

Out of the Shadows

Lent 2022 Small Group Study

- d. How did the verses from Isaiah describe Jesus' ministry?

- e. Like Jesus stepped out of the shadows when he began his ministry, how have you stepped out to minister to others? Share with your small group about the experience.

Prayer Exercise: Like Jesus stepped out of the shadows when he began his ministry, how have you stepped out to minister to others? Share with your small group about the experience.

Day 2: Isaiah 61:1-6

- a. What special missions are assigned in this passage? Circle one or two that are most meaningful to you. Why are they so meaningful to you?

- b. Knowing that this was the passage Jesus read from in yesterday's scriptures, what message do you think Jesus was sharing with the people?

- c. How does this fit with the mission of our church?

- d. Reflecting on the list of things Jesus proclaims he will do, which part do you see yourself passionate about ministering in?

Prayer Exercise: Look at the list of Jesus' callings in this passage. With a grateful heart, thank Jesus for the areas in which you have seen him working in your life.

Day 3: Acts 26:12-18

NOTE: Saul was later referred to as Paul. References to both Paul and Saul in the New Testament refer to the same person

- a. Have you ever turned on a light when you've been in the dark? (or had someone turn the lights on unexpectedly on you?) What did it feel like? How did you respond?

- b. What was God's calling for Saul?

c. To whom was Saul sent?

d. Where might God be calling you to be a light? How has God prepared you to minister to them?

Prayer Exercise: Write out your testimony. Then ask God to give you an opportunity to share your testimony and that it be used to further his kingdom.

Day 4: Ephesians 4:1-13

a. When your family or friends gets together for a big dinner, who does the cooking? The cleaning? The desserts? The drinks?

b. How does Paul say Christians are to live as they strive for unity?

- f. How are you working to love the people you identified in Day 3 as the people you're called to? How do you see God evident as you work?

Prayer Exercise: Jesus now calls his disciples "friend." Consider how you are living into his definition of friend. Spend time in prayer seeking ways to better embody that word and follow Jesus' commands. Ask God to help you on your journey.

Revive the World:

This week, you've identified who you're called to work with and how you're called to work with them. This week, take concrete steps to engage in ministry with those people. If you don't know where to start, use the code or link below to get some ideas.

Scan the QR code below or type this URL: <https://cctxt.org/linktree>



- b. When the chains came loose, would you have fled Paul's situation if given the chance? Why do you think he stayed?

- c. What did Paul & Silas do while in Prison? When you are discouraged what song or kind of music do you listen to or sing?

- d. In addition to healing the woman, whose life did Paul also save? In what ways was this man saved?

- e. What actions of Paul and Silas do you admire most, and want in your life?

Prayer Exercise: What worship song/hymn would you have sung in prison if you were with Paul and Silas. Sing it to the Lord today in your prayer time while thanking Him for the freedom you have in Christ.

e. How has pride kept you from being ministered to? How has pride kept you from ministering to others?

f. Where do you feel like you are planting seeds in God's kingdom right now? Where are you harvesting the fruit of those seeds?

Prayer Exercise: Each of us has burdens to bear, and by this passage it is clear that we are not to carry those burdens alone. Spend time asking God whose burdens you can help with this week. Prayerfully begin to help others bear their burdens. Ask God who you should share your burdens with.

Day 4: John 9:35-41

NOTE: the man that was thrown out was a blind man who had recently been healed, see John 9:1-34 for the full story)

a. Why did Jesus say he had come into this world? Do you feel Christians should avoid the topic of judgment when introducing people to Jesus? Why or why not?

- b. What does it mean to fast? What should the goals of fasting be? (feel free to Google as needed.)

- c. What kind of fasting did the Lord say He desired? How would you express that in your own words?

- d. Describe the outcomes you may experience if you fast in a way to set the oppressed free?

- e. Reread verses 9-10. What things can you work on to do away with today? And what will you spend yourself on?

Prayer Exercise: Pray about what God might be calling you to fast to or fast from to help the cause of the poor and oppressed.

c. What do each of the four names given for Jesus in verse 6 mean to you?

d. How has Jesus brought you to peace in a time of darkness or fear?

e. Which verse in this passage brings you the most comfort?

Prayer Exercise: Sing your favorite Christmas carol during your prayer time and thank Jesus for willingly and humbly coming to earth to pay the penalty for our sins as was promised so long ago.

Day 3: John 3:1-17

a. What two things did Jesus say could not happen unless someone was born again?
(see v. 3, 5)

