
[SERMON NOTES]

Acts – Week 11 (*Acts 11:19-30*)

- 1) History-making churches ask: "What would _____ have us do _____, Lord?"
- 2) History-making churches expect that God is _____ present and at _____.
- 3) History-making churches _____ and _____ individuals in their _____ area of _____ and _____.
- 4) History-making churches are willing to _____ the _____ game.
- 5) History-making churches _____ and _____.
- 6) History-making churches consider the _____ of _____ *first*.
- 7) History-making churches don't pursue _____ - _____, they pursue the _____ - _____: _____.

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

Our society loves a good origin story. From superheroes to coming of age dramas, some of the most compelling stories we engage are how things got started—how they began. **What are some of the defining moments in your life? What are some of the people or experiences or events—positive or negative—that you have encountered in your life that have helped you become the person you are now? What is your origin story?**

[DIGGING DEEPER]

This week we learned all about the origin story of one of the most influential churches in the history of Christianity: the Church at Antioch. In the sermon, we were given seven different marks of a history-making church. As a church, FIRST desires to embody each of these, but inevitably we have room to grow in some while we are stronger in others. **Of these seven marks, which one(s) do you think that FIRST is best at modeling and embodying? Which one(s) do you think there is room for growth?**

Most of the time it's easy to point out the strengths and weaknesses of the organizations, businesses, experiences, or programs that we are a part of, which can be incredibly helpful given the right circumstance, but we often stop there at positive or negative critique. We rarely then move on to ask ourselves, "How can I help be a part of growing and changing the culture of which I am a part?" What role have I played in the strengths and weaknesses of the things I am a part of? **And so, with an umbrella of grace and a spirit of growth, what are the aspects of a history-making church that you are most aligned with? Which one(s) do you need to grow in as you partner with the work of God here at FIRST?**

Read Ephesians 4:1-16. **What are some of the aspects of a healthy body of believers? List them below.**

The message wrapped up with the core goal of pursuing Jesus over anything else, even being a transformative, history-making church. **What are some of the achievements, goals, or pursuits that get in the way of Jesus in your life? What is tempting for you to focus on more than the presence and will of Christ?**

If you are dreaming, what would you want history to say about your life? About FIRST in Champaign and Urbana? After discussing these things, put them into the form of a prayer and pray for these things to become reality.

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (*1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17*). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend's message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible, and ask yourself: *What does this teach me about God? Myself and others? And how do I follow Jesus better?*

Acts 11

Galatians 2

Ephesians 4

Mark 15:21-24