

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide SB 06.20.2021

SPEAK – DO NOT BE SILENT! – Acts 18:1-17

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

When does a joke become a dad joke? That's easy. When it becomes apparent. In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed that the third Sunday in June would be officially known as Father's Day, saying that we look to fathers to "provide the strength and stability which characterize the successful family." Fatherhood is an idea that we're all very familiar with. In the Bible, Jesus makes more than 150 references to God as the Father. He even teaches us to pray, "our Father in heaven" (Matthew 6:9). We are adopted as His children because of the sacrifice Jesus made on the Cross (Ephesians 1:5/ 1 Corinthians 4:15). In this week's sermon, we see how Paul relied on God the Father for strength and stability as he speaks the gospel of Jesus to the wicked city of Corinth. Let's get into our study...

1. What are some good dad jokes? (appendix)
2. Describe how you might look to God the Father for strength and stability.
3. What stood out to you during this week's study?

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 18:1-5

Paul, led by the Holy Spirit, brings the good news of Christ to Corinth. The city of Corinth was one of the most wicked in all of Greece and was known for its immorality. It might be associated with our modern-day Las Vegas. It was probably the most unlikely place Paul would have expected to have a successful evangelism. But God often works in unlikely places. Where sin abounds, grace does much more abound! (Romans 5:20). Sometimes, the places we think we should stay away from, are the places God says, "Speak, for I have many people in this city."

1. Paul likely experienced meager results in Athens yet pressed on to Corinth (Philippians 3:14). Describe a time you may have felt defeated but pressed on. How were you encouraged to press on?
2. Arriving in Corinth, God provided Paul with the friendship of Aquila and Priscilla who were coincidentally tent makers. When we need encouragement, God will often bring friends into our life. How might friends bring a beacon of encouragement in your life? (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
3. Paul had the honor of being a spiritual father to Silas, Timothy, and others. What does it mean to be a spiritual father? Who might be considered your spiritual father?
4. Silas and Timothy brought a gift for Paul from the churches (2 COR 11:9). As a result, the apostle no longer spent time making tents there, but gave himself entirely to preaching the gospel. Paul is later inspired to write, "it is more blessed to give, than receive" (Acts 20:35). Why do you think this is? Provide an example of a time you might have given to a worthy cause and how it made you feel.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 18:6-8

Paul always remembered the Jew first (Romans 1:16). When the Jews rejected the gospel in Corinth, Paul shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles" (Acts 18:6). The act of shaking off the garments is also described by Ezekiel in the Old Testament story of the watchman and his message (Ezekiel 33:1-11). If a watchman stands guard and sees the sword coming upon the land, he will blow the trumpet to warn the people. Yet if they refuse to heed to it, the enemy will come and destroy them, and they will die in their sins; however, the watchman's soul would be delivered. But, if the watchman saw the sword coming and blew not the trumpet to warn the people, they would die in their sins, and their blood would be on watchman's hand. Paul was God's watchman, and

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he faithfully warned his own brethren of judgment to come if they refused Christ. Since they had rejected the warning God had sent them, he said, "You have had your opportunity. I am not guilty of your blood; now I turn to the Gentiles."

5. Paul looked upon himself as a debtor for Christ. He had received the gospel and it transformed his life. As a result, he felt a strong responsibility to share the gospel. How strongly do you as a Christian share in this responsibility? What are some obstacles that might lead us away from this responsibility? What are some opportunities available for us to speak the gospel to a lost world? (Matthew 28:19-20).
6. The shaking off of his clothing was an expressive act, signifying a dissociation from the Jews in Corinth; however, this did not prevent Paul from continuing his ministry to the Jews in Ephesus. Has there been a time when you "shook off your clothes" and moved on from a witnessing opportunity? If so, describe the experience.
7. Following the outburst of the Jews, the apostle went to the home of Justus, a Gentile convert to Judaism who lived next door to the synagogue. We then see Crispus, the ruler of synagogue, with his household, comes to the LORD (1 COR 1:14-16). Sometimes, when one door shuts, another door opens (1 Corinthians 16:9). Describe a time when God shut one door and then opened another door.
8. Pastor Ray discussed how Moses sent twelve spies into Canaan, but only two of the spies (Joshua and Caleb) saw opportunity in the midst of opposition (Numbers 13-14:10). "To walk by faith means to see opportunities, even in the midst of opposition". What are some Godly opportunities you have seen in the midst of opposition?

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 18:9-18

The Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent;" (Acts 18:9). This was a time Paul needed encouragement and confirmation. God assured Paul he had nothing to be afraid of. Although the Jews brought Paul before Gallio and made the accusations against Paul for persuading them to worship God contrary to the Jewish law, Gallio immediately dismissed the case with utter contempt. He told the Jews this was strictly a matter of their own law, and not under his jurisdiction. In effect, Gallio labeled Christianity a legal religion on the same level as Judaism giving Paul missionary freedom over the next decade.

1. What a wonderful triumph it was for Paul to go into that wicked city and as he lifted up Jesus, find these corrupt, evil-loving people looking to Him! Is there a situation today where you might be afraid and need encouragement and confirmation from God to speak the gospel? How might you triumph as Paul did?
2. Paul spoke to the people of Corinth how Jesus is the sinner's Savior, and by turning to Him, He will make you a new creation. As a result, many came to Christ. The Gospel is a simple yet powerful truth. Who might you speak this truth with this week?
3. To not share your faith, to not tell others about Jesus Christ, can be an actual sin. "To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). Clearly God can reach people without us, but instead He has chosen to work through us. You might be saying, "I'm not qualified", but you are just the person God is looking for. God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called (1 Corinthians 1:27-29). Do you hear Jesus calling you? How might you answer?

PRAYER

Abba Father, thank you, for being a good, good Father. Thank You we have strength and stability through You because of the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for each one of us. Thank You for Your endless love for us. Lord, you commissioned us to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in Your Name, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Lord finish the good work in us that we might speak the truth of Jesus to this lost world. Encourage us, strengthen us, and embolden us. Thank You, for being with us always, to the very end of the age.

"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.."
(Ephesians 4:25).

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Dad Jokes (For Fun)

Can February March? No, but April May!

Why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7 ate 9!

I'm so good at sleeping that I do it with my eyes closed.

Try the seafood diet—you see food, then you eat it.

What do you call a pencil with two erasers? Pointless.

Did you hear the one about the roof? Never mind, it's over your head.

What's brown and sticky? A stick.

Stop looking for the perfect match; use a lighter.

I hated facial hair but then it grew on me.

Did you hear the rumor about butter? Well, I'm not going to go spreading it!

What did the plumber say to the singer? Nice pipes.

I was going to tell a time-traveling joke, but you didn't like it.

How do you deal with a fear of speed bumps? You slowly get over it.

I ordered a chicken and an egg online. I'll let you know.

I'm reading an anti-gravity book. I can't put it down!

I'd avoid the sushi if I were you. It's a little fishy!

What state is known for its small drinks? Minnesota.

What's Forrest Gump's password? 1forrest1

What do houses wear? An address.

What did the two pieces of bread say on their wedding day? It was loaf at first sight.

What kind of shoes does a lazy person wear? Loafers.

What did the ocean say to the beach? Nothing, it just waved.

What happens when a snowman throws a tantrum? He has a meltdown.