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Leader Guide

Preach

June 11, 2023

Main Passage: Acts 2:14-36; Romans 10:14-15

Theological Theme

Preaching is foundational to the church's work and God's plan to reach the world. God's Word instructs believers to be dedicated to preaching the gospel and to value Biblical teaching.

Introduction

- 🔍 Share an instance where a sermon spoke to you directly or affected you in a meaningful way.

1. Preaching is Necessary (Romans 10:14-15)

In Romans Paul stressed the importance of preaching the gospel, and preachers must be sent by God and the Christian community. Most believers would agree that God's goal is for people to hear and believe the gospel. But Paul made the case that if there is no one preaching the Word, people will be inhibited from hearing about Jesus and finding hope in Him.

- 🔍 What role has preaching and teaching of the Word played in your belief in Jesus?
- 🔍 How have you seen growth in your spiritual life due to solid biblical teaching and preaching?
- 🔍 Application: You may not be a preacher, but how can you get more involved in spreading the good news of Jesus?

2. Bold Proclamation (Acts 2:14-21)

The birth of the early church in Acts offers many good examples for the church today. The first believers faced great opposition and yet continued preaching and teaching about Jesus. This also displayed the way these people had been changed by Jesus. Shortly after the arrest and trial of Jesus, where Peter denied Jesus three times, he preached one of the most powerful recorded sermons in the Bible.

- 🔍 How can you use this second chance as a way to share about Christ to your friends? (Make it part of your story)
- 🔍 How often do you reflect on the fact that Jesus could return at any moment? How does this affect your daily life?
- 🔍 Application: Who is God calling you to share the truth of Jesus with today?

3. Preaching Jesus (Acts 2:22-36)

Once he had the attention of the crowd, after explaining the things they had witnessed and laying out the mission of the gospel, Peter moved to the main point—Jesus. Peter’s words about Jesus were delivered with purpose and meaning. Peter’s actions were an example of how to talk to people about faith. He started with what the crowd already knew. They were not unfamiliar with Jesus. He had just been tried and crucified. When we want to have gospel conversations with others, it is good to start with what they already know.

- ❓ What are some ways you try to bring up Jesus around unbelievers? Why is it good to start with what they know?
- ❓ Application: How will you share with someone and point them to the grace and forgiveness available in Jesus?

Questions to Guide Your Group’s Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here’s How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: “What does this say to me?”

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).