

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 15TH - 16TH, 2022 // VISION SERVICE

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES...(ACTS 1:6-9)

The Bible never gives the exact ages of the apostles of Christ, but it's likely that they were all somewhere between the ages of 13 and 30 (John was probably the youngest, and Peter was probably the oldest).

- For three years, they'd spent their lives following Jesus and learning from Him.
- They'd witnessed the horror of His arrest, trial, and crucifixion and the miracle of the resurrection.

And now these 11 young men ask Jesus a very understandable question, "now what?" (vs. 6).

- They had most likely spent years thinking that if Jesus was the Messiah, surely after the resurrection, He would defeat Rome, prove to all of Israel that He was King, and then set up His kingdom.
- But God works on His own schedule and agenda, not ours (vs. 7).

Jesus' vision for these 11 young (most likely a bit nervous) men was for them to receive power that wasn't their own from the Holy Spirit.

- And with that power, they were to be "witnesses" of all they'd seen Jesus do to their city, region, and to the "end of the earth" (vs. 8).
- With that, Jesus ascended into heaven (vs. 9).
- Imagine what that must have felt like! This was a huge, massive responsibility.

God's heart is for **all people** to hear the good news of Jesus - not just a select few.

- God's heart is also for His people to have His heart and to share in His mission, passion, and message on earth.
- So, Jesus left **us** as His disciples with the commission of being a witness and spreading the Gospel to all people until He comes again.
- This gives all of us a role to play in the story of God.

A SIMPLE VISION...

- The Experience Community creates **authentic disciples of Jesus Christ** through **Authentic Worship, Authentic Community, and Authentic Community Service.**

WHERE ARE WE GOING IN 2022?

IN OUR COMMUNITY...

We're called in 2022 to be salt, light (Matt. 5:13-16), and the fragrance of Christ (2 Cor. 2:15-17) to those in Cannon County.

- A life-giving church that serves and loves radically.
- A disciple-making church that empowers and equips faithfully.
- A place of prayer, worship, and community.
- If you want to join us in that pursuit, attend faithfully, serve sacrificially, and give generously.

WORSHIP

Corporate worship is an entry point in community and the process of discipleship (Acts 2:46a, Hebrew 10:25).

- We strive to create an engaging and welcoming environment that is authentic and points people to life in Christ.
- We sing, pray, study the Bible, and take communion together every weekend.
- We also baptize new followers of Jesus at our weekend services.

NEXT CLASS

Corporate worship is an entry point to church community - it's not the final destination.

- Next class happens on the 2nd Monday of every month to help people find their next step in discipleship in our church family.
- We share the story of the church, go over our doctrinal stances, and help you take your next step in discipleship.

DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

We offer classes to help you understand how to walk with Jesus in your everyday life (Acts 19:9).

- **Following Jesus** - the foundations of the Christian faith and how to be a disciple (Jan. 26).
- **Authentic Discipleship** - how to make disciples and live out the great commission (concepts, identity, and practices of a disciple-maker) (Jan. 25).
- **Financial Peace University** - how to steward finances in a Biblical way (Jan. 24).

COMMUNITY (LIFE GROUPS)

We all need a community of believers to fellowship with, pray together, study the Bible together, and hold each other accountable (Acts 2:46b).

- Life Groups meet throughout the week, but Life Group Central (6:30pm on Wednesday) is a great place to start!
- Our student ministry teams (ECCO & Encounter) also create relational environments for community & discipleship to happen.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

A genuine commitment to Jesus is ultimately a commitment to serving others - He tells us time and time again the importance of serving (Mk. 9:35).

- **Serving in our church** - hospitality, ECCO/nursery, production, worship, security, care team.
- **Serving in our community** - 5,000 ministry, community service events, non-profit partners.
- Our biggest needs - ECCO/Nursery, Hospitality, Security, and Production

IN OUR REGION

ECC is a network of churches that has campuses in Murfreesboro, Cannon County, and Shelbyville.

- We believe God has called us to be a church that continues to plant churches in Middle Tennessee.
- We're looking to see where God may be moving in McMinnville, Smithville, Tullahoma, or Manchester and simply want to be obedient to any doors He may open. Pray with us and get

equipped! You may be sent.

We currently have 9 pastoral & ministry interns in our MIT program that are spending 2022 getting trained to be a part of current & future campus teams.

