

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 4, 2007

Passage: Acts 4:32-5:13

Memory Passage: 1 Timothy 1:7

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 4:32.** How would you characterize the unity of the early church? What made them so united?
- (b) What does it mean to be of “one heart and one soul” (Acts 1:14; 2:46; 5:12; 15:25; Philippians 2:1-4)?
- (c) What does Paul tell the Roman Christians to pursue in Romans 14:19 (also Hebrews 12:14)?
- (d) Why is the unity of believers so important to the ministry of the church (John 13:34-35; John 17:21)?
- (e) What was their attitude toward their possessions (Psalm 24:1; 1 Corinthians 3:21-23)? Was this the same as communism (Acts 5:4)? How does Christian giving display a true love that communism does not?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 4:32 and Philippians 2:1-4. Discuss the importance of unity in the church? Where does it come from (Ephesians 4:3) and what must we do to maintain it (Philippians 2:1-4)? What is the proper attitude to have toward our possessions? What attitude do many have? Thank God for all He has given you and pray that you might realize that all things are His.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 4:33.** What were the apostles focused on doing? How does the unity of the church affect the message of the church?
- (b) What was the emphasis of their preaching (Acts 4:31; Acts 13:5; Acts 13:44-46; Acts 18:11)?
- (c) What is the power of the gospel (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 1:21-24)? What is the source of our power in witnessing (Colossians 1:3-6; Acts 12:24; Acts 19:20; 2 Timothy 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:1; Isaiah 55:11)?
- (d) Read 1 Peter 1:23. To what does Peter compare the Word of God? What is its role in salvation? Why are our words not enough (1 Corinthians 2:4-5)?
- (e) Read 1 Timothy 1:7. What does Paul say that God has given us? What evidences of this can be seen in Acts 4?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 4:33 and 1 Corinthians 1:18. Talk about the Word of God and the power of God in salvation. Why is it important that we use the Word of God in sharing the gospel? Pray that you might have an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 4:34-37.** What was one clear evidence of their love for each other? Was this something new (Acts 2:45)?
- (b) What does Paul say is one of the reasons that we should work (Ephesians 4:28)? What should be one of our goals financially?
- (c) What should we be willing to do if God has blessed us financially (1 Timothy 6:17-19)?
- (d) Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. What was the financial situation of the churches of Macedonia? How did they give in spite of their situation? Was this required of them? Why did they give so willingly?
- (e) What did Jesus teach his disciples about giving in Luke 21:1-4? What does 2 Corinthians 9:5-8 tell us should be the motivation behind our giving? How is this evident in Acts 4:34-37?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 4:34-37 and 2 Corinthians 9:5-8. Discuss the giving of the early church. Were they required to sell their possessions? Why did they do so? How is our giving to believers in need a testimony of God’s love in us? Ask God to give you a heart that desires to give cheerfully so that He is honored.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 4:36-37.** What was the name of one of those who sold some land and gave a gift to the church? Why is he mentioned by name? What is the significance of his nickname? How might this be related to his generosity?
- (b) How was Paul encouraged by the gift from the church at Philippi (Philippians 4:14-18)? What did Paul say the gifts of the Corinthians would do for other believers in 2 Corinthians 9:12-15?
- (c) **Read Acts 5:1-6.** What *warning* did Jesus give about giving in Matthew 6:1-4? What *promise* did he give for proper giving?
- (d) What seems to have motivated Ananias and Sapphira to lie about their gift (Acts 4:34-37)? How is this similar to the giving of the Pharisees (Matthew 23:5; Matthew 23:27-28)?
- (e) What does God consider in our giving (Jeremiah 17:9-10; Psalm 51:6; 1 Samuel 16:7)? What should be our desire (John 5:44)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 4:36-5:6. Compare the giving of Barnabas with that of Ananias and Sapphira. What pleases God in our giving? What should be our motivation when we give? What seems to have motivated Ananias and Sapphira? Pray that you might have a heart to give in such a way that God alone is glorified by your giving.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 5:7-13.** Who put this motivation into their hearts? Why would he do this? Does this absolve Ananias and Sapphira of personal responsibility? What statements does Peter make in verses 3, 4, and 9 that indicate personal responsibility?
- (b) Can the judgment of God on believers sometimes include death (1 Corinthians 11:29-32; Hebrews 10:26-31)? How can we avoid such judgment (1 Corinthians 11:31)?
- (c) Compare this situation to that of Peter in Matthew 16:13-23? Why was Peter motivated by Satan to rebuke Jesus (Matthew 16:22)?
- (d) What was the result of this dramatic judgment? How did it affect people inside the church? How did it affect people outside the church?
- (e) What is one purpose of church discipline (1 Corinthians 5:6-8)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 5:7-13 and 1 Corinthians 11:29-32. Talk together about the judgment of God on believers. Does God judge us when we sin? What are some of the ways we experience His judgment? Is it possible to be under His judgment and not realize it? Why is the purity of the church so important to God? Why is it important to our witness? Pray for your church that its members would desire holiness and have a proper fear of God.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 4:32-5:13. What made the early church so exciting? What was the focus of their preaching? How did their love affect their witness? How did God show them the importance of a holy and honest heart in Acts 5? Pray that purity, love for one another and the sharing of the gospel might be priorities for your church.

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The Purity of the Church
“...but the people esteemed them highly.”