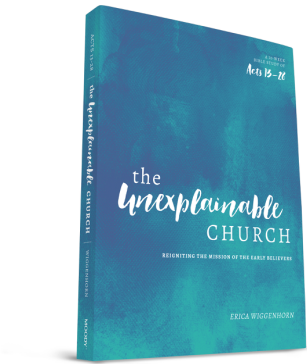


Greetings!



How greatly I applaud you for your willingness to guide a group of women through this study! It is obvious through Scriptural examination of the lives of the early believers that we are meant to grow together in community. Your willingness to give of your time provides your fellow followers of Christ this

opportunity. The Father is well pleased with you!

This guide is merely that, a guide. It will point out the main themes presented each week with optional discussion questions to present to your group. Some questions will be given *only to you in this guide*, for the purpose of allowing those who have been unable to fully complete their homework to still be able to participate in the discussion. The majority of the questions that you ask will come directly from the study book and my prayer is that you would select the ones most pertinent to your group as the Holy Spirit guides you. However, each week, specific questions will be suggested in this guide to get your started!

Hearing how the Lord ministered to your group, yourself included, is the joy of my heart. A thorough understanding of God's Word and the lavish love He communicates to you through it is my passion. So please share your God stories with me as you make your way through this study! Questions are also encouraged and welcomed! You can connect with me via Facebook: Erica Wiggernhorn or my website: www.EricaWiggernhorn.com. I'd love to hear what God is doing in your life and the lives of your group members!

Lifting you all up in prayer before the throne of the Mighty One!

Establishing Some Group Norms

Before you begin, decide as a group how you want to structure your time. Will you take prayer requests verbally or ask that they be written down and shared later? If you do take requests, decide how pertinent the requests need to be. Are you praying personal prayers only or sharing requests regarding others who would be strangers to the remaining group members? There is no right or wrong answer, it is merely a decision your group needs to make.

Secondly, remind the group that prayers are for group members only and should be kept confidential unless otherwise stated by the one issuing the request. Your goal as the group leader is to create a safe culture of community- not a venue for gossip to ensue!

Thirdly, come up with a schedule and stick to it! Decide how long you will spend in discussion and how long in prayer. This communicates to your group members that you value their time and you are committed to beginning and ending your group time on time.

Discussion Questions

Week One: Spend some time getting to know each member of your group. Allow people to introduce themselves, go over the group schedule and establish your group norms. Exchange contact information and decide how you will communicate with one another throughout the week. Read through the “A Divine Invitation” and the “Making The Most of This Study” sections. Pray together as a group inviting God to come and do the unexplainable among you!

Week Two

Discuss Week 1 Unexplainable Beginnings

1. Describe your church experience up to this point in your life. What do you love about church? In what areas do you struggle with church?
2. What is one thing you hope to learn/discover about following Jesus while completing this study?
3. In your own words, how would you describe Barnabas? What do you most admire about him?
4. Share a time when you felt as though you had to wait a long time for God to fulfill a promise.
5. Do you find it difficult to cease attending to your unending duties in order to gather with other believers solely for the purpose of worship? How so?
6. On a practical level, from what are some things we could “fast” to create more space for worship in our lives?

7. Why do you suppose the Holy Spirit chose to reveal His will in a moment of worship rather than in the midst of their labor?

8. Paul and Barnabas were co-laborers together in ministry, complementing one another's gifts, skills and passions. Whom would you consider a co-laborer in the ministry of your home, church or life in general? How do you complement one another?

9. In what ways do you see women contributing to the spiritual health and functioning of the church? In what ways do you see them shipwrecking it?

10. What is an area of your life, either your attitude, speech or actions, in which you feel you could make a positive change? How so?

Week Three

Discussing Week 2 Unexplainably Unstoppable

1. How do you generally handle confrontation? Are you a fighter or a flier?

2. When you face opposition do you generally become distracted or discouraged? How might expecting opposition when engaging in the work of the kingdom change your reaction?

3. Which of Paul's tests would you find hardest to pass: Spiritual opposition like Paul faced with Elymas, emotional opposition when slandered in Iconium or the flood of praise when they reached Lystra and Derbe?
4. What might be some examples of worshipping "created things" rather than the Creator? How might people pleasing fall into this category?
5. Who or what has God used in your life to encourage you and strengthen your soul?
6. What do you suppose was Paul's primary goal in establishing church leaders before his departure? Why do you believe as you do?
7. Who in your life do you need to commit to the Lord? What makes that difficult for you?
8. With whom do you celebrate the joys of life and offer a place of rest? How might we use our homes in this way?
9. In what ways today do you see people claiming that salvation is only by faith plus something else, some sort of work on their part?
10. Can you identify something or someone in your personal pantheon of worship? What would you have to give up to truly say you worship God alone?

