



Dgroup Discussion Guide for September 15, 2019 **Pray to be a Faithful Witness**

Scripture: Acts 1:1-14

Christianity is in a crisis. Why because many Christians are no longer willing to share the Truth. It is only when we share the Truth and live out the Truth in our lives, that we become effective witnesses for Jesus. It is only then that the truth we share matters, and only then can we begin to change the world.

The Book of Acts is about the unfinished work of telling the world about the finished work of Christ. It narrates the story of the disciples from the ascension of Jesus to Paul's first imprisonment. It narrates their courage and their passion to share to others about the Gospel. There is something very valuable that we can learn from this book.

PRAY TO BE A FAITHFUL WITNESS.

What do we pray for?

1. We pray for those who share the truth
2. We pray for those who live out the truth.

It is not enough that we are praying. Our prayer must extend into our actions through sharing the gospel and living out the truth of the Gospel. This is our job as witnesses. A witness is someone who recounts what they have personally seen and heard. Some people fear that if they tell people about Christ, they will not know enough about the Bible to answer all the questions they may get. So they choose to stay silent witnesses. But God wants us to tell the world something about Him. It is not the job of the witness to know everything, it is our job to merely state what we have experienced and what we have seen.

So what TRUTH are we supposed to share? Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 ***For I delivered to you as first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.*** Jesus' work of salvation is done. It is finished. But the work of telling the world about it is not yet done. The apostle Paul stresses v 17-19 ***and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.***

Acts 1:4-5 ***gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "which", He said, "you heard from Me; for John baptized with water,, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now"***. The Israelites thought that the Messiah had come to bring them political freedom, the misunderstood when Jesus said that He had come to save them. Jesus came to give us eternal salvation, freedom from the bondage of sin – the benefits of which we will not fully experience here on earth. Many do not understand that truth of who Jesus was, and is. That is why it is important for us to differentiate and understand the truth, so that we may share this to others. Because only the truth matters.

V8 the Holy Spirit was sent to us in order to give us power to become witnesses ***but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.*** We have to start in our families, then our friends, our neighbors, even our enemies.

We will notice in verse the mention of James, Peter, John and Thomas. These men were ordinary men, they denied Jesus, they doubted, they got scared. But in their imperfection, God was able to use them for the expansion of the kingdom. We have to remind ourselves that when God calls us, He will equip us. Much like the disciples, we are saved to do more than just exist. We were not made to remain comfortable where we are.

How then do we go about doing our share in the unfinished work of the disciples?

1. PRAY

Pray for the people you know who need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. 1 John 5:14-15

2. CARE

People don't care what you know until they know that you care. Matthew 9:36-38

3. SHARE

Take the initiative to share the Gospel clearly in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the outcome to God. 1 Peter 1:12

4. DISCIPLE

Intentionally disciple those who come to faith in Jesus through your witness.

We all have our role in the unfinished work of the Book of Acts. But the question remains – will you continue to stay in the upper room or allow the power of the Holy Spirit to propel you the work for the kingdom of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Are there people who God is impressing you to share with, care for, disciple and pray for? List them down and start praying for them?
2. What is hindering you for doing your share in the expansion of God's kingdom?
3. Are you living out the Truth of God's gift of salvation?