

Acts: Multiply (Acts 18:23 – 19:41)

For the week of June 26, 2016

Spiritual Discipline Checkup

Spiritual disciplines can be described as those behaviors that help our spiritual growth and enable us to grow to spiritual maturity. The process of spiritual growth and development begins to take place the moment a person encounters the risen Christ and comes to him for salvation. How are you doing in the following disciplines?

- Quiet time – Spending daily time alone to be with God.
- Study – Spending daily time reading the Scriptures and meditating on its meaning and importance in our lives.
- Prayer – Daily talking to and listening to God about your relationship with him and about the concern of others.
- Fellowship – Mutual caring and ministry in the body of Christ.

Discuss in your group.

Acts 18:23-28

- Read the story in Acts 18:23-28. As a group, rebuild the story.

Observation: Apollos combined great fervor (passion) with teaching about Jesus accurately. This seems to be a rare combination. Churches are often divided as either a “teaching” church, where education is important but worship, prayer and witnessing are stagnant, or on the other hand, an “emotional” church which is just the reverse. Discuss this in your group. How would you “classify” RiverLakes Community Church?

Application: Aquila and Priscilla were both bold and gentle in their approach with Apollos. They spoke to him privately, in their home, rather than confronting him in a public place. That’s gentleness. Yet it took real boldness to speak to such a formidable preacher. How does this example impact you about approaching others about a doctrinal issue or a personal issue?

Acts 19:1-10

- Read the story in Acts 19:1-10. As a group rebuild the story.

Observation: These men receive John’s baptism which was only “half a gospel,” the bad news of repentance. They repented but they did not yet believe. Paul then tells them about the one in whom they must now trust – Jesus. After “hearing this” they were baptized into the name of Jesus (v. 5). The phrase “into the name” means that they came to know who Jesus was. Today’s world desperately needs to hear about how one can have a new life in Jesus Christ. Can you present/tell/explain the Good News? Spend time in your group sharing the Good News with others.

Application: The Holy Spirit is identified three times in this passage. What is the Holy Spirit and how does it work in today's world? See John 16:8-11. How has the Holy Spirit specifically impacted your life?

Acts 19:11-20

- Read the story in Acts 19:11-20. As a group rebuild the story.

Observation: There is an evil spiritual world. Although this story in this passage is humorous, it shows the power of the name of Jesus. How would you respond to a nonbeliever who openly mocks or uses the Lord's name in vain?

Application: These sorcery dudes brought all their evil stuff and publicly burned it. It had a present day monetary value of \$6-8 million dollars. Wow! That is conviction followed by action. What would be burned today if the Spirit's conviction swept the church? Is there anything in your personal life that needs to be "burned up?"

Acts 19:21-41

- Read the story in Acts 19:21-41. As a group rebuild the story.

Observation: Describe Demetrius and his motives for causing trouble. Is there a modern-day Demetrius that causes trouble for Christianity? Give examples.

Application: This story shows how our amazing God is in control all the time! How is God in control in the following areas? Be specific in your examples.

Our country -

Our church -

Our personal life –

Pray

- Pray for our staff and the preparation in progress for Vacation Bible School (VBS).
- Pray for the children who will be on campus and hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the volunteers and parents as they give of their time.
- Pray for many children to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.