

Weekly Study

S T A R T

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

Are you an early bird or a night owl?

S H A R E

Welcome to Group! This week, Doug, Ethan and Ryan preached a stand-alone sermon called, “Back at One” But before we jump in, take some time to check in with your Group by answering the following questions.

Rate your week on a scale of 1 to 10. Why did you pick that number?

What was the highlight of your week? What was the most challenging part of your week?

What was the most inspirational conversation you had this week?

If this is one of your first times meeting, we want to give you all a chance to get to know each other a little more by sharing your life story. Although this can be a scary thing, it is one of the most fruitful things your group can do. Pick two or three people from your group this week and have them answer the following questions.

- 1. Tell me about your upbringing. What are a few of the significant life events that shaped and molded you?**
- 2. Have you ever had a moment where you realized God is real and loves you? If so, tell us about it.**
- 3. How have you changed in the last five years?**

4. Describe yourself in five words and explain why you picked each one.

5. Who is God to you?

Every person has a unique journey they have been on that has led them to this point. Taking the time to share your story is a fantastic exercise for you and for everyone listening!

G R O W

Read Matthew 28:16-20.

What about the Great Commission catches your personal attention?

Reflect on Jesus' command to go and make disciples. What do you think holds you back from boldly obeying this command?

Jesus says in this passage that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to him, and from that place He has given us the authority needed to fulfill the great commission. At Red Rocks Church, our passion and vision is for this commission - or as we say around here, to make heaven more crowded and earth more whole.

In 2022, there are all kinds of factors that come against our confidence as we fulfill this calling - two being apathy and fear. It is easy to let our souls be lulled to sleep by staying in our comfort zones - and let's face it, we've been seeking some comfort and a sense of normalcy over the last two years! But what if this year is the year to step out of your comfort zone, fight back against apathy and fear and establish a new normal in our lives... one of Holy Spirit-empowered boldness, faith to see prodigals come home and people you know come to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior? As we engage in sharing the gospel with people, our souls will begin to wake up again and remember that living in a state of apathy is settling compared to the abundant life that Jesus promises (John 10:10). Remember that you know more than you think you do when it comes to Jesus and sharing the gospel, and where you lack the Holy Spirit will empower you.

What is the importance of the last verse of this passage?

Shaking off fear and apathy as you follow God will lead you out of your comfort zone and into the unknowns. What has God been calling you to and/or out of?

M O V E

Read Acts 4:23-31.

Now read the following passages and discuss these questions:

Read Luke 24:13-21. What do you notice about the posture of the disciples after Jesus' crucifixion?

Reflect on the difference between these passages. What changed to inspire in them the boldness and confidence in their words and actions that we see in chapter 4 (hint: read Acts 2:1-8; 13-21!) ?

After Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension into Heaven, the disciples take Jesus' charge to make disciples of all nations and start taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. The book of Acts tells the stories of the things they encounter along the way, including the disciples receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. As they pursued the calling that Jesus had invited them to be a part of, they experienced persecution and opposition along the way. In this chapter, Peter and John are arrested and upon their release, instead of praying for deliverance from the threats and persecution, they ask God for more boldness to continue fulfilling their calling.

In the face of hardship and trials, do you feel inclined to pray for a fresh measure of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to continue pressing forward in your calling? It is often said that prayer changes things. This can be true, but not only does prayer change situations and

things, but it changes our perspective on those situations. Prayer is an awesome gift given to us, and when we pray sincerely, it is powerful and effective.

What is one step of boldness you feel God calling you to take this week?

What is one dream you have about what God could do on the other side of your boldness?

Take-Home Assignment:

Make a list of people who you know don't know Jesus and commit to pray for them. What is one step of boldness you can take in your interactions with them?

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**
- 4.**
- 5.**

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.