

NEXT WEEK:

Title: "chURch: engaged, enraged and changed the World"

Texts: Rom. 5-7

This next week's readings:

- Dec 8, Rom 4-7
- Dec 9, Rom 8-10
- Dec 10, Rom 11-13
- Dec 11, Rom 14-16
- Dec 12, Acts 20:4-23:35
- Dec 13, Acts 24-26
- Dec 14, (Sunday) Acts 27-28

66 Love Letters—Romans, pg 236

The Story—pgs. 439-451

Parents with your Children

When you are out as a family, maybe going Christmas shopping or out to eat, before you go in to the store discuss what "being distracted" about Christmas might look like... e.g. temper tantrums, greed, selfishness. Now give the assignment for each one to be ready to describe someone they saw in the store/restaurant that they think might be "distracted" from the real spirit of Christmas



Prayer Requests

Announcements:

Timber Lake Christian's website:



Doug's Blog:



CONNECTING AND REFLECTING EXPERIENCE

In a Nutshell: The church has consistently struggled from it's inception with getting distracted. Do you remember Ananias & Saphira? No better epistle addresses the issues surrounding a church that gets distracted than Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians.

Ice Breaker: A "helium stick" group activity: Line up teams in two rows which face each other. Ask participants to point their index fingers and hold their arms out. Lay the "Helium Stick" down on their fingers. Before you let go, get the group to adjust their finger heights until the Helium Stick is horizontal and everyone's index fingers are touching the stick. Explain that the challenge is to lower the Helium Stick to the ground. The catch: Each person's fingers must be in contact with the Helium Stick at all times. If anyone's finger is caught not touching the Helium Stick, the task will be restarted.



Title: "chURch: distracted"

Texts: Acts 5:1-11; 1 Cor. 13

CONNECTING TO THE TEXT

1. By what was Ananias and Saphira distracted? In other words, what did they try to do and why did they do it?
2. After reading 1 Corinthians chapters 1-12 list the things that tend to distract people from their spiritual walk?
3. What did Peter say was the actual sin of Ananias and Saphira? Acts 5:4
4. How might applying the truths of 1 Corinthians 13 help a Christian avoid becoming distracted?

REFLECTING ON YOUR LIFE

1. What about Christmas activities can tend to cause you to get distracted as did Ananias & Saphira?
2. How might a person lie to God in this day and age? Why do you think people don't get struck dead like Ananias and Saphira did?

3. In light of 1 Corinthians 1 what do you think leads people to get distracted from the message of the cross to be captivated by popular preachers?

CONNECTING TO OUR CHURCH:

1. How can this CARE group help to protect people from becoming distracted with issues similar to those described in 1 Corinthians?
2. Would it ever be appropriate for church leaders to challenge people that are giving out of arrogance and pride? What might that challenge look like?