



Pastor Paul Gilbert :: May 5, 2013

ICEBREAKER: Have people in the group talk about a time when they had a big job or task to do and were too tired to do it. What happened? Why were they tempted to “settle in”? What was the end result?

Introduction: In our third message of this series, we are talking about how we are called to GO as a Christian community. Acts 15-16 gives us a vision of a Christian community on the move, strategizing, and leveraging life and resources for the gospel.

1. God is Absolutely In Control Over the Building of His Church and the Spread of the Gospel

Discussion:

- a. In what ways was God “in the middle” of the conflict between Paul and Barnabas? What happened as a result of this conflict?
- b. How have you seen either in your life or the church’s life of God giving guidance through the closing of certain doors?

2. We are Absolutely Called to Plan, Strategize, and Organize for the Mission

Discussion:

- a. What type of planner was Paul? How did God work through Paul’s planning to guide and direct his missionary efforts?
- b. Pastor Paul talked a lot about being strategic for the gospel on both the city and local campus level. Which aspect of this vision excites you? Which aspect do you think could prove a challenge?

3. The Church Has a Local Priority but an Apostolic Responsibility

Discussion:

- a. In what ways did the local church in Acts have a broader responsibility to the spread of the gospel in other areas?

- b. How do you feel about Four Oaks' broader responsibility to bring the gospel to surrounding areas, regions, and nations?

4. Personal Evangelism and Personal Conversions Are Normative and Imperative in the Christian Life

Discussion:

- a. While strategy and vision are exciting to talk about, where does gospel energy and vision have to originate?
- b. In what ways can you grow in being strategic about your personal evangelism and relationships?