- In our network, we will have the Murfreesboro campus paid off by February (\$5 million in 4 years) and the Shelbyville campus paid off by the end of the year (that will free up \$2.4 million a year for church planting!).
- There are 95 counties in Tennessee - a lot of them don't have life-giving, disciple-making, Biblical churches. Think about all that God can do!

IN OUR WORLD

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" (Luke 12:48).

- As Americans, God has blessed us with freedom, affluence, and unfathomable resources.
- We minister globally by supporting, sending, and equipping missionaries to go into all the world.
- You can pray, give, and go!
- Tara Henson (**Uganda**), Shelby Hardison (**Light & Life Ministries, Haiti**), Toffer & Becky King (**Reach Beyond, East Asia**), Jake & Hannah Spier (**Thailand, Medical Missions**), Simeon's Cry (**Israel**), Redemption Church (**San Francisco, CA.**), Sequoia Campus Church (**Eugene, Oregon**).
- **Uganda Mission Trips** - July 22-31 & November 4-13

CHURCH FINANCES & NUMBERS

- Why talk about money & the numbers? **1 Cor. 4:2**
- We (staff, elders, leadership) are accountable to **you** for how we invest the money that you give - we want to provide **total** financial transparency.

ACROSS ALL EXPERINECE CAMPUSES

- 2021 Giving Totals - \$8.3 million, 2022 Budget - \$8.3 million
- Central Network - \$2,494,940, Murfreesboro - \$4,654,967, Cannon County - \$555,000, Shelbyville - \$349,981
- Overall staffing - 32% of total budget, Overall benevolence - 30% of total budget

CANNON COUNTY

- 2021 Giving Totals - \$556,962.00, Annual Budget for 2022 - \$555,000.00
- Administration - \$264,475.82 (all staff salaries, benefits, payroll taxes)
- Operations - \$79,813.18 (utilities, maintenance, technology, office equipment/supplies, etc.)
- Worship/Production - \$18,000.00 (equipment, supplies, audio/video hardware & software)
- Student Ministries - \$52,000.00 (childcare for LG's, curriculum/supplies for ECCO, supplies for nursery, supplies/events for Encounter)
- Development - \$13,500.00 (Life Group resources, hospitality supplies, security team, pastoral expenses).
- Special Events - \$16,100.00 (Fall festival, VBS, next class, Men's & Women's summits, volunteer banquet)
- Benevolence/Missions - \$111,111.00 (20%) (Stones River Recovery, S2L, Lion's Club, WeCareCannon, Child Advocacy center, S.A.V.E., Gideon's, Cannon County Food Bank, Church benevolence requests, Generations of Woodbury, Cannon County Rescue Squad, 5,000 ministry, CASA, Forgotten initiative).

ATTENDANCE (CHILDREN AND ADULTS)

- Last quarter of 2021 - 397 avg. a week in person (adults, children), avg. virtual via LiveStream.
- Total number in Life Groups - (97 adults, 32% involved in a Life Group, 40-50% is the goal)
- Total number of volunteers - (171 adults, 47% volunteering regularly, 50% is the goal)

1. WALK WITH JESUS

The only way that those "un schooled, ordinary men" had courage to speak truth and live radically is because they'd been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

- They knew His heart, power, character, and vision for their lives because they'd spent time with Him, and they'd listened to Him.
- Do you know Him? Are you walking with Him? Do you need to respond to Jesus and be born again? Do you need to be baptized? Discipled?

2. BE A WITNESS OF JESUS

Jesus wasn't asking His disciples to reinvent the wheel and produce a new program - He simply wanted them to tell people about what He'd done and what He could do.

- Jesus isn't asking you to invent some new complicated spiritual path - He simply wants you to tell people about who He is, what He's done for you, and what He can do for them!
- Do you need to learn how to share your faith? Do you need to serve? Do you need to disciple someone else?

3. RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER

God specializes in taking ordinary, unschooled, and unlikely people and filling them with His Holy Spirit.

- So, when God's work happens through them, He gets the credit - not the person.
- To be filled, we must be first be emptied - our season of fasting and prayer helps empty us of distractions and directs our hearts to Him, our true source of life.
- This is the year for many of us to get acquainted with God the Holy Spirit.

4. EMBRACE GOD'S VISION, AGENDA, AND VISION FOR YOUR LIFE

We so often want God to bless our program, agenda, vision, and schedule.

- But God has invited us to be a part of His! His vision for the Church (that you're a part of) is the hope of the world.
- Will you join that vision? Will you be a witness filled with His power? Will you be a disciple that makes disciples? Will you pray, serve, and be in community?