

4Ws Stay Centered In Christ, Keep Moving Forward Acts 11:1-30

WORSHIP

Consider reading **Psalm 121 & 122** together, taking turns reading a verse a time, or reading responsively with the leader reading a verse and the group responding with the next verse.

Consider singing some of the songs on the sheets that were included in your packet if you have someone in the group that plays the guitar or can lead music and/or play the guitar.

WELCOME

Questions.

Have you ever been in real danger? Have you ever faced a time when it seemed like there was no escape and suddenly everything was alright? Has God ever miraculously saved your life? Tell us the story!

WORD

Discussion Questions.

1. The church had experienced repeated persecution as narrated in the book of Acts. What kinds of persecution did they experience for their faith and obedience to Jesus?
 - A. Harassment by the Jewish religious leaders
 - B. Arrest and imprisonment
 - C. Public humiliation
 - D. Beatings
 - E. Stoning / beheading - death of a members and leaders

What about us? Have we or people we know experienced persecution because of faith and obedience to Jesus? Describe this.

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account." Matthew 5:11 ESV

2. We read in Acts 12:5b that “earnest prayer for him(Peter) was made to God by the church.”. What is meant by earnest prayer? Some verses:

- A. Psalm 119:58
- B. Psalm 130:5-6
- C. Ephesians 6:18
- D. Romans 1.9-10
- E. Luke 18.1-8

How can we be more earnest in our prayers? How can we develop this?

3. Peter demonstrated he had peace. He was sleeping soundly even on the very night before he was to be brought out. Read Jesus words in John 16.33. How are we to take heart? What are things we can do? What are some verses, or lessons we can keep in our hearts?

- A. Matthew 11.28-30
- B. Philippians 4.6-7
- C. Romans 14.19
- D. 2 Corinthians 13.11
- E. Galatians 5.22
- F. Matthew 5.9

4. Peter persevered. Though James was martyred early on, Peter went back to the ministry and continued to evangelize and encourage the brethren. In reference to Matthew 25.14-30, what are thoughts that can motivate us to keep moving forward in our faith in Jesus?

- A. God has given each of us talents, resources, abilities.
- B. God wants us to utilize these for his glory and for our benefit.
- C. God blesses the one who has faith in His goodness that acts on that faith.
- D. God multiplies our results.
- E. We have a Master who has joy in his presence, and wants us to share in that joy!
- F. We can share in that joy, no matter what talents we have to begin with, as long as we are faithful to use those talents.

5. God had a plan for Peter. What is God leading you to accomplish? What action / mission / vision is God laying on your heart? (*Time for prayer and reflection. People can volunteer to share.*)

WORK

One way to turn the world upside down is to make a point of talking about Jesus, especially during those times when we are in situations where Jesus is not welcome. When people come to faith in Christ their lives are transformed and everything changes for them. If we want people to remember us as people who left a better world behind, there really is no better way to accomplish that than to share Christ with those who most need to hear.

Those of us who lead should remember that there is no better way to motivate others to do the right thing than to set an example for them. Speak to others about Jesus when you have the opportunity and set an example of lifestyle evangelism for the members of your group. They will be much more likely to follow your example than they will be to simply do what you tell them to do. Ask the group to discuss this and then ask them to think through the list of people you have been praying for each week. Discuss how we can be more aggressively involved in sharing the good news with these folks for whom God has burdened us. We will pray for these people tonight and each night we're together until they come to DGroup, or come to Christ through some other means. Have each couple/individual share the name of one couple/person to pray for and then ask one of the other people in the group to pray for them.

Close your time together in prayer.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Singapore Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Core, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Singapore Facilities

- CCF Singapore Center
- Equipments

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends