

CHURCH ON THE MOVE

Acts 17:22-34

BIG IDEA

Our theology, processed through the Word, Spirit, and people of God provides us the discernment through which we determine how to live our daily lives.

INTRO TO THE FAMILY GUIDE

Thank you for opening this guide. We are glad that you've decided to *continue the conversation*. Below you will find discussion questions geared toward adults and families. Whatever unit you are in, we would love for you to interact with each other and dig deeper into what we learned today. If you are alone, feel free to pick up the phone to call, text, or digitally interact with a friend on these questions.

The age-based questions for families cover 4 different stages of life—preschoolers, elementary students, middle schoolers, and teens. Parents, it's always awesome to model vulnerability with your children, so, even though each section does not specifically invite parents to share please do so.

SUMMARY FOR THIS WEEK

We have to apply discernment to our daily lives. Each day we get up and make choices. How does theology impact this and how do we make our theology active in our life? Do we just hear it and do it? It's not that easy. We acknowledge God's ways are true but don't do them. Why? What's going on? Well there is a step in between, namely, our imagination.

Our imagination has to embrace truth. Until a truth is embraced in our imagination we don't believe it and it doesn't reach the level of changing our behavior. As adults something has to rattle us in order to open the door to our imagination and this occurs through two doors: **fear and hunger** (think desires). We have our hungers and fears that we need to discern. We also need to tune in to others' fears and hungers so we can discern how to build redemptive relationships and share the gospel with them. So, in our current pandemic situation people are very scared and hungry. Both of these open up people's hearts to Christ.

Next, we have to think about the fear and hunger of those around us. Take some time to reflect with a friend or family member on your neighbors, friends and coworkers. Think about what they are facing. Take some time to pray for them and ask God if there is a step you can take to enter their fear or hunger in a loving way.

My theology tells me about death. Even if we get beyond this virus we will die of something. We need a deeper hope than getting past the virus. Reflect on this quote: "Death silencing the noise of affluence." Consider what God is inviting you into with Him in regard to some of the fears you have had to face recently.

PRESCHOOL

1. What is something that scares you? What do you do when you feel scared?
2. Right now, a lot of people are scared. Thankfully, God tells us that we do not need to be afraid because He is with us. God wants us to have discernment. Discernment means making wise choices based on God's truth. The next time you feel afraid, how can you use discernment (a decision based on God's truth) to help you focus on trusting God's plan? (You can remember that God promises He is always with us, you can pray and ask God to remind you of His truth, you can make a choice based on trust not fear, etc.)

ELEMENTARY

1. Do you feel scared when you think about the virus and all the changes to our normal lives that have happened recently? Why or why not? What has been the hardest thing for you to understand about this virus?
2. Right now, a lot of people are scared. Thankfully, God tells us that we do not need to be afraid because He is with us. God wants us to have discernment. Discernment means making wise choices based on God's truth. The next time you feel afraid, how can you use discernment (a decision based on God's truth) to help you focus on trusting God's plan? (You can remember that God promises He is always with us, you can pray and ask God to remind you of His truth, you can make a choice based on trust not fear, etc.)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. During the events of this pandemic, discuss which decision has been hardest for you to discern: whether to wear a mask or not, whether to hang out with friends, deciding how much news to watch or something else? What made it tough to discern what to choose?
2. Much that is happening in us and around us is driven by fear. What are some fears you have faced during this time? Remember, God sees and knows our fears. No matter how big our fears are He still promises that he is bigger. God wants us to

have discernment. Discernment means making wise decisions based on God's truth. What are some ways you can use discernment, instead of fear, to help you make decisions and trust God's plan during the unexpected situations you are facing right now?

HIGH SCHOOL

1. Much that is happening in us and around us is driven by fear. There is fear of sickness, fear of losing our constitutional rights, economic fears, and the dominant fear of death. Share with the group specific fears you and your family have faced. Share what has helped you in this battle and/or take some time to reflect on some verses that speak about trusting God and rejecting fear. He wants to engage with us in our fears.
2. Next, we can think about the fear and hunger of those around us. Take some time to reflect with your family or a friend on your neighbors, friends and coworkers and think about what they are facing. Take some time to pray for them and ask God if there is a step you can take to enter their fear or hunger in a loving way.

Adults

1. Much that is happening in us and around us is driven by fear. There is fear of sickness, fear of losing our constitutional rights, economic fears, and the dominant fear of death. Share a couple specific fears you have faced. Share what has helped you in this battle and/or take some time to reflect on some verses that speak about trusting God and rejecting fear. He wants to engage with us in our fears.
2. Next, we have to think about the fear and hunger of those around us. Take some time to reflect on your neighbors, friends and coworkers and think about what they are facing. Take some time to pray for them and ask God if there is a step you can take to enter their fear or hunger in a loving way.