



## Adult Life Groups & Care Groups

Shively Baptist Church | Louisville, KY

### Life Group Leaders Handout For Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014

#### Planned Schedule:

- 0900-0910 – Meet & Greet in Life Groups
- 0910-0915 – Focus (TBD)
- 0915-0930 – Teaching Time (Life Group Leaders)
- 0930-1015 – Care Group Time (Care Group Leaders)



### God's Church on the Move

#### "The Unstoppable Church"

Acts 5:12-42

**Background:** Pastor Bill is going to be covering Acts 5:12-42. The narrative details: the many signs and wonders performed by the Apostles, their arrest and miraculous escape from prison, and their return to the public ministry of proclamation.

**Focus:** I would request that we use our LG/CG time to emphasize (2) of the sermon applications:

1. ***The unstoppable church is ... Obedient to share the Good News of Jesus ... boldly at every opportunity (Acts 5:29-32)***

Peter responds to the High Priest with boldness, stating:

- We must obey God rather than men (you).
- God raised Jesus (who you killed).
- God exalted Jesus as Leader and Savior to forgive sins
- We are witnesses to these things
- The Holy Spirit is witness to these things (and is with those who obey God).

Note:

- The apostles understood that "teaching in Jesus' name" (v28) was obedience to God (v29).
- They were bold because they had witnessed these things (knowing them to be factual).
- They cite the Holy Spirit as a co-witness to these things.
- And they say that He (and His witness) are with everyone who obeys God.

Paul's testimony is that the witness of the Spirit and the emboldened power of the Spirit are present with those who obey God. If we are His, then we have the eyewitness within us, and we have His testimony and power to boldly share the Good News at every opportunity.



**2. The unstoppable church is ... Willing to ensure persecution for the name of Jesus (Acts 5:40-42)**

After the Sanhedrin beat and released the Apostles, the Apostles “rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name (of Jesus). (v41)

Later, Peter would write in his first epistle:

**1 Peter 4: 12-14** - *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 **But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.** 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*

Paul would echo this theme –in his letter to the church at Philippi by stating:

**Philippians 3:10-11** - *I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

And speaking of his own condition in ministry:

**II Corinthians 1:3-5** - *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 5 **For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.***

Building on the theme of the past two Sunday sermons – there is an element of koinonia (shared life/fellowship/participation) with the ministry and mission of Christ that is unveiled in the life of the believer through “fellowship” with Christ by joining Him in His suffering. It is a means of connecting with Christ in a very personal, intimate way that is meant to increase our unity with Him and conformity to His likeness.