



Caring for our Community

The book of Acts shows us how the Frist Church fulfilled God purpose as a community of Believers. Jesus said every believer would be baptized, filled with the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit would enable each believer to live *the way* God intends us to *represent* Him and His Kingdom here on earth.

Acts 8:1-4 Saul’s mission...

Acts 9:1-2 Saul has a change of heart

Saul describing the Lord’s followers doesn’t mention any Christians

It wasn’t until Acts chapter 13 in the Church up in Antioch where Saul is one of their Elders that the term Christian was first used.

The name Christian means: [like Christ](#).

Before the term Christian was used to label a follower of Jesus – people would say: followers of ‘[the Way](#)’.

Why did people say that? Because the people who followed Jesus [lived like it!](#)

John 13:34-35

People who [love](#) one another, [care](#) for one another.

Acts 9:3-6

Acts 9:10-16 How an act of kindness changed the world...

Loving others like God wants [takes a risk](#).

Romans 13:8-10 the Believer’s debt

1 Corinthians 12:18-27

Every believer [is a part](#) of the Body and [has a part](#) in God’s plan

Do any of you know any one suffering out there?

+ **Heather Lewis testimony**

⇒ **Father make a difference [in me](#) and [through me](#) with Your love.**

Next Week: *Growing together to Go together*
Acts 5:42; Matthew 5:13-16

Power of Community- Caring for our Community

May's Memory Verse: *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.* John 13:35

Monday 5/15- Read Acts 9:1-19

Question: What risk did Ananias see in going to help Saul as Jesus had instructed?

Truth: *"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."* Vs. 13&14

Meditate: Acts 9:5 *"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.*

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. (Jesus is still being persecuted even after his death and resurrection.)

Prayer: Jesus, who do you want me to go to in your Name.

Action: Love is willing to take a risk.

What is God asking ME to do: _____

Tuesday 5/16- Read Acts 9:19-31

Question: *All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?"* Vs. 21

Truth: *Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.* Vs.

Meditate: Think about all the people who helped Saul in Chapter 9.

Prayer: Lord, tell me who you want me to help today.**Action:** *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.* John 13:35

Who will I love as myself today: _____

Wednesday 5/17- Read Romans 13:1-14

Challenge: *Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.* Vs. 7

Truth: *Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.* Vs. 8

Meditate: Romans 13:10- *Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

Prayer: Lord, clothe me in your love, mercy and grace, that I might walk as you did.

Action: *Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh*

What God is telling me _____

Thursday 5/18- Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Fact: *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.* Vs. 4

Truth: *There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.* Vs. 5 & 6

Meditate: 1 Corinthians 12:7- *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*

Prayer: Father God, whatever gift I receive from the Holy Spirit I will use it for your glory.

Action: Be empowered by the Holy Spirit to love one another.

What God is telling me _____

Friday 5/19- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Question: *If they were all one part, where would the body be?* v19

Truth: *Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.* Vs.12-14

Meditate: 1 Corinthians 12:26- *If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*

Prayer: *Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.* Psalm 143:10

Action: *Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.* Romans 12:13

Who will I bring to Jesus _____

Caring for One Another: Acts 17:16-33

May's Memory Verse: *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*” John 13:35

Fellowship and Praises-

Take 20-30 minutes and share what God has been doing in your life this last week.

Bible verse memorization: Share the memory verse one at a time before you start the Bible Study Exercise.

Bible Study Exercise: Read Acts 9:1-19

Saul thought he was doing God's work by trying to eliminate Jesus' disciples. How can we make sure we are TRULY doing God's work?

Ananias had to take a risk to go to Saul as the Lord instructed. Love takes a risk. What are you willing to risk to GO to your neighbors and get to know who their stories?

What can I do to demonstrate God's love to my neighbors?

Read Romans 13:8-10

How many other places in the bible can you find the command, *Love your neighbor as yourself?*

Love is willing to take a risk and it is not always easy or convenient to love your neighbors. How can I build loving my neighbors into a regular, normal or routine part of my life?

How can I use Gateway's Summer Action Groups to build relationships with my neighbors?

Prayer Time-

Going Deeper: Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-30

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 8

Real Application: Let God's love make a difference through me.