



Acts - The Birth of the Church - Week 8 - Inside the Huddle

Acts 3: 32-37

Questions

1. Who is the most generous person you know? Share a story or two about how someone generous made an impact on you. Be sure to mention the form of their generosity, such as money, time, attention, household, cooking, etc.
2. **Main Idea: A Healthy Church is a Generous Church.** As you review the Scripture verses for today, it is clear that following Jesus changes people. What teachings or actions of Jesus can you remember from the four gospels that would naturally lead to this generous behavior of the early church?
3. **Point #1: Generous Unity.** Imagine being so unified within a group that you are "of one heart and soul." One way to be unified is for everyone to think and act alike, which would be unity through uniformity. Is this what happened in the early church? How could we achieve unity in our local church without expecting total uniformity?
4. **Point #2: Generous Power.**
5. **Point #3: Generous Grace.** Fill in the blank: "Sometimes we can be so quick to preach and proclaim the power of the gospel but fail to _____ the very _____ that makes the gospel powerful to begin with." (Answers: show, grace) In your own words, can you describe how grace makes the gospel so powerful?
6. **Point #4: Generous Care.** Did you have any hesitation when Pastor Shaen mentioned that the first emphasis in Acts 4 is caring for other Christians? Why or why not?
7. In Acts 4 we are introduced to Barnabas for the first time. Ask the group to share stories that they remember about Barnabas, as a preview for those who are less familiar with the full book of Acts. If everyone is coming up short, check out these verses: Acts 9:26-27, 11:22-24, 13:2-3, 15:37-39. You gotta respect a guy who was once mistaken for Zeus! (Acts 14:12)
8. (This one's for fun, if you have time in your group.) The name "Barnabas" appears to be a nickname, meaning "son of encouragement." Share a favorite nickname from your past that the group might not have heard before. Are any of them positive, like Barnabas? Or just playfully negative like most nicknames?
9. Pray together that First Church will grow more and more to look like the very generous early church we see in

Acts 4. Pray that our small groups will lead the way in generosity of all kinds.