



FOR GOD IS
WITH US
GROUPS CONTENT
APR 30, 2023

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

RECALL A TIME WHERE YOU SAID YOU HAD TO
SEE SOMETHING IN ORDER TO BELIEVE IT.

GROUPS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

READ ACTS 4:1-13

Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. 3 They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day...**CONTINUE READING ACTS 4:1-13**

- What stood out to you and why?
- Peter and John were not impressive people. According to verse 13, they were unschooled and ordinary. How does verse 13 relate to 2 Corinthians 4:7?

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

- How does this speak to you?

READ ACTS 1:1-11

Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews[a] among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables....**CONTINUE READING ACTS 1:1-11**

- What kind of role was Stephen chosen for?
- Why were seven people chosen for that role?
- How did Stephen’s role aid the apostles?
- Why did some people not like Stephen?
- Have you ever faced a situation like that? What happened?

Even though teaching the word was not Stephen’s primary role, he still knew it. In Chapter 7, Stephen goes on to give a beautiful, powerful message proclaiming who Jesus is, starting with Abraham, and going all the way through the Old Testament to Soloman. Then he said this:

51 “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! 52 Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— 53 you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.”

- Why or how do you think he was so bold?
- Have you ever said something to the effect, “I am not a pastor so I don’t have to know the Bible or hide the word in my heart.”?
- How would Stephen’s story contradict that thinking?
- At the end of the Message, Eric asked about several Characters. How did you answer these questions:

DIGGING DEEPER:

CONTINUE READING FROM ACTS 7&8

54 When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” 57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

ACTS 8

1 And Saul approved of their killing him....**CONTINUE READING ACTS 8**

- How did Stephen reflect Christ in his death?
- Stephen’s prayer was answered in Saul/Paul’s life. The very man who oversaw his murder, encountered Jesus days later. Who are your enemies?
- How can you pray for them?
- Do you believe God will change their hearts?