

Family Worship Devotion

Bethany Community Church | July 5, 2020

Introduction

Lately, we've been seeing a lot of struggle in the world. Not only are people wanting to stay safe from the virus, but many people have been speaking up and protesting about ALL PEOPLE being treated fairly and equally. This is such a very, very important topic that is close to God's heart...this is because every single person is created in the image and likeness of God. And we are precious in God's sight.

Sometimes, if you are like me, you might think that people only have trouble with being unfair or showing favorites OUTSIDE of the church (because we folks inside the church have it all figured out, right?)

The story from the Bible today shows us that we all have to be careful to not pick favorites or judge others, especially based on how much money they have or the color of their skin or the country that they are from. Jesus didn't pick favorites! His sacrificial love was - and is - for each and every one of us, so let's love like Jesus and remember that God delights in every single one of us!

Chris Lyons, Bethany Green Lake

Story & Questions

READ Acts 6:1-7

- What is the GREAT NEWS found in verse one? (The Church was growing!)
- What is the BAD NEWS found in that same verse? (Some people were picking favorites and some very needed women were being overlooked.)
- What's it mean to be "overlooked?" Can you imagine what it might feel like to be "overlooked?" (Not valued, considered "less than others," etc.)
- There were 2 different groups of followers of Jesus at this time: Hellenistic (Jews who spoke mostly Greek and were from outside of Jerusalem) and Hebraic (Jews who spoke Aramaic - dialect close to Hebrew - and were from inside Jerusalem). Literally, it was about favoritism of the INSIDERS and neglect of the OUTSIDERS! (And widows in that day were very dependent on the charity of others.)
- Ultimately, the early Church responded to this neglect and fixed it by calling leaders "full of the Spirit and wisdom" to make sure that everyone was taken care of. And the Church continued to GROW in number!

- For us in the Church today, what are some ways that we can make sure that we are saying "NO" to favoritism and "YES" to including everyone in the family? (Brainstorm as a family some practical ways that we can be "full of the Spirit and wisdom.")

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for walking alongside us as we journey through this life in this place and time. We are so thankful to be your children, daughters and sons of the King.

Forgive us for hurting others and choosing to look away when you ask us to look to you and look at people as brothers and sisters made in your image. Help us to be more like you. Thank you for daily bread and for continuing to feed our souls.

Help us to love others each day. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Activities



Let's examine Acts chapter 6 with this activity:

Every believer has a responsibility to serve so that God's Word can continue to be shared with others.

Let's make our own puzzle this week.

Supplies:

- Paper/Cardstock
- Crayons/Markers/Colored pencils
- Scissors

1. Draw a picture while someone reads a story from the book of Acts. After you have completed your picture cut it up into 12-15 different pieces. Give your 12-15 pieces to some in your family and see if they can put the picture back together, just like a puzzle.
2. As each piece is placed, talk about how we are better able to see what the picture is. It's the same as each one of us serves other believers. God's plans and power are more clearly seen to those who do not believe in Jesus as we serve and help each other in the Body of Christ.