



St. Andrew

Growth Group Activities

April 19

Acts 6:1-7

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

1. In Acts 6:1, for the first time Luke uses the word “disciples” to identify those who were joining the church. Disciple means to be devoted to someone in order to learn from their teachings. It also means to follow those teachings. What makes you want to be a disciple of Jesus?
2. To look down on the Hebrew Jews for overlooking the Greek widows is a form of judging that Jesus condemns in Matthew 7:1. What is a better way to look at what happened?
3. Jesus gave Peter, John and others the power to perform miracles. This helped the church by increasing its credibility. If the church would not solve this intra-church conflict in Acts 6, its credibility would decrease. Explain.
4. Fixing a problem the wrong way often leads to a new problem. The disciples avoided creating a new problem with their solution.
Agree or Disagree. The problem they avoided would have been a bigger problem.
5. What lesson can St. Andrew learn from the comments of the disciples in addressing the problem? Read Acts 6:2-4.

6. Getting people into ministry is a good thing. Is that better for St. Andrew, the member, or the kingdom? Support your answer.

7. Luke tells us many priests left their prestigious priestly positions to become disciples of Jesus. That took humility. Compare their humility with the humility that you have in following Jesus.



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Easter Sunday

Acts 5:29-32

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

1. What word do you choose? The resurrection of Jesus gives me _____.

hope
joy
comfort
confidence
salvation
assurance
peace

2. Finish this statement: If Christianity were illegal, I would...

break the law and continue in my faith. This kind of bravado may never need to be put to the test, but if it were, only with God's power could we stand firm.

Some may give a less certain response. That gives the leader an opportunity to talk about the power of God through his Word. And the importance of growing stronger through the Word.

3. Read 1 Samuel 16:7. The truth is appearance matters to us. Does it matter too much? Give support to your answer. It's hard to argue that we don't give too much weight to things that should take a lesser importance. Especially living in such a materialistic time and society. Think of all of the things we could (and do) spend our money on that are of no lasting consequence.
We should be more concerned with how we look to God on the inside and less concerned with how we look to the world on the outside.
Read Matthew 1:4. What can we learn from John the Baptist?

Perhaps more than anyone else, JB taught us how to value Christ and service to God. From the little we know about him, he showed no affection for creature comforts. He was truly focused on serving God and serving others.

4. Superman is a hero. What differences do you see between him and Jesus?

Besides the obvious there are many other differences. Superman has a weakness (kryptonite). Superman is powerful and all that, but he is not omniscient, omnipotent, or omnipresent. Superman is morally good, but he is sinful. Superman can't forgive sins or save souls. Jesus was sent on a mission by God, Superman certainly can't say that.

5. Analyze this statement: Jesus' willingness to be weak was his greatest strength.

Philippians 2:6-8 beautifully speaks to his taking on human weakness in the sense that he set his divine power aside (using it judiciously and without self-serving purposes). His human weakness allowed him to be our substitute and allowed him to die for our sins. He gave himself into weakness and death.

He restrained himself for our sake. He did not call upon angels in Gethsemane. He did not proclaim his innocence before Pilate. He did not take the challenge and come down from the cross. Rather he emptied himself, became weak, for our salvation. Ironically, that took divine strength.

6. A best friend is someone who knows everything about me and still loves me. Because of what that implies it cannot be applied to Jesus. Why not?

There is NOTHING about Jesus that would cause us to say, "no, I don't want to be his friend." There ARE things about me that should cause my best friend to not want to be my friend. In spite of all of my imperfections and such, he remains my best friend. There is no "in spite of..." when it comes to Jesus. He has no character flaws, no lapses in morality, no indiscretions to keep quiet, no hidden past. Everything about Jesus is a reason to love him.

7. Read Mark 14:50. This contributes to the hero description of Jesus. Explain.

At the toughest moment of his life, Jesus walked it alone. It was him and no one else. Yet he marched on. He marched on for all who deserted him and all who would have deserted him. He stayed the course. He finished his mission.

8. Repentance is yet another gift of God. What makes that gift so valuable?



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Repentance comes from faith. Faith is what grabs a hold of Jesus work and makes it mine. Without faith there is no repentance. Without repentance there is no forgiveness. Without forgiveness there is no salvation. Without salvation there is only God's wrath.

From last week's study...

1. React with faith not fear. - Joshua 1:9

What is making people afraid?

Why do we need not be afraid?

We need not fear because our powerful God is with us wherever we go.

2. God is still in control. - Psalm 93

What is beyond the control of God?

Nothing. Even what seems out of control (sickness, economy) is not. God is in complete control. Faith believes that even when appearances say otherwise.

3. See the opportunity. - Philippians 1:12-14
Explain how Paul took advantage of his God-given opportunity.
Paul was telling all of his Roman guards about Jesus. Paul's ministry team was picking up the slack while Paul was locked up.

4. There is purpose. - Romans 8:28
What is God's purpose with this virus?
We don't know. We do know, however, that the purpose is good for all of God's people. The purpose may include getting people to repent and come back to the church, getting families back together, more family time, resetting priorities...

5. Love your neighbor. - Romans 13:10
What are ways we can love our neighbor during this crisis?
Stay home. Help those who need help. Pray for others.

6. We are at God's mercy. Ephesians 2:4-5; Psalm 127
What can man do without God?
The coronavirus can't be stopped. The economy can't be helped. We can't save ourselves from sin. We need God's blessings and intervention. We are at his mercy, but that is a good place to be!

7. Stay in the Word. SWaG
What will we find in the Word? (Hint: 3 words beginning with S, W, and G)
Divine strength. Real wisdom. Grace.



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