

Forward Framework: A Weekly Devotional

Introduction Activity (for Groups):

Have everyone write the name of 1 well known person (Famous or Biblical) on a post-it note. shuffle the post-it notes and have Each person draw a note and place it on their mask. Then each person will need to ask the group questions to help them to figure out who the person is on their mask

God Encounters:

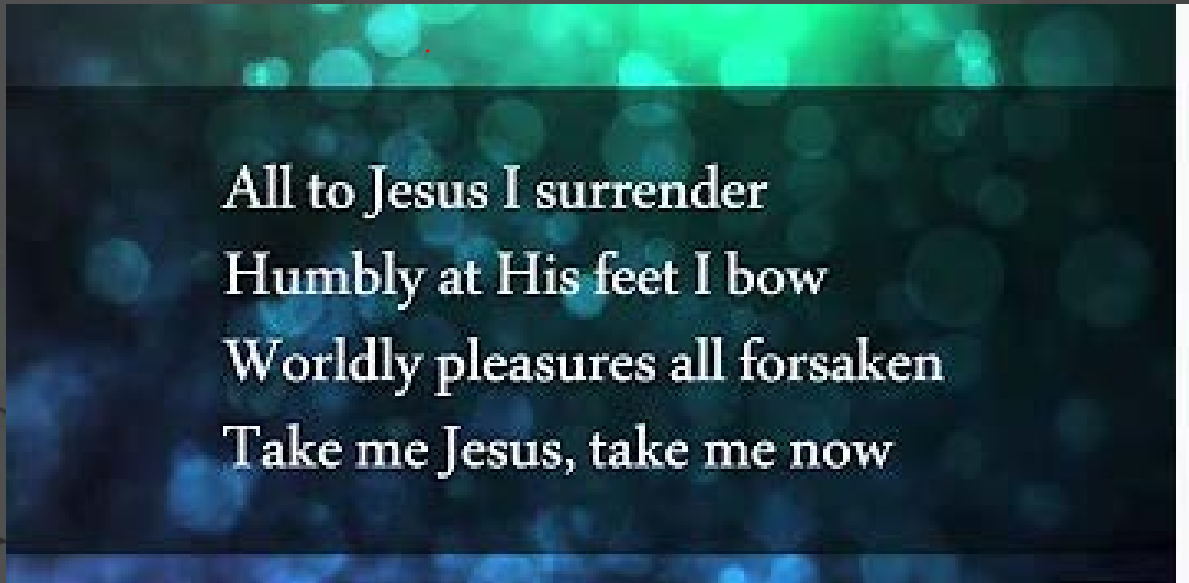
Journal, Think about, or discuss with your group how you have encountered God in your life this week.

Real Talk: This is a time to be authentic, with yourself and others. Share how you're doing with God personally and pray for one another.

Worship Song:

Click in this area for a hyperlink to Youtube or search for:

I Surrender All - Jadon Lavik



All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken
Take me Jesus, take me now

Sermon Summary:

In the book of Acts, we see the church spread throughout the world. The Holy Spirit comes upon the believers and not only changes their lives, but the lives of people around them. The way of Jesus is attractive to many, but dangerous to some, leading to the martyring of many Christians. The power of Gospel changes Saul's life so much that he must also change his name. More and more Gentiles begin converting to Christianity, leading to questions and conflict in the nascent church. Despite all the world's work against the Gospel, it continues to spread -- even spreading to us, thousands of miles and thousands of years removed from the book of Acts.

In Acts 1:8, before being taken up to heaven, Jesus tells His disciples that they will be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and all the world. We know from the last few weeks that the early church spread the Gospel both explicitly, by actually telling people about Jesus, and implicitly, by letting the Holy Spirit change the way they related to each other and the world around them. Jesus' commission to His disciples extends to us today: to be His witnesses through all the world. The work of the early church has been passed down to us, here and now. Over the next few sermon series, we will learn more about the early church and look to them for guidance on how to live out our calling as disciples: to share the Gospel of Jesus.

Read: Acts 1: 1-11

What stands out to you?

Discuss:

Did anything catch your attention that hasn't before?

What do we know about the books of Acts going into this new series?

What Bible translation do you own/read from? Why?

Did you not "like" any portions? Why?

What themes do we see throughout the books of Acts?

What is your personal and our corporate heart pull reading Acts?

Memory Verse:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." *Acts 1: 8*

Prayer:

Dear God,

How fortunate we are that you have provided an instruction manual for living our lives. How grateful I am that you have blessed my church with leadership that bases their teaching on scripture because we know all scripture is inspired by you, Father, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Please open my eyes to your wisdom as I learn about the early church and help me to utilize their example in living my own life, faithful to your will. As Psalm 119:8 says, "Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instruction."

In Your Holy Name,
Amen