

**Day One: Acts 3:1-10**

- Just after the story of what the early church looked like, what were Peter and John up to (1)? Whom did they encounter, and what did he ask of the two men (2-3)? How did Peter respond (4)? He seized an opportunity to do mission locally. Is this something you look for and act upon throughout each day? Ask God to open your eyes to these opportunities.
- Summarize the exchange between Peter and the man (4-7). What do you think the man expected? What is your response to Peter's words in verse six? As someone who knows the mystery of the gospel, what do *you* have to offer people? How do you think God wants to use you to tell people his wonderful secret?
- Describe the impact of the man's miraculous healing (7-10). Besides physical restoration, who and what were brought closer to the Kingdom of God? Which detail most grabs you? Perhaps in this stirring the Lord is telling you to go and do likewise. Let it be!

**Day Two: Acts 4:23-31**

- Set the scene of this text (23). Reflect on the phrase "back to their own people." In times of trial, do you gather with God's people, or do you go elsewhere? Pray the church would be a refuge for all who suffer. How can you help create this environment?
- Summarize the believers' prayerful response to what Peter and John endured (24-30). How does the psalm they quoted apply to their predicament (27)? Consider their petitions in verses 29-30. Despite suffering and pushback, they still longed to make known the mystery of the gospel. Ask God to help you and our church to consistently desire and work toward the flourishing of the gospel.
- What happened after the believers prayed (31)? In what ways was their prayer immediately answered? What difference does the Holy Spirit make in *your* experience of Christian community? Pray for more: for more people to be filled with the Spirit and for more overflow – the type that draws non-believers to Jesus.

**Day Three: Acts 4:32-37**

- Not only did those in the early church pray together, but they also met one another's practical needs. What was the impetus for this (32)? Recall times you've been "one in heart and mind" with others. What does it feel like? Why do we need this in the church?
- What were the believers' thoughts and actions regarding their possessions (32, 34-35)? What is one specific example of this phenomenon (36-37)? Consider your own possessions. What do you share? What do you give away? To whom? Why?
- What testimony did the apostles continue to offer (33)? How do you think this inspired the believers to ensure no one would be in need? How does "great power" produce great sacrifice?
- Regarding this current giving campaign, what impact is this passage making on whether and how much you'll pledge to give? Ask the Lord to continue to speak along these lines.

**Day Four: Colossians 1:24—2:5**

- Describe Paul's paradoxical rejoicing (1:24). What do you endure "for the sake of Christ's body"? What change does this produce in you? As a servant of the church, what

is Paul commissioned to present (25-26)? Who gets to know this secret (27)? Paul sums it up as “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” How would you sum it up?

- Who must we proclaim, and what must we do for everyone (28)? Where does Paul direct his energy (1:29—2:1)? What is his hope for Laodicea (2:2)? How is *The Story Continues* campaign helping guide you toward maturing in Christ and “complete understanding” of “the mystery”? Give thanks to God.
- Where is all wisdom and knowledge found (3)? Why is Paul telling his readers all of this (4)? And how is he present with them (5)? What other supposed “mysteries” or “secrets” vie for our attention today? Pray for power and protection to keep your eyes on Jesus, and for fruitfulness in encouraging others to do the same.

#### **Day Five: 1 Timothy 3:14-16**

- In this letter to Timothy, what does Paul hope for (14)? Why did he write specific instructions (15)? Describe “God’s household” (15). Why did Paul want people know to how to act in “God’s household”? In what ways do you experience the church as that “of the living God”? In what ways is it “the pillar and foundation of the truth”? How is it lacking in these respects? Pray the church would experience and express the fullness of these attributes.
- Despite the mysteriousness of God, what *is* clear about his plans (16)? Meditate on the verbs in Paul’s short poem: appeared, vindicated, seen, preached, believed, taken. What power is at work here? And what is being revealed? In your own life and in the life of Vineyard Columbus, how has the *greatness* of the mystery of God been demonstrated? Pray for more!