



the discipleship

journey

FROM INVITATION TO IMPACT

The Key

Date: March 10, 2024

Text: Acts 17:6; Acts 4:13; John 5:19; Luke 11:1-13

Big Idea:

Today we jump ahead in the story for a moment. Post Easter. Post Pentecost. Peter and the other followers of Jesus who struggled so much with consistency are now “turning the world upside down” because “they had been with Jesus.” Peter who walked on water and sank because of doubt, Peter who proclaimed Jesus as Messiah who also said no you can’t go to the cross -this same person along with the other followers of Jesus are now turning the world upside down. How? Why? One of the primary things that Jesus modeled for them while He was with them was connection to His Father. “I do nothing that I don’t see my Father doing.” As the disciples watched Jesus pray, they began to realize it was the key to His impact. They asked Jesus to teach them how to pray- this was the only thing they asked Jesus to teach them. Teach us to pray. Prayer is the key to Kingdom impact for the disciple.

Opening Questions:

1. What does it mean to “turn the world upside down?”

Notes on the Passage:

(Acts 17:6) Acts covers the beginning of the Church after the ascension of Christ. Throughout this book, we see the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as the world radically changes through the spreading of the Good News. In this passage, men have come to accuse those who have been preaching the Gospel and, in an attempt to insult them, give them the best compliment. “These men have turned the world upside down.” God’s Word has come that everything might be different- the world we know is now upside down and His Kingdom has come.

1. What are some ways that the Gospel has turned your world “upside down?”

(Acts 4:13) While Peter and John had not received the formal training of the religious leaders, they had something far more important. They knew the Scriptures and they intimately knew Jesus; because of this, they were bold. Their witness was not contingent on formal training, knowledge, or performance but on their abiding relationship with and love for Jesus.

1. Why do you think love/relationship is more important than mere knowledge?
2. How does walking with Jesus closely make us “bold?”

(John 5:19) Here, Jesus Himself explains to religious leaders how He is able to do anything that He does- He follows His Father. We have seen in past passages that we can do nothing apart from a relationship with Jesus, and Jesus Himself testifies that He can do nothing apart from God. Are we any different from our Savior? If Jesus Himself was reliant on a relationship with God, how can we do any different?

1. What does it mean that Jesus followed the lead of His Father? How did Jesus consistently model surrender to God’s will?



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(Luke 11:1-13) Finally, we arrive at the key to this relationship we have been talking about; the key to effective witness, boldness, and life. How do we have an abiding relationship with God? Prayer. Jesus modeled continually throughout His life that prayer was vital and it is the only thing the disciples ever asked Him to teach them. They watched Him pray and realized this was the key to Who He was- prayer. Jesus modeled for them how to pray and instructed them to pray with boldness, persistence, and childlike faith.

1. Why is prayer so vital to the Christian walk?
2. Do you struggle to pray? Why or why not?

Going Deeper:

1. Jesus begins His model for prayer, the Lord's prayer, with reverence and awe of the Father. Why is it important that we approach God with worship?
2. What are some practical ways you can begin to implement prayer in your life?
3. We are told to "pray without ceasing." What does that mean? How is that practical?

Additional Resources:

[Billy Graham Daily Devotion: Prayer Is a Conversation](#)- Devotion.
How to Hear God: A Simple Guide for Normal People- Pete Greig
[Bing Videos](#)- Sermon

Group Activity:

Our faith is fulfilled in community; yet praying in front of or with others is often the most uncomfortable action. Let's get out of our comfort zone and approach the feet of our Savior. As a group, pray with one another. Pair up and take turns praying for and over your friends. Then, as a group pray for each other.