Week Four

Discuss Week 3 Unexplainable Grace

1. How does offering a ministry of presence facilitate unity?

2. Who has been a person in your life who offered you a ministry of presence at a key moment? To whom have you offered a ministry of presence?

3. Read aloud 1 Corinthians 10:23-33. Discuss some practices in which one's liberty may cause another's conscience to become seared. How might our exercise of our liberty under grace thwart unity among the body?

4. Have each person in your group share 3 things for which they are thankful in their local church body. If you feel your group will be comfortable with it, have them share one area of personal preference to which they feel God is calling them to surrender for the sake of the body as a whole.

5. When have you seen God bring something good out of a disagreement or a disappointment in your own life?

6. How does it make you feel to learn that these two giants of the faith were unable to come to complete agreement?

7. If there was one thing you were to do differently TODAY in building a legacy of faith within your family, what would it be?

8. How might the church as a whole better come alongside single mothers or mothers with unbelieving husbands in helping them build a legacy of faith within in their families?

9. What is an obstacle you are currently facing? How does Acts 16 broaden your perspective?

Week Five

Discuss Week 4 The Unexplainable Ways of God

1. Describe Lydia in your own words. What qualities do you admire most about her?
2. When you consider Lydia being the catalyst to solidify the gospel message 2000 years ago on European soil, how does that exhort and inspire you about the future? How can we solidify the gospel message in our own communities today?
3. Have you ever encountered a person whose situation grieved your heart and you were compelled to take action? Share the circumstances with your group and the outcome, respecting confidentiality within your larger church family/community.
4. How does Paul's obedience resulting in disaster inspire you in your current stage of life?
5. Why do you suppose God is especially honored when we praise Him in the midst of difficulty?
6. Describe a circumstance where you or someone you know praised God in the midst of difficulty and others took notice.
7. What thoughts and feelings come to mind when you examine the demographics of the church at Philippi? Spend some time in your group praying for God to make His church, your church, as unexplainably united as this little fledgling church in Lydia's house!

8. How have you seen jealousy thwart the spread of the gospel? In what areas of your life do you struggle with jealousy?
9. Why do you suppose Timothy was often kept in the background when Paul and Silas went into cities to preach?
10. How do you personally guard yourself against spiritual laziness and false teaching?

Week Six

Discussing Week 5 An Unexplainable Legacy

1. What similarities do you find between the culture of Athens and our own culture today?
2. Where do you see Stoic and Epicurean philosophies most widely espoused and embraced? Did it surprise you to discover that there really is “nothing new under the sun”?
3. What elements of Paul’s presentation to the Athenians most inspired you? Challenged you? Surprised you?
4. What steps have you personally taken to equip yourself to be able to defend/share your faith?

5. Who is a person in your life, respecting confidentiality, whom you see acknowledging God's existence, but He still remains relatively unknown to them? What have you learned in today's lesson about how to handle your relationship with them?
6. Why do you suppose the response to the gospel message in Athens was so minimal? With such a minimal outcome, why do you suppose God sovereignly chose to record this encounter in His Word?
7. In what way did Paul's evangelistic ministry shift once he arrived in Corinth?
8. In what ways do you see our Christian freedoms under attack and in what ways do you see God protecting those freedoms?
9. What impacted you most regarding Pricilla and Aquila's response to Apollos?
10. Who has played a key role in your life discipling you? Whom have you intentionally disciplined?
11. For what purpose do you suppose, God has placed you within your church family and your community at large?
12. What are some creative places we could bring the gospel message that people would consider communal and on common ground?

Week Seven

Discuss Week 6 Unexplainable Riches

1. Read aloud Ephesians 6:10-20 as a group. How does understanding the culture of Ephesus shed greater light on this passage?
2. Knowing we fight against our enemy with Scripture and prayer, how engaged in the battle would you consider yourself to be?
3. Read aloud together Ephesians 3:20-21. Through what three means does God work and display His power? What does this mean for you in your daily life?
4. What are some of our possessions we might irrevocably give over to the Lord?
5. How might you as group share the gospel in your homes, churches and community?
6. To which aspects of Paul's ministry can you most relate? Do you prefer to look outward or inward?
7. How might fear prevent you from being most effective in the kingdom work God has for you?
8. Spend some time in your group praying for God to open doors to share the gospel within your community.
9. While we often want to see the end result of what God is doing, He often only reveals His plans to us one step at a time. Why do you think God chooses to operate in this manner?

Week Eight

Discuss Week 7 Unexplainable Protection

1. What do you suppose was going through Paul's mind when he stood before the Ephesian church?
2. What type of person do you suppose Paul sought out to invest in, equip and disciple?
3. What are some character traits, skills, talents, gifts and life experiences you have that could be shared for the equipping and strengthening of the church?
4. Have you ever considered intentionally pursuing a discipleship or mentor type relationship with another believer? Why or why not? What do Paul's practices teach us regarding the importance of this?
5. What are some areas in your church where you could step up and assume a greater level of responsibility, commitment or leadership?
6. Do you see all service done for the kingdom as equally important? Why or why not?
7. Describe your own spiritual journey in this season of your life. In what areas/ways are you being intentional?
8. How have you seen people minimizing grace as an acceptance of sin rather than a powerful plan of God to help the believer overcome it?

