

## **Primary Scripture:**

Acts 1:7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

2Cor. 4:6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

Romans 8: 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

Rom. 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Acts 28:30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. 31 He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

## **Questions:**

1. Read 2 Cor 4:6-9. What is your reaction to this passage in light of the Vegas attack and the slate of hurricanes?

2. Where do you see God’s light shining in the midst of darkness? Where do you struggle to see the light?

3. Read Acts 1:7,8. We talked about the “concentric circle” nature of that passage and how the good news of Jesus starts somewhere and always spreads out from there. Our “Jerusalem” is our literal neighborhood. Take some time to share any stories of neighboring you have tried over the last three weeks. Any 5 minute mission trips? Any resistance?

4. Randy has challenged us to “do small things over the long haul” verses “doing one grand gesture.” What obstacles are you facing in loving your neighbors in a more

meaningful way? What are some small moves you can make?

5. In the message we mentioned the comment by Thomas Brown that 'We are all on the edge of someone else's concentric circle.' This implies the reality that the gospel started somewhere else and spread to us. Who gave the gospel to you?

6. We spent time talking through our global partners and we listed two reasons why we partner:

1. To stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world
2. To learn how to depend on God in faith from our brothers and sisters around the world.

Have you ever engaged in a global partnership (mission trip? any other way?) What have you learned? What have you offered?

7. You were encouraged to take a bookmark of one of our partners. Which one did you take? What do you know about that partner?

8. Read Romans 8:35-37. Steve challenged us to consider that this may be about "nothing can hinder us from sharing God's love" as much as it is "nothing can hinder us from receiving God's love." What hinders you from sharing God's love with others?

9. Please take time to pray for any neighbor by their first name, for people in harm's way of natural disasters or terror attacks, pray for first responders who face violence every day, pray for a global partner.