future resources provided for them to thrive (*Kids, Community Groups, Kingdom Opportunities, Stewardship, Impressions, Worship Arts, Prayer, Missions*).
5. **LOCAL EVANGELISM:** That we'd preach the Word boldly & minister in the power of the Spirit to see people come to faith & publicly declare that through baptism. - for divine openings with neighbors, coworkers, friends & Community Partners.
6. **CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION:** To be a '*House of Prayer for all Nations*' (Isaiah 56:7), obedient to the Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20), overflowing to our Kinship Network relationships reaching Arab world Muslims, and other mission endeavors of the church.
7. **GIVING:** Pray that we'd be stretched in faithful giving of our financial resources in order not to be hindered in our kingdom ministry as a church.

Study Questions

1. **ICEBREAKER:** Following up from last week - one person gives their testimony! Listen to their story quietly, then spend a minute in silent prayer before the Holy Spirit about it. Allow the Spirit to speak into what was said, then share anything of encouragement with that person.
2. Have someone read through **Luke 9:18-24** slowly in a prayerful posture. Sit with the text in prayer for a moment. Then share your thoughts, putting yourself in Peter's place. What would this mean to you sitting there with Christ at that moment?
3. Now read, in the same way **vv28-36** of the same chapter. Again, sit for a moment in silent prayer about this, thinking on what you would feel & think if you were Peter. Share your insights.
4. Read **John 19:17-30** OR **Luke 23:32-46** (whichever you choose), again prayerfully as you did with the two passages above, and share your thoughts on how you'd feel standing there that day as a disciple of Christ.
5. Read **Luke 24:1-12** - how would you feel now? And how would Jesus words be different to you after this event took place??
6. Read **1 Corinthians 15:3-8** - what do you notice about this passage? And how important is it to the church as an early creed? Does it give you assurance in your faith now?
7. Read **2 Corinthians 2:14-15** - what does this say about us as Captives of Christ?
8. **John 20:21**, "...Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."
 1. As Christians we are a 'SENT' to fulfill the Glory of Christ, proclaiming Him (in word) & demonstrating Him (in action & lifestyle) before all peoples.
 2. In what ways has the 'church' (using the term broadly) changed this mission in ways which differ from God's original intent?
 1. Review Ephesians 5:1-15, what does this say to us concerning our life, witness & the things with which we are faced?
 3. What does 'SENT-ness' practically look like? To us as a collective church & you as an individual?
9. Spend some time praying about your witness, and the three people each you wrote down last week.
10. End by choosing the next person to give their testimony next week. The testimony sheet is included below if someone has lost it.

“If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle & respectful way.” (1 Peter 3:15-16)

Sharing your testimony is one of the most powerful & influential evangelistic tools you have! It's worth taking the time & effort to think it through well. Work through the following questions to help you prepare your story. Save this, and review it, since it is something you might use in everyday life if someone should ask about your faith in the future. Although we don't want to be *rote*, we do want to be *ready* to share the story of God in our lives. Remember as you are preparing, pepper your story with relevant verses from Scripture to illustrate what God has done, is doing, or will do in your life.

My Life Before Christ

1. What about my life before Christ will relate to those who've not met Jesus yet?
2. What did my life revolve around? Where did I get my security, identity or happiness from then?
3. How did those things begin to let me down?

How I Came to Christ

1. When was the first time I heard the gospel? What were my initial reactions?
2. When & why did my perspective begin to change toward Christ?
3. What were the final struggles that went through my mind just before I accepted Him? Why did I finally decide to accept Christ (give Him complete control)?

My Life After Coming to Christ

1. How is my life different now? List some specific changes in your character, attitude & perspective on life.
2. What motivates me now? What do I live for?
3. Even though my life still isn't perfect, how does knowing Christ help me deal with that fact?

Vital Hints

- Pray before you develop & share your story, asking God for wisdom & words.
- Write out your story in light of your answers to the questions above. Write honestly, as if you were telling someone, and in the way you would normally speak.
- You want to boil your story down to its essence. The goal is to keep it to no more than 3 minutes; a length of time in conversation which doesn't feel overwhelming, or like a monologue. You'd be amazed at how this helps clarify details. Like cooking off the fat you get to what is really nutritious.