



Terrorists, radical Muslims, persecution, new atheists, secular humanism, & evolution. *Ever wonder if Christianity and the Church are in its final days and will be snuffed out in a few more generations? Ever wonder what you should even be doing today as a Christian in times like these?* This series will remind us that God's purpose and plan for the Church is **UNSTOPPABLE**. So let's remember what He's called us to do while we trust Him to do what only He can do.

### Discussion Guidelines

The **Sermon Discussion** questions are designed to help facilitate the small group conversation to focus on application of God's word based on the sermon. We live in a day where bible information is rampant yet we are having little to no impact on our culture and society. What we lack is the application of the bible information in our lives (James 1:22-25). These questions will help your small group create a context for people to share, change and grow together. Remember, there's level ground at the foot of the cross and we have more in common with each other than we do with Jesus. Be gracious and known for your love for one-another (John 13:34-35; Galatians 6:1-2).

### Introduction:

- **Read Acts 20:17 – 38 and Review** the Sermon Outline and the main points.

Pastor Brad's introduction spoke about how "odd" it is to be the only one to believe in the God of the Bible and His ways. No matter the context; whether you're in the classroom, at work, in the neighborhood etc., people view believing in God as foolish.

- On a scale of 1-10: how hesitant are you about sharing your faith in your circle of relationships because of it makes you seem "different or odd"? (1 = never speak; 10 = share all the time)



**Sermon Discussion:** *Four reasons why Christians and the Church have ALWAYS looked so foolish to the world:*

1. We've got a Message that sounds utterly foolish to the World – The Cross (v18-19)!
2. We're using a Method that looks totally foolish to the world around us – Preaching (v21-23)!
3. We've got a Motive that seems shockingly foolish to the world – The Glory of God (v29-31)!
4. We've got a History of attracting people that the world would mostly consider foolish (v26-28)!

*So why do people keep coming to Christ?*

5. We have the Holy Spirit in our world who alone has the power to change their minds (2:6-14)!

**Reflect and Ruminare:** Of the main points given in the sermon, which one(s) resonated with you the most and what is your manner of life in relation to these things?

When people reject our message, it's easy to feel offended or take it personal. Pastor Brad said, *"God doesn't need us to defend Him. He's called us to proclaim Him!"*

- When sharing the gospel with someone, what are some things you can do to help remind you of this truth? (Consider reading 1 Corinthians 3:6 and Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23)
- How do you share your faith with someone? What scriptures do you use?
- When was the last time you've shared the gospel with someone and how did they respond?

**Replace:** Based on what you shared above, is there something God is calling you to change as a result of the sermon? (Eph 4:22-23).

- If you haven't shared your faith recently or in a while, don't beat yourself up with condemnation (Romans 8:1)! Ask God to forgive you and for opportunities to share more.

**Renew:** What practical step(s) of obedience could you implement in your life this week as it relates to the area of your life you want to change? (Eph 4:24).

- Is there someone in your life that God's been prompting you to share the gospel with? What's something you could do this week to reach out to them?

**Request:** How can the group can pray for and encourage you this week in regards to these things. (Gal 6:2; Heb 10:24-25).

- As a group, pray for boldness and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading to share the gospel this week!

**Remember:** It's easy to forget how the Gospel applies to your life. Your identity in Christ is greater than any sin committed against you or by you. How can you apply the gospel in your current circumstances and situation in life as a result of the sermon? (Galatians 2:20; 2 Cor 11:30; 12:9-10).

God's called you to be faithful and to leave the results up to Him.