

Expectations

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Acts 5:12-16

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SETTING THE SCENE

- » What kind of expectations did you have about marriage before you actually got married (if you aren't married, what expectations did you have before starting your current job)? How did the real thing compare to your expectations? How did you handle any differences?
- » What kind of church do you want *Pinecrest* to be? What expectations do you think God has for *Pinecrest*? Are we meeting those expectations? What do we need to be doing in order to meet those expectations? What do you need to do to help meet His expectations?

THE STUDY

- » Share your overall thoughts and impressions from the sermon this morning. What things stand out to you? What did you learn? Where did God most challenge you? What questions do you still have about the passage or the sermon?
- » Read **ACTS 5:12-16** out loud as a group. What is your initial reaction to this story and how the events unfolded? What do we as a church need to learn from this passage? What specifically do you need to put into practice?
- » This morning, Ray taught us that **for a Church to be Vibrant, God Expects His People need to...**

1. Believe in Him for Miracles (Matthew 19:25-26)

What do you need God to do in your life right now? Have you asked Him for that thing? If not, why not?

Have your entire group stand up together and sing "I'm a Little Teapot" in unison. Share how that made you feel and how this song relates to the message this morning.

For the preceding instruction: Just kidding...seeing if you are paying attention. :0)

Who in your life are you praying for that needs Jesus? Who should you be praying for?

2. Foster a Sense of Community (Ephesians 4:15-16)

What did Ray say these believers that met together did when they got together in Solomon's Colonnade? Do you think we do this enough? How can we change that?

How can you as a group continue to foster a close sense of belonging and community? How can you help bring others (outside of your group) into your community?

Why do you think it's so hard to foster a true sense of community in our day and age?

3. Build a Great Reputation (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)

As a church, how do we sometimes try to please others instead of God? Why do you think that is?

How can you personally, and the church as a whole, build a better reputation in our community?

What kind of reputation do you have at work, at home, and in your neighborhood? How can you improve your reputation?

4. Mature Spiritually

What did Ray say was the key factor in the maturity of a church? How do you think Pinecrest measures up to that standard?

How do/did you feel about how people feel about Christians: "critical, exclusive, self-righteous, narrow, and repressive"? Do you think that's a fair representation? Why do you think the Christian community has this reputation? How do we go about starting to change it?

Who have you shared the Gospel with in the last 365 days (in one form or another)? Who and how do you plan on sharing Jesus with others in the coming months and year?

Where do you feel you most need to grow spiritually? How can you go about making that change with God's help?

APPLICATION

- » What one thing from this passage. This morning's sermon, and the group discussion has spoken to you? What is God asking you to do and/or change as a result? Write it down here (be as specific as possible):
- » As a group, brainstorm how you can foster a better sense of community with one another and with those that aren't in your group. Pick one or two of the best ideas you come up with and make a plan for putting them into action (realizing that over half of the adults in the church do not have this connection with a LifeGroup).
- » Where in your life do you need to trust God for a miracle? Share that with the group and spend some time praying over those needs (keep in mind they may be physical, emotional, or spiritual needs).
- » Share the name of one person God wants you to be praying for and sharing His Truth with in the coming weeks. Write down that name and share it with the group. Pray for one another to build a better reputation within our community and to grow the church by sharing God's love with those who truly need it.
- » Share any unanswered questions or comments you have as a result of the group discussion or sermon...

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- » Up next week: **ACTS 5:17-42**. Read this passage and share your initial thoughts on your first reading of the passage. What do you think are the key themes and/or ideas in this passage? What is the lesson that Luke is trying to convey?
- » Why were the religious leaders of the day so jealous of the apostles? How did they respond? How should they have responded? Do churches today get jealous of one another? How? How should we respond when we see other churches succeeding?
- » Discuss Gamaliel's response to the religious leaders wanting to kill the apostles. What was his main point in his speech to the group?
- » Read the passage several times this week and bring your thoughts and questions with you next Sunday...

CARING COMMUNITY

- » **SHARE** with the group how God has been speaking into your life or challenging you this past week (this may be as a result of the sermon or something in your personal journey). Is there anything from this week's LifeGroup discussion you need to work on?
- » Are there any **NEEDS** you have coming up in your life that the group can help you with (this may include spiritual needs, life needs, pretty much anything...)
- » **PRAY** for one another. Share your requests and praises with one another. Write them down here. If you commit to praying, please be sure you do it...