

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of January 25-29, 2016

Getting StartedGroup time - 10 minutes

1. As you think about the early church (first century, Book of Acts), which story of the circumstances surrounding the growth and spread of the gospel most stands out to you? Why? In what way was resistance or persecution part of the story? How was the “miraculous” part of the story?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's WordGroup time - 40 minutes

Read John 15:18-27 (In preparation to answer questions)

1. Jesus says that we did not choose Him but He chose us out of the world. (v. 19) What does that mean to you? In what ways has Jesus taken the world out of you? What are the results in our lives of being called out of the world by Jesus?

2. What reasons did Jesus give for the world's hatred of Himself and His disciples? (vv. 19-21) What consequences did Jesus say would come from the hatred of the world for His followers?
3. Jesus talked about three witnesses to His identity (vv. 26-27). Who are the three? How does the Holy Spirit testify about Jesus? How has the Holy Spirit testified to you about Jesus? What does it mean to 'witness' and how did Jesus connect this word with the gospel ministry?
4. In this passage what does Jesus call the Holy Spirit? (v. 26) Why did Jesus give the Spirit that title? What does it say about the Spirit's role as it relates to the mission of the disciples?
5. Those who followed Jesus in the first century church found themselves in a new situation as they faced great danger and amazing opportunities. What were some of the dangers they faced? What were some of the opportunities God put before them? Where do you encounter similar dangers and opportunities?