

Westwood Baptist Church Grounded. Growing. Going.

Worship Guide for **January 6, 2019**

Sermon Notes

Great Power, Great Grace, A Great Church

Acts 4: 32-37

Consecutive Expository Preaching. That is the model and method we seek to follow here at Westwood for our preaching/teaching ministry. This means we preach chapter by chapter and verse by verse through books of the Bible on Sunday mornings, allowing the text to dictate the direction of our teaching, and allowing the primary focus of the passage be the primary focus of the sermon. Christopher Ash says preaching this way “gives God the microphone”.

I mention this because I believe God has providentially chosen today’s passage in Acts as our starting point for 2019. Any preacher looking for a sermon text for the first message of the New Year would be hard pressed to find a better passage than where we find ourselves today in our study of Acts.

The Book of Acts records for us the birth and growth of the early church. Much of Luke’s focus in Acts is on the expansion of the church; how Spirit-filled believers take the gospel into the world. But today we see the gospel at work *inside* the church. Through the writing of Luke, God gives us an in-depth look into the heart and soul of this Spirit-filled church. *Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul* (Acts 4:32). What we see is unity. This Spirit-filled fellowship - this gospel unity - is the focus of our passage.

Westwood, today God shows us what will happen when we are a church bound together and unified through:

Shared Belief:

The gospel received and believed binds believers together in unity (Acts 4:32a)

Changed Perspective:

The gospel message changes our perspective on possessions and people (Acts 4:32b)

Resurrection Power:

The gospel empowers us to boldly declare and display the message of grace (Acts 4:33)

Great Generosity:

The gospel of grace creates people who are sensitive to the needs of others and generous to meet those needs. (Acts 4:34-35)

Life Group Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

What is the difference between Christian unity and other forms of unity?

How is the concept of grace tied to all the elements we see in this passage (unity, generosity, selflessness, etc)?

What are some of the things that this passage compels your heart to do? How are you compelled to respond?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor

Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor

Jim Fulp: Counseling Pastor

Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
& Discipleship

Katie Austin: Children's Ministry
Coordinator

Contact Us

336.599.1982

westwoodroxboro@gmail.com

www.westwoodfamily.org

Upcoming Events

January 7 - American Heritage Girls Kick-off

January 9 - LifeGroup Kick-off & Soup Challenge

January 13 - Family Roundtable & Supper

February 9 - Sportsman's Banquet

April 6 - One Day with God