



Oakwood

CHURCH

October 4 Discussion Questions

“The Unstoppable Word”

Acts 1:12-26

Preview

“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas.” Acts 1:16

When you feel Betrayed and Discouraged, remember:

1. **Evil does not Surprise God** (Acts 1:16; John 17:12)
2. **God promises to Punish all who do evil** (Acts 1:18-19; Ps. 69:23,27-28; Ps. 109:6-8,14,18-19)

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” John 3:36

3. **God has a plan to Restore all things in the end** (Acts 1:13,22,25-26; Rev. 21:10-14)

“As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 2:4-5

Connect

1. What past vacation was your favorite? Why?
2. Has a past vacation not gone as you planned? Why was that the case?

This evening we will discuss the tension of great plans with the reality of evil and hardship. We will look at the tragedy of Judas' murderous plot alongside Jesus' triumph over evil. Use this Bible passage and your discussion to unpack God's sovereign use of evil and His glorious plan to restore all things in the end.

Read Acts 1:12-26

Discuss

3. According to v.16, why was it necessary for Judas to carry out his murderous plan? What do we learn about God's relation to evil?
4. If God is not surprised by evil, can He be the author of evil? Work as a group to understand what you know from Scripture about God's sovereignty and human responsibility in sin. Fight for a biblical view, but don't waste time fighting with each other!
5. How is it that a believer can not only endure through hardships but rejoice in hardships? Can you recall a time when the joy of the Good News swept over the grief of bad news? Share with the group.
6. What resulted for Judas for loving evil more than loving God? In what ways were Peter and Judas similar? In what ways are their legacies different? Why is this the case?
7. In what way is betrayal an especially difficult pain to bear?
8. What is your reaction to imprecatory psalms like Psalm 69? (Note: An imprecatory psalm is one in which the author directly calls for God's justice to be displayed in the slaughtering of the wicked.)
9. Why was it important that Judas be replaced by another man among the apostles? What does this teach us about God's heart for restoration from evil?

Apply

10. What discouragement, minor or major, are you experiencing right now? How can this discussion bring healing and encouragement?
11. In what way(s) have you experienced the goodness of God in hardship or after hardship? Use your story to encourage the group.

Pray

Church-Wide Prayer Focus, from the Prayer Team

Personal Prayer Focus: Pray we would give God's unstoppable Word more prominence in our lives and decisions.

Ministry Prayer Focus: Pray for wisdom in each ministry of the church to effectively pivot their strategy for fruitfulness in light of COVID-19.