9. In what fleshly battles do you often grow weary feeling as though you will never have victory? How does God's promise to faithfully complete the good work He started within us encourage you?

10. In what ways do you see wolves coming against the flock? What did Paul specifically exhort the Ephesian elders to do to guard against this?

11. What impact would it have on the church if more Christians were committed to being built up by the full counsel of God's Word rather than bits and pieces here and there?

Week Nine

Discuss Week 8 Our Unexplainable God

1. Read aloud Luke 16:15. When we sense division among us and we fail to understand the heart behind another's speech or actions, what does Jesus tell us?
2. In what areas and with whom do you need to be more diligent in prayer and less apt to openly share your opinions?
3. Have you ever had someone make a decision out of obedience to the Lord that was difficult for you to accept, or even broke your heart?
4. Can you look back on a time in your life when you realized later that God was preparing you for something that was going to happen in the future?

5. Paul was willing to be any kind of tool to accomplish any kind of work to which God might call him. What kind of tool or work are you willing to be/do for God? What kind of tool or work frightens you or feels too big to fathom?

6. What are some practical ways we might become people of deference rather than people of preference?

7. Share 3 basic tenets of your testimony in 3 minutes or less with your group:
 - Your life before Christ
 - How you met Christ
 - Your life with Christ

8. Share the name of the person with whom you most want to share the gospel this week. Describe what life circumstances or preconceived notions they are facing and how you might use them to build a bridge to their heart. (Think back to Paul and the Athenians in Acts 17)

9. Pray as a group for those with whom you are hoping to share the gospel. Pray for them by name and ask for open doors, wisdom and timing.

Week Ten

Discuss Week 9 Unexplainable Simplicity

1. The paradox of the gospel is that true surrender brings freedom. Submission of our plans opens the door of endless opportunity. It ushers in the unexplainable! How have you experienced this truth in your life personally? What is a plan/hope/dream for your life that is difficult for you to surrender to God?
2. Describe a time when you have seen God intervene in what appeared to be a no-win/no way out situation?
3. What are some specific ways God could have used Paul's two year detainment at Caesarea to equip and strengthen the church?
4. Where do you see the Holy Spirit working today in your life in the middle of a circumstance in which you are waiting?
5. Describe all of the ways you see God intervening in Paul's circumstances offering His care and protection? How would this translate to the care and protection of all members of His church?
6. If you could ask the Holy Spirit to do something unexplainable among you, what would it be and why?
7. Of all of Paul's qualities, which ones do you most admire? Why?
8. Have you ever seen someone get backed into a corner in discussing theological issues? How did their response compare to Agrippa's?
9. Which of Isaiah's messianic prophecies do you think the church is still called to share with others? What are some practical ways to do this?

10. How does the outcome of Paul's trial before Agrippa give you hope? Challenge you? Convict you?

Week Eleven

Discuss Week 10 Unexplainable Community

1. God did not waste any of Paul's life experiences in his call to ministry. Think about your own life. How could God use some of your own life experiences to fulfill His kingdom plans?
2. In what way could the church do a better job of caring for the needs of our pastors?
3. When was the last time, if ever, you took a day and set it aside solely to focus on God? How do you think it might benefit your spiritual growth to do so?
4. Read aloud together Romans 12:1-2. On a scale from 1 to 10, with how much certainty can you say you are following the will of God with your life? Why do you believe as you do?
5. Paul intentionally sought to prepare himself for whatever God had in store for him. How intentional and committed are you to God's potential plans for your life? What does this time of preparation look like on a practical, day to day level?
6. Share with your group a promise in Scripture that is especially meaningful to you at this time in your life.

7. Is it easier for you to notice God's care and provision in times of great crisis or in daily, run-of-the-mill life? How so?
8. How did Jesus explain the continuance of evil on the earth in Matthew 13:24-30?
9. Are there areas of your life where you'd like to believe for certain that God is working, but you have your doubts?
10. Discuss as a group how much the gospel has cost you in this life? How much have you been willing to sacrifice in the spread of the gospel message? After completing Day 4, what did the Holy Spirit reveal to you personally?
11. Look back at Week One Day Four and recall the names of those whom you prayed to become a witness throughout your time in this study. Spend some time as a group praying for these people by name and that the Lord would open a door for effective ministry as He did for Paul in Ephesus.
12. Share with your group your own Acts 29 story.
13. Share with your group one specific action step you will take after completing this study.

