

WEEKLY GAME PLAN

Outta My Comfort Zone

Read Acts 1:8 NLT, Galatians 3:28 NLT

Context: Because we are all one in Christ, He can send us out into the world with a single focus of showing the world who He is. This will not always be easy. In fact, one thing Jesus guarantees is that we will experience persecution in this life. But we can also expect His covering for us, His protection over us and His walking with us.

Reflection Question: How are you acting in accordance with what you know God wants from you this week? How does He want you to use the power you've been given to tell others about Him?

Read Acts 20:7-12 NIV

Context: Paul is just trying to preach Christ and Him crucified to this group of believers and in the middle of it young Eutychus interrupts by falling out of a window and dying (insert sarcasm here 😏). That is one way to get a break in a long sermon! But rather than being deterred from preaching, Paul runs down and brings Eutychus back to life, grabs a quick snack and then preaches until daybreak. This is what the author of Hebrews means when he says that we shouldn't give up meeting together and encouraging each other.

Reflection Question: Can you imagine being so excited about hearing the word of God that you were willing to stay and listen until daybreak? Play out this scene in your head and describe what it must have been like for Eutychus. How can you push through to continue to obey God when things feel too hard?

Read Acts 20:22-24 NIV, Matthew 28:18-19 NIV, Matthew 10:16 NLT

Context: God is the one who sends us. He may send us into the lions' den, into the fiery furnace, or into a pack of wolves, but wherever He sends us He has given us the authority to go. This is the purpose of our lives, to go where He sends and to tell those we have an opportunity to tell about Him.

Reflection Question: What keeps you from sharing what Christ has done for you with others? How can you talk to God about your concerns about this and ask Him to help you overcome?

Read Hebrews 12:2 NIV, Matthew 16:24 ESV

Context: Christ considered it a joy to endure the cross for us to be able to spend eternity with Him. He didn't do it grudgingly. He is not bitter that He had to do it for us. He willingly went and endured and is sitting at the right hand of the Father as His reward. We have to deny ourselves of our wants and desires sometimes in order to be Jesus's disciples. There is a cost to being a follower of Christ, but the rewards far outweigh anything it could ever cost us.

Reflection Question: What are you willing to deny yourself in order to follow God this week? How will this bring you into closer relationship with Jesus? Jesus scorned the shame of the cross because He knew that obedience to the Father was the ultimate goal. What shame do you need to tell the enemy has no hold over you in order to move forward with what God wants of you?

Read Acts 20:26-27 NIV, Ezekiel 33:7-9 NLT

Context: Evangelism, the spreading of the gospel by public preaching or personal witness, is not just an opportunity. It's a responsibility. We need to take seriously sharing with others what God has done for us and in us and through us. Let us not hesitate to share when we get the chance.

Reflection Question: How do you see sharing the gospel with others differently now that you know you have a responsibility to do so? How thankful are you for the person/s who shared Christ with you? How can you be this person to others?

End in prayer. Read all of Acts 20 this week and see how the Spirit moves!