



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BUILD HOPE NOT HATE • STEVE PEICH • NOV 8, 2020

Sermon Questions: Acts 8.1-3; Acts 9.1-19; Acts 22:10-11, 19

1. Pastor Steve mentioned that when we only see people through the eyes of our own hurt, pain, or anger (or even political viewpoint) we can easily become blind to the fact that they are still, in the heart of God, sacred, loved, and made in His image. How have you ever been challenged to see those three God-given qualities in a person who has angered, upset, or opposed you?
2. At one point, Ananias seems to “argue” with God about the appropriateness of meeting up with Saul and initially resisted going to pray for his healing. How have you experienced something similar when it came to doing difficult and vulnerable things like loving your enemy, blessing those who hate you, forgiving others, etc.?
3. Given all that Saul was like, Ananias had to have strong faith in God’s word to meet up with Saul, otherwise it would have been suicide. What do you make of Ananias’ courage and his willingness to call Saul, “brother” despite Saul’s past? Share about any Christians you know that have shown the same courageous obedience and graciousness to others.
4. Pastor Carey Nieuwhof has written: “If you echo the culture, you get more of the culture, not more of the kingdom.” How have you seen this played out from Christians in our contemporary situation? In what ways, if any, do you find yourself tempted to “echo the culture”? What makes it tempting to do that?
5. Despite all the chaos and strife politically, how can the Church (or more particular, our church) be a great witness of God’s love and hope amid the chaos? What are some effective things you have done or heard about that are helping towards such ends?
6. Proverbs 17.27 says: “The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and a person of understanding is even-tempered”. Amid the strife of our current situation, where and how have you seen this lived out well? How are you personally doing in this department?
7. How has God’s generous grace toward you made you more generous with your time, talent, and treasures to others?
8. Share about anything else that may have encouraged or challenged you from the service and the message.