

Transition:

As Paul travels, making disciples and planting churches, he runs into disciples of John the Baptist. Some of them are so far from the events in Jerusalem, that they do not know the events of the crucifixion and resurrection. In one of our greatest examples, Paul is able to minister and evangelize to all types of men: Jews, Gentiles, Leaders, Officials, Caesar's household and even leading philosophers. Though these disciples are not pagans, they lack something very important.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did the disciples know that they did not receive the Holy Spirit when they believed? (Acts 2)
2. What is the significance of laying hands on someone? (Ex 29:10; Matt 19:13; Acts 8:19)

Fundamental:

Spiritual Gifts – From the Scriptures we learn that God has given gifts to the Church through the Holy Spirit for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ. In 1 Cor 12, these gifts include: words of wisdom, words of knowledge, gifts of faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, gifts of prophecy, gift of discerning spirits, gift of tongues and the interpretation of tongues. In Romans 12, these gifts include: exhortation, giving, serving, prophecy, leading, mercy and teaching. In Eph 4, these gifts include: apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers.

1. Acts 19:6 mentions the disciples speaking in tongues, but there was no interpretation. How is this gift different from the gift mentioned in 1 Cor 12:10?
2. Is each believer promised one gift? Can you have more than one? (1 Pet 4:10-11)
3. Are different gifts given for certain circumstances? Some scholars have divided the spiritual gifts into MINISTRY (Eph 4), MANIFESTATION (1 Cor 12) and MOTIVATIONAL (Rom 12). Are some gifts for inside the church only? Outside the church only?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Search the Scriptures and ask the Spirit what He has gifted you with for the building up of the Body. Confirm it by asking your small group leader what he/she sees in you.
2. Please read Acts 19 again in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

You may run across an issue of people desiring more “public” gifts like teaching or evangelism and minimizing the necessity of helping, giving and mercy. Help them see that it is the Holy Spirit that administers gifts as He sees fit. It is Christ that will build His church and take care of it.

Prayer:

Pray that your people will have a desire to see the church function as Christ has designed it – not as they think it should be. May they not be afraid of manifestations of the Spirit, but welcome the edification and the testimony of God's faithfulness to His people.

Extras:

Spiritual Vocations by Winkie Pratney