

SESSION 3 - PRAY

Discuss

1. Why do we ask God for things in prayer?
2. What sorts of things should we ask him for when we pray?

Read Titus 3:3-8.

1. What does this passage tell us about the character and behaviour of people before they become Christians (v. 3)?
2. How have we been saved from this way of life and its consequences (vv. 4-7)?
3. What do we contribute to our salvation?
4. What motivates God to save people?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-9.

5. How does Paul describe himself and all those who speak the gospel message to people?
6. How does this work done by Paul and others result in growth (vv. 6-7)?

Video 1: Pray that God would rescue people

Read Acts 4:8-31.

1. What instruction had the rulers, elders and scribes given to Peter and John (v. 18)?
2. As the believers prayed about the situation, they remembered Psalm 2 and what happened to Jesus (vv. 25-28). Why do you think this came to their minds?
3. What did Peter, John and the other disciples ask for in this prayer (vv. 29-30)?
4. What happened after they prayed (v. 31)?
5. Even apostles need to pray for boldness. How is that an encouragement to you? How should it shape your own prayers?

6. What do you think is the connection between prayer, the Holy Spirit and speaking the gospel message (v. 31)? (See also Acts 5:29-32, 9:31.)

Video 2: Pray for boldness and opportunities to speak

Discuss

“So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth... We are God’s fellow workers...” (1Cor 3:7, 9).

1. How are these verses an encouragement when we feel inadequate to talk to people about Jesus?
2. How do these verses help when we lose confidence that talking to someone about Jesus will make any difference?
3. How do these verses make us feel both very important and very unimportant in spreading the gospel?

To conclude

1. Pray together as a group. Thank God that he is saving people and building his church. Pray for opportunities to speak to others about Jesus (mention some people by name, if you wish). Ask God to make you bold and wise when those opportunities come.
2. Divide into pairs (with a different person again). This time, rather than focusing on how you became a Christian, try to explain (in a minute or two, no more) what it means to you to be a Christian today. What difference does it make in your life? How has it changed your life?