

Treasure Hunt

“Be the Church – Part 2”

Acts 2:42-47 – February 5, 2017

Our Series Together

TREASURE HUNT		
<i>A 40-Day Holy Spirit Experiment from Acts 2</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Jan 8	Description of the Treasure: Who is the Holy Spirit?	Acts 1-2
Jan 15	Treasure Hunting: How to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit – Part 1	Acts 2:1-13
Jan 22	Treasure Hunting: How to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit – Part 2	Acts 2:14-41
Jan 29	Treasure Hunters: Be the Church – Part 1	Acts 2:42-47
Feb 5	Treasure Hunters: Be the Church – Part 2	Acts 2:42-47
Feb 12	Treasure Hunting Stories: Testimony Sunday	Open mic

The 40 Day Holy Spirit Experiment – For the first 40 days of 2017, I'm going to wake up each day and pray this prayer:

Holy Spirit, please fill me today. Sit in the driver's seat of my life. Direct, control, and empower my life. Prompt me, and I will obey.

Preparing For Next Week's Testimony Sunday

- Regardless of whether you share on a microphone or not, let's all post a “My Next Step” footprint on the Discipleship Journey map in the lobby.
- Your Holy Spirit story does not have to be grand and over-the-top. We just want to hear your story. What happened?
- Please consider sharing your story on the mic. As you do, please follow the ABC's of microphone sharing:
 - A – **Audible**: Speak clearly so we can understand.
 - B – **Brief**: Keep it to 60 seconds or less so others can share.
 - C – **Christ-centered**: What did God do?
 - D – **Don't sell anything**: This is a time for testimonies not promoting.

Four Practices of the Very First Believers That Inform Our Next Step (Acts 2:42-47)

1. Devotion to the Word of God (v.42)

2. Devotion to fellowship (vv.42-47)

3. Devotion to prayer (v.42)

- “devoted” = *proskartereo* = to be earnest towards; to be constantly diligent; to remain faithful to; to persevere
- Verse 42 says they were devoted to “the prayers”
- What are “THE prayers”? A survey of Acts shows at least 3 types of prayers they were devoted to:
 - (1) Regular corporate prayer times at the temple (2:46; 3:1)
 - (2) Praying with their Home Group (2:46; 12:12)
 - (3) Praying alone (10:9)
- Why do this? Why devote yourself to prayer?
 - (1) Because relationships are based on **time together** spent listening and talking to one another. So it is with our relationship with God (Psalm 46:10).
 - (2) Because we need to ask; we need help from God (Philippians 4:6-7).
 - (3) Because it is a strategic investment of your time and life. God can accomplish more in 60 seconds in response to your prayers than you can ever accomplish in 60 years of self-effort (John 14:12-14).
 - (4) Because it is a way to **partner with God**. God can do things without us, but He has chosen to partner with us, and He awaits to act until we pray (2 Corinthians 6:1; Matthew 7:7-8; 9:37).
 - (5) Because other people need us to pray for them (Colossians 4:2-4).
 - (6) Because God is worthy! (Revelation 4:11; 5:9,12).
- Video: “Live in Me” [2:03] found at SkitGuys.com
- Application #1 – What does it look like for you to devote yourself to the prayers? Some habits in Jim's life to help generate ideas for your prayer life:
 - I pray first thing when I wake up.
 - I have a daily quiet time in the morning where I listen to God in His Word and share my heart and needs with Him in prayer and pray for others and for world evangelization.
 - I send up popcorn prayers throughout my day as short dialogues with my Father.
 - I stop at 4:00 p.m. every day when my watch alarm goes off in order to pause to be with Jesus and to pray for my bride and His Bride.
 - I pray with my family every night around dinner time.
 - I pray over my son every morning as he leaves for school.
 - I pray with the Grace Fellowship staff family every Monday at 11:30 a.m.
 - I pray with Katy area pastors every Wednesday at Noon.

- I pray with our Home Group every Wednesday night.
 - I stop and pray with any person any time I hear a need expressed.
 - I pray every time that I am tempted: "Help me, Lord"
 - I try to pray frequently during meetings.
 - I stop in the Prayer Room occasionally to pray during Audience of One.
 - I pray when I exercise.
- Video: "Deidox | Ludmilla" [5:05] found at sermons spice.com
 - Application #2 – A simple (yet vulnerable) prayer exercise with Matthew 20:32.

What do you want Me to do for you?

- Application #3 – An important identity statement for Grace Fellowship from Matthew 21:12:-14. Why does our local church exist?
 - It is the vision of Grace Fellowship to be a house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7).
 - Grace Fellowship makes disciples whose hearts burn to be like Jesus (House), love God (Prayer), and love others (Nations).
- Application #4 – Let's move from high school to college together in the School of Prayer by taking a course on "Spiritual Warfare."

SPIRITUAL WARFARE		
A 6-Week Sermon Series on the Fight of Your Life		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Feb. 19	Our Ultimate Battle is a Spiritual One	Ephesians 6:10-12
Feb. 26	The Weapons of Our Warfare	Ephesians 6:13-20
Mar. 5	How to Fight Your Spiritual Battle	1 Peter 5:5-11
Mar. 12	How to Fight for Your Family, Church, & Nation	2 Chronicles 32
Mar. 19	The 7 Steps to Freedom in Christ	2 Corinth 10:3-5
Mar. 26	All Worship Sunday	

4. Devotion to **sharing the Good News** (v.47)

- John Stott: "Just as their worship was daily (v.46), so was their witness. Praise and proclamation were both the natural overflow of hearts full of the Holy Spirit. The early church was engaged in continuous evangelism. No self-centered, self-contained church (absorbed in its own parochial affairs) can claim to be filled with the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a missionary Spirit. So a Spirit-filled church is a missionary church."
- Jim's Next Step: Cultivate relationships with unchurched, unsaved people and share my faith. #1 strategy = prayer.
- Application #5 – What is your next step?
 - **Where am I on my discipleship journey?** Am I...
 - Exploring Christ:** "I believe in God, but I am not sure about Christ. My faith is not a significant part of my life."
 - Growing in Christ:** "I believe in Jesus, and I am working on what it means to get to know Him."
 - Close to Christ:** "I feel really close to Christ and depend on Him daily for guidance."
 - Christ-centered:** "My relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship in my life. It guides everything I do."
 - **What is my next step on my discipleship journey?** As God's Spirit shows you, we invite you to take a Post-it, Foot-shaped Step Paper and write your next step and post it on the massive Discipleship Journey Board in the lobby of the worship center.

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY



Exploring Christ Growing in Christ Close to Christ Christ-centered

NEXT STEP IDEAS ON MY DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY		
Take Alpha	Quiet Time Journaling	Quiet Time Journaling
Come to church regularly	Try a small group (Community Step)	Go on a mission trip
Take Starting Steps (take First Step)	Begin serving (Serving Step)	Faithful in serving
Begin praying daily	Go on mission trip	Take Perspectives
Receive Christ	Take EHS	Be an apprentice
Get baptized	Faithful in church	Be a leader
Love spouse better	Share my faith	Give my life away