

Community Group Discussion Questions

“A Defining DNA” Acts 4:1-22 June 1, 2019

Getting Started

There are “3 Distinct DNA Markers” that distinguish and define every follower of Jesus and every Church.

What are some of your defining DNA markers? How can people tell you belong to your biological family? How can people tell you belong to a spiritual family?

Going Deeper:

1) The Message is Clear (Vs.8-12)

- Salvation is a Person: “*there is Salvation in no one else*” (Vs.12)
- Salvation is a Promise “*given among men by which we must be saved*” (Vs.12)

All honest people realize that humanity is broken, and that each of us individually are broken. What to do about this problem has led to the invention of religion. All world religions focus on ‘saving’ ourselves by what we do. Christianity is the only faith that says we are ‘saved’ by what Someone else has done. **If you were going to try to redeem or save yourself, how would you know when you had arrived? How would you know when you had done enough? What standard would you use?**

Now, if you are a Christian, what must you do to be saved? (See Acts 16:30-31 and Romans 3:23-24)

2) They are Marked by Christ (Vs.13-17)

- Unusual Boldness: “*now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John*” (Vs.13)

- Unique Behavior: “*and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus*” (Vs.13)

Throughout chapters 3 and 4, Peter and John have shown boldness in several ways. This boldness came from their absolute belief and unwavering confidence that Jesus is what life is all about. Peter and John were willing to take any punishment, live with any rejection, and lose popularity with their fellow Jews in order to be true to Jesus. The phrase ‘they had been with Jesus’ shows that the Jewish rulers recognized them as Jesus’ disciples. But to us, this phrase means much more. ‘Being with Jesus’ means that we trust Him as Savior, obey His teachings, and let Him live supernaturally and powerfully through us. (see John 15:14, and 15:5). **How are you doing at ‘being with Jesus’?**

3) They are Motivated by the Cross (Vs.18-22)

- What did they see: “*for we cannot but speak of what we have seen*” (Vs.20)
- What did they hear: “*and heard*” (Vs.20)

Although the 4 Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) only contain parts of 52 days of Jesus’ life, we know that the disciples spent 3 years with Jesus, so they would have seen and heard Him teach, live, and love for over 1,000 days. Can you imagine the impact of spending that many days with Jesus? These men were forever marked and changed by what they saw and heard. While we don’t have Jesus physically with us, we do have His Holy Spirit within us, and He still speaks to us through the bible (see Hebrews 4:12). **What things has Jesus said and done that have marked you the most? What are you excited to keep learning about?**

TAKEAWAY: The key to living our lives distinguished and defined by these 3 DNA Markers is... the Master is in the Center.

Prayer: