



## The Church That Just Won't Quit

**Ice Breaker:** Have you gone to the mountains to see the leaves changing? Is that something you enjoy or are you grieving summer?

### **Read Together:**

Please note the versions that we gave as some of them are different and the version Pastor Jason used was on purpose for clarity! ☺

James 1:2-4 (NIV), Acts 3:7-8 (NIV), Acts 4:7 (NIV), Acts 4:10 - 18 (NIV), Acts 4:19-20 (BSB). Acts 4:24- 31 (NIV) and Matthew 16:18 (ESV)

### **Discuss**

- Tell us your reaction to this statement: ***“We are not in unprecedented time. The church has always faced trials. The church is still here because the church would NOT quit!”*** We come from a long line of “Non-quitters”
- The man in the story in Acts 3 was sitting at the gate since Birth. He was well known and had been seen by the disciples and Jesus. How does this challenge your understanding of God and His timing?
- The Religious leaders of the day HATED the statement that Jesus was the only way to the Father. – Acts 4:12 (Peter had healed in the name of Jesus and was testifying that Jesus had healed the man.) Where do you see hatred being leveled in your life because you believe that Jesus is the only way?
- Peter had made a LOT of mistakes. What are some of the mistakes Peter made throughout his relationship with Jesus? Make a list!!! In spite of all the mistakes, he kept going back to Jesus and re-establishing relationship. He knew where love, acceptance and freedom came from. What is an area where you have made a mistake or have shame that you are tempted to keep hidden or makes you want to keep some distance from God?

- What are some of the ways that Jesus changed your life? Has the astonishment of what Jesus did for you in salvation grown dim? In what ways?
- Courage is always a by-product of you spending time with Jesus. How have you seen that play out in your own life?
- What are some things that are Important that you tend to put as more important than what is MOST important? What is the MOST important thing?
- God has called us to important arenas to influence and be used of God so that His Gospel can continue to go forth. What area has God called you into so that you can be an influence for the Gospel?
- Acts 4:28 As the church prayed, they said, “They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.” They are acknowledging that God is up to something bigger than what they can see. What are some things God might be up to in our current culture? If you can’t think of any, ask HIM together with your group, what He is up to that is bigger than what we can see.
- What are some prayers that God wants you to pray? Ask Him, “God, what do you want me to do?” and “What is your will in this matter?” And then pray that!

Pray together:

Lord, we want your will to be done. Show us today what you are doing that is bigger than we can see. Please give us your perspective. We know that you can use evil men to accomplish your purpose. We know that you know the end from the beginning. Please equip and empower us to fulfill your purposes. Show us how to share you with those that we need to share with. Please give us the courage that Peter had...because we have been with you. Help us not to turn away because things get hard. Help us to stay strong and never quit. We want to hear “Well done” when we see your face. Please help us to hear your voice...not what we have already decided you will say. Give us courage to obey when we are given opportunity to share you with others. And by all means, let us discern your heart as we face what is unprecedented to us. Help us to remember that you have sustained your church through generations and you won’t stop now. Please show us what to do. Please show us your will in each matter we face. Show us how to pray. Hold us fast and help us to glorify you!!

In the name of Jesus. Amen.