

How and Why???

“Living Large”, part 14, Insights from Acts 11:1-30
Pastor Bob Johnson, September 24th, 2023

How Peter addressed their concerns:

(Acts 11:1-18)

How the church accepted their calling:

(Acts 11:19-30)

Why was the HS sent?

- To _____ us (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- To _____ us (1 John 4:8-13)

Why is the HS so silent?

(1 Corinthians 12:13, Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
(Ephesians 4:30, 1 Thessalonians 5:19)

Two Primary Roles of the HS:

(John 16:7-13)

- C _____
- G _____

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our third week of our ten week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Living Large". In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Book of Acts. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives. Our last week in this small group season will be the week of Sunday November 12th.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

In Acts 11, Peter was asked to explain himself to the Jewish Jesus followers from Jerusalem.

Speaking of 'doing things others might not agree with' ... thinking back to your childhood, when did you do something that your parents or another authority figure didn't quite support or agree with? What was the result or consequence of your actions?

Also in Acts 11, Barnabas went to Tarsus to recruit Saul to help him minister to the church in Antioch. Speaking of recruiting, when did you either recruit or select someone to join you for a project or assignment ... or when were you ever recruited or selected to be on a team?

If you were the recruiter ... what were you looking for?
If you were recruited ... why do you think they chose you?

One of the questions that was asked last Sunday was, "Why is the Holy Spirit so silent?"

Speaking of silence, what is one of more quiet places you have been?
Did you like the silence or were you glad it didn't last any longer than it did?

Speaking of the Holy Spirit, as you look back on your life, has your understanding of the Holy Spirit changed over the years? If so, in what ways has it changed?

Reviewing and Reflecting on last Sunday's Passage:

Let's read the passage from last Sunday. (Acts 11:1-30)

After reading this chapter and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, encouraged you, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. This week we learned how the Holy Spirit wants to change us for the better and also change the world for the better by loving others through us. Sometimes we may think the Holy Spirit isn't doing much because we aren't aware of the variety of ways the Holy Spirit works.

How do the following verses describe what the Holy Spirit does for us and through us?

Romans 5:3-5, Romans 8:12-17, Acts 1:8, John 14:16-17, John 16:12-17,
Luke 10:21, Acts 9:31, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 3:16

How do these verses add to or confirm your understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in your life and in our world?

Which one of these verses is the most important for you to remember and why?

In terms of how you live and how you allow the Holy Spirit to work in you and through you, is there anything you need to start doing or do more in order to be more in step with the Holy Spirit?

2. Throughout the Bible we learn how difficult it is to live the Christian life on our own strength rather than relying on the Holy Spirit and the power He provides.

What do the following verses teach us about relying on the Holy Spirit's power rather than our own?

2 Corinthians 12:6-10, Zechariah 4:6, Galatians 2:20

What challenges do you face trying to tap into God's power to live the Christian life?

Where could you find more help in order to more consistently tap into God's power?

One of the roles of the Holy Spirit in our lives is providing guidance. Can you think of a time when you felt God leading or prompting you to do something or avoid something?

Relying on God's power does not mean we give up personal responsibility in making right choices to live the Christian life. God is calling us to live a life of 'active dependency'.

How can we better balance relying on God's power while still maintaining personal responsibility to actively obey?

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days? Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else that you would like to express prayer for?