

May 22 - Week 20 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is a life accomplishment that you proud of?

Acts 7 ~ Acts 8 ~ Acts 9 ~ Acts 10 ~ Acts 11

1. If someone asked you to share the Gospel story could you do it? How would you feel if you were asked to explain the whole Bible in 5 minutes? How might you better prepare for evangelism opportunities ahead? Why do you think Stephen focused on Abraham, Joseph, and Moses? (Acts 7:1-50) How might you more effectively communicate Jesus in your setting?
 2. What do you think about Stephen's bold transition in Acts 7:51-53? Are we called to a similar boldness? Why or why not? What might such boldness sound like today? What truths would "enrage" the society around us today? What suffering might we endure?
 3. What inspires you from Stephen's final moments before he is killed? (Acts 7:54-60)
 4. What do you think Christians were thinking and feeling when Saul was "ravaging the church" (Acts 8:3)? What sort of prayers would they have been praying? What sort of decisions would they have to make? How might we need to prepare spiritual for future "ravaging" of Christian churches? How might we more faithfully pray for modern day churches that are in situations of ongoing "ravaging"?
 5. How many places have you lived before? What are the challenges and advantages that come with moving? When the early church was scattered, what did they do? (Acts 8:4-7) What was the result? (Acts 8:8) What is the most important thing we have to offer our communities?
 6. Acts 8:13 describes Simon as having "believed" and been "baptized" but had not yet received the Holy Spirit (Simon's actions in Acts 8:18-19 and Peter's rebuke in Acts 8:20-21 seems to evidence that Simon's faith was not genuine). What was Simon the magician's serious sin? How do people mistakenly try to "earn" or "buy" their salvation today?
 7. What sorts of reasons do people struggle with getting baptized? In the story of the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40) he eagerly desires to be baptized, saying "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (v.38) How should his example guide us?
 8. What stands out to you from the story of Paul's conversion and reception into the church? (Acts 9) What does it mean to "walk in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 9:31)?
- More questions at: www.southfork.church/2022-discussion-questions

The Charge of Gospel Ministry

Acts 6:1-7

Stay In the Q_____ of Ministry

1 Timothy 3:1-13 ~ Titus 1:5-9

www.trustworthyword.com/pastors-deacons

1 Timothy 3:1-13 "The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. [2] Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, [3] not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. [4] He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, [5] for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? [6] He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. [7] Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. [8] Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. [9] They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. [10] And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. [11] Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. [12] Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. [13] For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

Titus 1:5-9 "This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—[6] if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. [7] For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, [8] but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. [9] He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it."

www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-a-call-to-ministry

Stay in the W_____ of Ministry

1 Corinthians 11:1 “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”

1 Peter 5:1–11 “So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: [2] shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; [3] not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. [4] And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. [5] Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

[6] Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, [7] casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. [8] Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. [9] Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. [10] And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. [11] To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Colossians 3:22–25 “Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. [23] Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, [24] knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. [25] For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. (ESV)

Stay in the Faith to the F_____ - 2 Timothy 4

- **FAITHFUL PREACHING** - 2 Timothy 4:2 “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”
- **TRUTH-FILLED TEACHING** - 2 Timothy 4:3–4 “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, [4] and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”
- **CONTINUE FORWARD** - 2 Timothy 4:5 “As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”
- **FINISH WELL** - 2 Timothy 4:7–8 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8] Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”
- **TRUST GOD & WATCH OUT** - 2 Timothy 4:10–18 “For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica... Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. ...[14] Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. [15] Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message.”
- **FORGIVE** - 2 Timothy 4:16 “At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them!”
- **REST IN GOD’S STRENGTH** - 2 Timothy 4:17 “But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. [18] The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”
- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus

The Gospel = God Created.
Man Sins. Jesus Dies. We Trust.

This Next Week's New Testament Reading Plan:

Week 21: Acts 12 ~ Acts 13 ~ Acts 14 ~ Acts 15 ~ Acts 16

- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo
- **Our Plan:** www.southfork.church/2022-bible-reading-plan

The Charge of Gospel Ministry

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Stay In the Qualifications of Ministry

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www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-a-call-to-ministry

www.TrustworthyWord.com

www.Bible.video

Stay in the Work of Ministry

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May 15, 2022

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Every Member a Missionary

Acts 1:8

We Are Commanded to Go & Grow Disciples

Matthew 28:19–20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

We Are Empowered to Go & Witness to the Lost

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

We Encounter God & Go for God

Isaiah 6:8 “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’” (ESV)

MISSIONS is the obedient Gospel **work** of bearing witness of Jesus and teaching His disciples through the **Word**.

- **WORK** - What efforts are you making to share Jesus?

- **WORD** - How are getting yourself & others into the Word?

Luke 10:2 “And he said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”

A **MISSIONARY** is SENT by Jesus to **go** out to share the Gospel and **grow** disciples.

- **GO** - Where are you going to share the Gospel?

- **GROW** - Who are you teaching about Jesus?

Ephesians 6:20 “for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”

What are the different sorts of missions work and missionaries?

1. Duration - short-term, medium-term, and long-term, also part-time and full-time (think National Guard soldier, Active Duty soldier, mobilized/activated Reservist - all soldiers but different seasons/durations of service)

- 2 Timothy 2:3 “Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”

2. Distance - boundaries crossed - geographically, linguistically, culturally, digitally (think military special forces units assigned to particular regions of the world so they can be better tailored to the settings they deploy to and the particular challenges and enemies they encounter)

- 2 Timothy 2:15 “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”

3. Difficulty - dangerous and difficult lifestyle challenges, cross-cultural challenges, soil-sowing challenges (think military assignments some with greater sacrifice/challenges/dangers, all real military service)

- “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” (Matthew 5:10-11 ESV)
- **“What Does the Bible Say About Risk?”**
www.trustworthyword.com/risk

4. Different Work - nothing less than declaring the Gospel, different giftings of the Spirit to accomplish that task

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 “... [27] Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ...”

Come In - The Church (The Body of Christ) Is A Missionary Body

www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-church-membership

- Acts 2:42-47
- Acts 5:42 “And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.”

Go Out - The Parts of the Body Have Different Missionary Functions

www.trustworthyword.com/missions

- Romans 12:4–8 “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ...[6] Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them ...”

“Whoever says ‘I know him’ but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him” 1 John 2:4

- “In my estimation, no man has a right to call himself a New Testament Christian who is not interested in the Great Commission.” Adrian P. Rogers

Luke 6:46 “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

- “Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.”
Charles H. Spurgeon