

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"DON'T TELL PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS" JUNE 4 & 5

SERIES OVERVIEW: "7 EASY WAYS TO DERAIL THE CHURCH"

In the U.S. more churches are closing than opening. As the church, we need to recognize what causes this trend. While some might point to a changing culture, a deeper look into the churches that closed reveals several common denominators. In this series, we distill points from Thom Rainer's book, "Autopsy of a Deceased Church" to reveal seven main factors that lead to a church declining, and ultimately dying. Looking at how the church of Acts avoided these pitfalls, we better understand, not only why the early church grew, but how the church today, can avoid these traps and continue our mission of more people experiencing the power of the Gospel.

*Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc.
Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.*

1

OPENING PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE:

About 3 minutes

Ask a volunteer to open in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA:

A minute to read

Telling others about Jesus is something that seems like it should be easy, and yet for many, it is very difficult. We fear what others will think about us amidst a culture where faith is viewed as a private thing. Yet, our fear of talking about Jesus reveals more about our inability to grasp the depth of Jesus' love for us over anything. The more we see how much Jesus loves us, the easier it becomes to tell others as well.

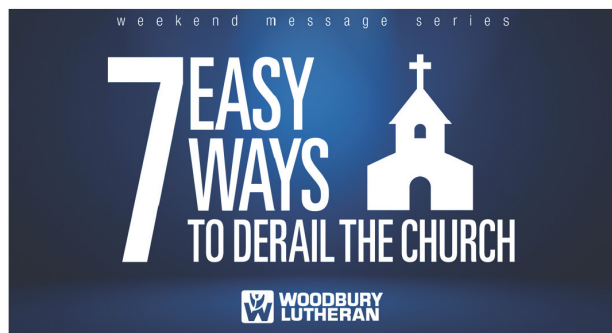
3

INTRO QUESTIONS:

About 10 minutes

Share a piece of good news you recently heard from a friend/family member or saw in the news? How did you respond?

Why do you think the Gospel doesn't always come across as good news?



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I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus. - Acts 2:21 NLT

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - Acts 2:1-21, 36-41

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting from the scripture reading?

What might be God's invitation to you in this?

What might be God's challenge to you in this?

How might God be calling you to respond?
Be curious...and then do it.

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

About 40-45 minutes

We can boast in the Gospel, yet have a posture of humility, curiosity, and genuine love for people who believe differently. Describe how that can be.

How does trusting the Holy Spirit to do the work in people's hearts, change the way you interact with people who don't know Jesus?

Read Romans 10:9-14. Sometimes we can fall into a "Show Don't Tell" pattern with our faith: where we depend on our actions of love, service, and character reflecting Christ, to show our faith. Other times we fall into a "Tell, Don't Show" pattern: people hear our words, but they don't see our faith through everyday life in relationship. How could your faith be a "Show and Tell" practice? What would need to change in your life to make that happen?



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?


5 CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 10 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud. Allow for a time of personal reflection and silent prayer.

The leader or apprentice may use the prayer prompts to guide a time of popcorn prayer. Open with the first paragraph, then allowing group members to offer ways they are thankful for connecting with God and being His child. Then read the second paragraph and leave time for group members to offer popcorn prayer. Finally close with the last line.

TAKE IT DEEPER






Pray

Take a moment to be still in God's presence...(after a moment) offer this prayer: "Lord, Jesus, I'm here to connect with you, to just be with you as your child."

Invite God to show you why it's difficult for you to tell others about Jesus.

Thank God that the Holy Spirit lives in you & gives you the ability to share your faith.

Live It Out

Start with prayer and set your heart to share your faith with someone this week, trusting God to lead you. Don't stress...this could look like telling someone that you are praying for them, sending someone a text or note celebrating what Jesus has been doing to you, or sharing the difference Jesus' love has made in your life.

6 LIVE IT OUT:

About 5 minutes

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to take the steps noted. Pray for the Holy Spirit to open doors and celebrate any actions taken- big or small!