

Called to Share the Good News — February 10 & 11, 2018
Follow-up Bible Studies

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Day One: Matthew 5:13-16

- How does Jesus describe his followers (13)? In your own words, how would you describe salt? What purpose does it serve? Imagine salt without its saltiness; would it have any function at all? In what ways are you like salt? What flavor do you bring out in the people and places surrounding you? When you bring out the best in people, how might this point them toward the Good News of Jesus? Pray that wherever you go, you'd be salt.
- How else does Jesus describe believers (14)? What are some things we do with light (14-15)? What other examples can you think of? When we shine our light, what do people see (16)? How do we hope they will respond (16)? Notice that Jesus says, "see your good *deeds*," not "hear your good *words*." Consider the message your deeds send to the world. Ask God to help you fine tune your deeds for the sake of his glory and the good of all.

Day Two: Mark 6:1-6

- Set the scene of this text (1). What did Jesus do on the Sabbath (2)? How did people respond (2-3)? When you return to your hometown or other places of your beginnings, how do people typically respond to you? If the experiences have been negative, invite Jesus into the disappointment. He's been through something similar; allow him to comfort you.
- What did Jesus say about people's reactions (4)? Do you generally find this to be true? If so, why do you think this is the case? What was Jesus unable to do in his hometown (5)? How did he respond to this (6)? Does a lack of belief in all that Jesus can and wants to do for others ever keep you from sharing the gospel? Pray that God would grow your faith in this regard, and that instead of keeping people from all that Jesus has for them, you'd be a conduit of the Good News.

Day Three: John 9:1-34

- Whom did Jesus encounter (1)? How did common assumptions about the blind man contrast with Jesus' take on the situation (2-5)? Describe the way Jesus healed the man (6-7). Why do you think Jesus chose to "do the works of him who sent me" in this seemingly unusual way?
- After being healed, what were the man's interactions with his neighbors like (8-12)? Summarize his encounter with the Pharisees (13-17). What happened when the man's parents became involved (18-23)? The Pharisees were hyper-focused on the Sabbath; the man's parents feared being shunned. If you were there, what might you have been thinking and feeling?
- Describe the man's opportunity to testify about what Jesus had done for him (24-34). Meditate on his words in verses 25 and 32. What "one thing" do you know God has done for you? Who do you think needs to hear this testimony? Make a plan to share it.

Day Four: Acts 9:32-43

- Where did Peter go (32)? Describe Aeneas (33). How did Peter heal him (34)? How did people respond to the healing (35)? What goodness of God do you want the people around you to see? Pray it'd be so, and that as a result they'd turn to Jesus.

- Describe the scene shift (36). Describe Tabitha (36). What happened to her (37)? How did Peter come to be involved (38)? (39). How were the widows grieving Tabitha's death (39)? What does this scene communicate to you about the incredibly diverse ways we can bear Good News? How are you wired to bring this news to the world? Ask God to show you how excited he is for you to share the gospel in the special way he designed you to.
- What did Peter then do (40)? As a result of his prayer, what happened (40-41)? Why do you think Peter made sure the widows in particular knew about this? Describe the larger impact of the miracle (42). Pray miracles like this would be a flourishing gateway for people in your midst to meet Jesus.

Day Five: Ephesians 2:1-10

- How does Paul describe one's spiritual state and behavior prior to following Christ (1-3, 5)? At that time, what did we deserve (3)? However, what is the great "but" found in Jesus (4-5)? Describe the believer's current status (6). Why does God do this for us (7)? What roles do grace, faith and works play in one's salvation (8-9)? How do we live as God's intentional handiwork (10)?
- Paul repeats two points: Jesus freed us while we were dead in sin and it is by grace we are saved. What does this communicate about the universal need for God? Pray the Holy Spirit would open your eyes to this need in the lives of those around you. What do you think he wants you to do with such revelation?
- Read John 20:11-18. How is Jesus' gracious movement toward Mary Magdalene – a woman who is broken, grieving and toting around lots of baggage – representative of what Paul shares in this Ephesians text? What is one specific way you can partner with Jesus as he graciously moves toward people who need him?