

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 5/28/2023

Acts 24-26 – Tell Your Story

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Opening discussion: What is your favorite story from your childhood? Why?

Highlights

- **Connection Point is solely focused on multiplying the Kingdom and not CP.**
- **Wherever we are the church is. Wherever you are by yourself, the church is.**
- **Refresher:**
 - **We multiply the Kingdom when we share how Jesus is changing our lives with others: first with those closest to you and then others.**
 - There is power in “Jesus IS CHANGING my life” vs. Jesus HAS CHANGED...
 - **We multiply the Kingdom when we allow our actions to speak as loud as our words. As He is magnified in us, the world is drawn to Him.**
 - Find a Need, Meet a Need
 - It is NOT prideful to tell us. You’re saying, “this is what God has done thru me”
 - **We multiply the Kingdom when we meet people where they are physically, spiritually and culturally.**
 - We want to go into the world and meet people where they are without compromising the Gospel.
- Leading up to Acts 26, Paul had been on his 3rd journey and wanted to go to Jerusalem, but was dissuaded because the Jews wanted to arrest him for leading “the Way” – what Christians were called at that time. He went anyway and was arrested for creating a disturbance.
- Appeared at Sanhedrin who fought with each other instead of Paul. They wanted to bring him back, but had a plan to ambush him on the way to kill him.
- Was sent to Caesarea, met with Gov. Felix.
- **Acts 24:22**, I’ll keep you, but give you freedom; I don’t know what you’ve done wrong.
- **Acts 24:24** He shared Jesus with Felix and his wife
- **Acts 24:25** Paul talked about self control and the coming judgement which was an “ouch” to Felix as he had no self-control and loved to judge others. So he sent Paul back to jail but asked to talk to him often because he thought Paul would try to bribe him. 2 years!
- **Acts 25:24-27**, Paul had asked to see Caesar himself since he was a Roman citizen. So Festus who replaced Felix asked King Agrippa to listen to Paul so he would know how to write up the charges against Paul to Caesar.
- **Acts 26:1**, After two years, you can talk. You’ve earned the right to be heard. Patience. **Talk about how you’ve had to exhibit extreme patience like Paul.**
- **Acts 26:2**, this is a tense moment. Paul’s story
 - **v.2-11** This is who I was, **v.12-18** Then Jesus, **v.19-23** Jesus is changing my life and now you need to hear the Gospel.
 - Paul could talk about anything he wants and all he talked about was Jesus. **We have to become better at this.**
- **Acts 26:28-29** The chains are human, everything else is from Jesus
 - Did Paul just tell a story where the guy doesn’t even get saved? Yes
 - When we tell our story there is no guarantee how it will be received.
 - We share out of obedience. There is one Lord over us and His name is Jesus.

- **We must care passionately whether the world knows Jesus. Do you lose sleep over all those you know who are far from Jesus.**
- **Do you care enough to share YOUR story?** How to do it:
 - Have a 5 and 30 minute version ready at all times. What is God doing in your life RIGHT NOW to change you? If you've been saved a while this is not your salvation story. Key words are RIGHT NOW. **Are you ready? If not, what will it take? Is Jesus changing your life or are you on cruise control?**
 - This is who I was.
 - Then Jesus began changing my life.
 - This is where I am right now: the good and the bad.
 - Telling the people the bad helps people realize it's not about living the perfect life; it's about who I am following. It's messy following Jesus and not easy.
 - Have no expectations of the outcome.
 - There is power and value of simply sharing who we are with others.
 - The other person has a choice.

What is God doing inside of you right now? LEADERS: this is an opportunity to help each other start their story today. DO NOT miss this opportunity to help your group be ready.

We multiply the Kingdom when we love those around us enough to stay ready to share our story.