

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM
Building an Acts 29 Church
(Part 2) We Were Made for Mission
Sermon 30.5.09
Wayne Krause

Small Group Study for Week of May 30- June 5

***The Big Idea:** There is no Acts 29 in the Bible. We are the Acts 29 church as we are the ones who follow on from what happened in the early church. God has a specific plan for His church and we get to be a part of it if we follow God's plan for building His church and if we allow Him to use us on His terms, not ours. God has promised the Holy Spirit will give us power to witness for Him. In our sharing Jesus with others we are to be the same and yet different to our neighbours.

***Group Reads: Acts 1:4-9**

Comment: The Greek words in these texts indicate that the power of the Holy Spirit is firstly to join us to Jesus, "you will be my." It is within this relationship with Jesus that the Holy Spirit gives us power to witness to others.

Questions:

- *1. If the Holy Spirit is promised to us to give us power, why are we sometimes still nervous about sharing our faith? What suggestion do you have to change that?
- 2. What else do you find significant in these verses?

Comment: There are three distinct steps in witnessing mentioned in these texts.

1. Jerusalem
2. Judea and Samaria
3. Ends of the earth (gentiles)

For further private reading, Acts 1:12-14, Acts 2 tells us about the gospel going to Jerusalem, Acts 8:1-17 describes the gospel going to Judea and Samaria and Acts 10 tells us of the first gentile convert. It is interesting to note that witnessing to the Samaria and Gentiles after Jerusalem was not by choice – God had to push them.

***Group Reads: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

- *3. What does it mean to become a Jew to reach Jews, to become like one outside the law etc? How can I do this without being hypocritical? How can I do this and remain true to God?
- *4. Why is Paul doing all this and how does his passion and focus reflect my passion and focus for lost people?
- 5. Verse 19 has Paul discussing his freedom. Compare where Paul gets his belief in his freedom and identity from and where many of us get our sense of identify from. How is this important when it comes to what he does in the following verses?
- 6. Anything else you would like to mention from these verses?

Comment: Do you agree that the above verses describe the fact that our community needs to believe they can identify with us and that we can identify with them; that we need to some extent be the same as those in our community?

***Group Reads John 17:15,16, John 15:1-8**

- *6. Although being in the world, how should we be different from the world?
- *7. What does pruning mean? Will this cause pain from the Father? What happens if

I stop the pruning?

- *8. Could my reluctance to be pruned etc be a reason I don't bear fruit, a reason I am not growing as a Christian? Discuss
- 9. What other implications do I read in the above verses?
- 10. What am I going to do as a result of this study?