

July 30, 2017- Persecution Continues

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions

[If there are new people in your group, give brief introductions.]

Remind the group of DiscipleGroup Guidelines

DISCIPLEMAKER QUESTIONS

- What has changed in your life because of what you learned last week?
- Has God placed someone in your life outside this group that you need to invest in?
- How do you think God wants you to do this?

Ask a “hook question” to get the group going.

- Discuss a time when you experienced something so good that you could not believe it was true.

Share background for the story.

Last week we saw God at work in the church at Antioch. This week we will see how the church faced further persecution.

Tell the story – Acts 12:1-19. This week’s story is about Peter who is once again jailed for preaching the Gospel.

[Tell the story with your Bible open on your lap to the passage.]

Rebuild the story

[Group members tell the story together, one piece at a time, based on what they remember.]

Read the story out loud – Read Acts 12:1-19 from the Bible.

[The scripture may have more details. Were there any important details left out of the telling or retelling that you discover in the scripture?]

Discuss these questions:

1. What do you learn about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit in this story?
2. What do you learn about the characters in the story?
3. What stood out to you in this story?
4. What do you learn about yourself?
5. How will this story be used in your life and with others?

Ask someone to retell the story.

Assign next week’s passage. Acts 13:1-12. The First Missionaries.

Close in Prayer.

July 30, 2017- Persecution Continues – Leader Coaching

[This page is to help you sharpen your skills as a DiscipleGroup Leader. Each week we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your group and grow as a disciple yourself. Also, we have added comments (enclosed in brackets []) on the Leader Guide.]

Abiding

[grow as a disciple yourself]

- This story starts off with the death of James, the brother of John. We know that Stephen had already been stoned and in Acts 26:10 Paul says that many whom he had arrested were put to death. The early church faced the most horrible kinds of persecution.

Leading

[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- As you talk about this week's story, help your group members to keep in mind the seriousness of our faith. Throughout history our brothers and sisters have been tortured and killed for our faith. Pray for them that they would be bold with their witness.

Shepherding

[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]

- From time to time ask the group members about their favorite story from Acts so far. Encourage them to read the whole book and to review the stories we have covered. Perhaps you could take a few extra minutes and see if anyone wants to share one of the past Acts stories with the group.

Resources:

- If you have not already done this, do a web search on persecution in our time.