LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

10.14.26 & 10.28.26

ACTS: Faith Under Fire

Lesson Summary (Acts 6-8):

Pastor Jeff teaches tonight on the topic of "persecution" as he shares about Stephen being martyred in Acts chapters 6-8. When we face persecution for following Jesus and we do it faithfully, even when it's hard, God can and often will use that to draw friends and/or family in your life into a faith in Jesus because they see something different in you. Ultimately, it comes down to one question: Is Jesus worth it? Because Jesus gave His life for us, we are called to stand for Him, even when it costs us something.

Key Points:

Main Point:

- Persecution is a tool that God uses to SUPER CHARGE His mission to reach the world!

4 questions to ask about persecution…

1. Will I insist on FAIRNESS or accept it as a FACT?
2. Will I DODGE or DIVE INTO my opportunity to witness?
3. Will I challenge people knowing it's RIGHT but RISKY?
4. Will it cause me to PULL BACK or PUSH FORWARD?

Discussion Questions:

Gospel Response

1. Did any of you TONIGHT, FOR THE VERY 1ST TIME, put your trust in Jesus (and what He did on the cross) to save you from your sins and lead your life? *Leaders, do NOT skip this question! If you have a student who took this step, celebrate this in a BIG way; it's why we exist as a ministry! As always, be sure and log this as a "God win" on the App and/or share this news with Cam/Mary or TJ…thank you!*

Observation Questions

2. Acts 7:54-60: What stands out to you about Stephen's response to the people who were angry with him?

3. Acts 8:1-4: What happened to the followers of Jesus after Stephen's death, and what did they do even as they were scattered?

Interpretation Questions

4. Pastor Jeff gave four questions to consider when facing persecution:
    - *Will I insist on fairness or accept it as fact—*
    - *Will I dodge or dive into opportunities to share my faith—*
    - *Will I challenge people[knowing it-s right but risky—*
    - *Will I pull back or push forward—*

    Which of these four choices do you think was most important in Stephen's story, and why?

5. Stephen was willing to stand for Jesus even when it cost him everything. What do you think made Jesus worth that kind of commitment to Stephen?

Application Questions

6. Accept it as fact[not unfairness} Have you ever been treated unfairly, made fun of, or left out because of your faith or your desire to live for Jesus?
    a. If you answered “no”, why do you think you have never experienced this?
    b. How can understanding that persecution is something Jesus told us to expect, change the way you respond when it happens again?

7. Dive in instead of dodge} When have you felt pressure to hide your faith, change your behavior, or go along with something because you didn't want to be judged or left out?
    a. How did you respond, and looking back, would you handle it differently?

8. Challenge lovingly[even when it-s risky} How comfortable are you talking with friends about what you believe, especially if/when their choices or attitudes seem to be pulling them away from God?
    a. What's the difference between lovingly challenging someone and acting like you're better than them?

9. Push forward instead of pulling back} When following Jesus makes you feel different, excluded, or misunderstood, what's your usual response? Do you stand firm, keep quiet, or start blending in?
    a. What do you think drives that response?

10. Is Jesus Worth It—} If someone looked at your choices, conversations, and relationships this past week...
    a. Would they see that Jesus is worth it to you?
        1. If yes, why?
        2. If not, where in your life would they struggle to see that Jesus is worth it to you?
    b. NEXT STEP CHALLENGE: Identify one person, situation, or relationship where you want to follow Jesus more courageously this week.