

THE STIRRING

FACILITATOR GUIDE

CPC HAPPENINGS...

COMEDY NIGHT

Featuring Jeff Allen and Chad Thornsberry

Saturday, April 24

To find more info or to get your tickets: yourcpc.church/events

THE BIG STIR

What topic gets you most “stirred” up?

When is a “stirring” negative? **[When it causes you to hate others. When it goes against God’s desires for you.]**

When is a “stirring” positive? **[When it prompts you to love others. When it makes God’s destiny come to light in your life.]**

Which kind of “stirring” is most likely to happen to you?

How can you be sure to force positive “stirrings” rather than negative? **[Be aware of what happens to you. Ask yourself whether this is honoring God or is it not. If it is not, focus on the desires of God. Stop yourself from letting the matter overtake your mind and bring you into chaos.]**

The name of this new sermon series is “THE STIRRING.” Look at how Jesus’ followers might have been stirred after His crucifixion.

Luke 24:36-43—As they were saying these things, He Himself stood in their midst. He said to them, “Peace to you!” 37 But they were startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost. 38 “Why are you troubled?” He asked them. “And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Look at My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself! Touch Me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have.” 40 Having said this, He showed them His hands and feet. 41 But while they still were amazed and in disbelief because of their joy, He asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” 42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish, 43 and He took it and ate in their presence.

What do you think the disciples had to be thinking while they were gathered together after Jesus’ crucifixion? **[It was over. They had wasted the last 3 years of their life. They probably couldn’t believe someone so innocent could be found guilty and killed. This probably caused them to hate the Romans that much more.]**

Would their thoughts have been negative or positive? **[Probably negative.]**

What was the first thing Jesus said to them? **[“Peace to you!”]**

Why would He have said this? **[Jesus did not do this to scare them. God is not about using fear to motivate people.]**

Luke 14:27— “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

Fear is one of the most debilitating emotions known to the human race. It is unbelievably powerful. It penetrates the **HEART**, poisons the **SPIRIT**, and paralyzes the **SOUL**. It can affect you not only emotionally, mentally, and spiritually; but it can even affect you physically. No wonder God made sure that peace (fear not) was one of the more prevalent themes found throughout scripture.

Can you list everyone who the angels told to “fear not” through the time when Jesus was born? **[Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Zachariah was told by an angel in the temple to not be afraid.]**

What was the first thing the angel at the tomb said to those who came to find Jesus?

Matthew 28:5— The angel told the women, “Don’t be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.”

CONTRASTING EMOTIONS

Why would God stir your soul? **[To get you ready to do something for Him.]**

What does fear do to the “stirring?” **[Keeps you from stepping out for God.]**

Eleven of Jesus’ disciples were in hiding after the crucifixion because they feared that the Roman government would be coming after them next. Fear kept them locked behind doors.

When Jesus miraculously appeared before them in the room, what are all the emotions do you think they would have gone through? **[Fear first →questioning→joy→hope→complete fearlessness!]**

When you feel God prompting you to do something out of your comfort zone, what emotions overcome your heart? **[Fear first →questioning→joy→hope→complete fearlessness!]**

Have you ever made a step for God that you were first afraid of?
If so, what happened?

STEPS OF A DISCIPLE

Luke 24:44-45—He told them, “These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

What if the disciples didn’t know what the Law of Moses, the prophets or the Psalms said about Jesus? [They would have no idea about what prophecies had been made about Him.]

There are at least **351** Old Testament scriptures that were fulfilled in the life of Jesus.

You don’t have to memorize all of these to know that Jesus fulfilled scripture, but the more you know about Jesus, the more you should be able to recognize them as you read. **[As you read and study the Bible, always be aware of words and sayings that you know you’ve heard before. Listen carefully to any descriptions and titles that you know also describe Jesus. These are prophetic markers.]**

Pastor Chris mentioned that if someone is stirred in their spirit to do something, but they aren’t familiar with what the Word of God says, it can be dangerous.

Why would they be considered “dangerous?” [Because emotions only can drive a person to do something they think is good, but it is not the will of God.]

How might this describe Rev. Jim Jones, David Koresh, Marshall Applewhite, or Charles Manson? [(If you aren’t familiar with these, google their names) Each of them formed their own set values that sounded good to a particular audience of people. Jones and Koresh even convinced followers that it was from God and in the Bible. Ultimately, people were killed in all four cases. This was NOT the will of God!]

Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9) was a religious follower of God. He was a rabbi and studied under one of the greatest teachers of the time. Though He loved God, he did not believe that Jesus was God’s son. He thought the disciples and Christ-followers were wrong. So to not spread this “disease” of wrong belief, he set out to kill all those who radically followed Christ. He had the passion and his soul was stirred, but his heart and mind did not fully understand God’s perfect plan of redemption.

What are some ways that we can learn more about what the Bible teaches and what God’s will really is? [Read daily, listen closely to the sermons preached, join a small group, listen to devotions and good Bible teaching online, and take every opportunity to learn more about what the Scripture says. Be sure to pray that God will lead to sound doctrine and help you to discern between God’s will and someone else’s ideas.]

On the flipside Pastor Chris warned about Scripture knowledge without passion.

What can that lead to? **[Dead religion]**

Describe a person with lots of knowledge and no passion for sharing it. **[They tend to be “puffed up”—full of themselves. They believe they know better than anyone else. They go through the motions of going to church, looking good on the outside, but inside, they are dull and unhappy. No one wants what a dead Christian has! That’s why our “religion” must be accompanied by a thriving “relationship” with our living God!]**

JESUS IS IN THE HOUSE!

Luke 24:50-52— Then He led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. 51 And while He was blessing them, He left them and was carried up into heaven. 52 After worshiping Him, they returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they were continually in the temple praising God.

Jesus spent a great deal of time in Bethany during the last two months of His life. This is where Jesus’ best friends and surrogate family lived—Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

Bethany means **“HOUSE OF WELCOME.”**

Describe how you feel when you go to a friends’ house.

Who in your life makes you feel most welcome and safe?

How is your small group supposed to be a “Bethany” for you? **[You can just be you around your friends. Friends encourage one another. You feed off each other’s energy and excitement. You can freely talk about God and what He is doing without the fear that you will be looked at as “weird” or “unusual.”]**

Luke 24 tells us that Jesus spoke to them for a bit, then suddenly He was just “carried away” into Heaven. But this time, they didn’t hide!

What does the Scripture say they did? **[They worshiped Him, then returned to Jerusalem (the place where they once feared to be caught as criminals) with great joy!]**

What do you think the difference was this time when Jesus left them? **[They knew it wasn’t over. They didn’t have fear in their hearts. They were STIRRED for their mission!]**

When you spend time worshipping Jesus, what happens to your fear?

What can you do for God when He takes away your fear?

PRAYER TIME

- Give Jesus praise for being a friend to you that takes away the fear of the unknown.
- Praise God for His wonderful plan of salvation that He put into place so many years ago. Then thank Him for the plan He put in place to save you from your sins.
- Ask God to show you what He wants you to do for Him. Ask Him to take away the fears that hold you back.
- Commit to spending time in prayer, Bible study, and study groups to help you learn the Word of God and give you more confidence.
- Pray for each other to grow in the knowledge and passion to accomplish great things for the Kingdom of God.