

discussion guide for september 10th

“How to Find an Anchor for Your Life”

Acts 17:10-12



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ **Launch the Discussion** (11:00 am)

The Bible often speaks of your life as a little boat on a big sea--a little boat that needs to be anchored so that it does not crash on the rocks or drift away. Ask group members to read the following out loud.

- ✓ 1 Timothy 1:18-19, (p. 1591-DSB*).
- ✓ Hebrews 2:1, (p. 1610-DSB*).
- ✓ Ephesians 4:13-14, (p. 1562-DSB*).
- ✓ Hebrews 6: 19, (p. 1616-DSB*).

- What things make you feel “anchored”?
- What areas of life did Pastor Tom mention that make people feel as if they are drifting?
- How do you think this study could strengthen your “anchor”?

*“DSB” refers to the “Discovery Study Bibles” on the Table.

• **Guide the Discussion** (11:10 am)

Pastor Tom mentioned 3 things you need to do to make the most of the next 8 weeks. They come from Acts 17:10-12 (p. 1465-DSB*). Do you see 3? Where?

1. Make the study a group project.
 - What is the value of study, discussion, and application in a group setting?
 - Read these verses searching for “one another” statements: Rom:15:14 (p. 1507); Eph.4:2 (p. 1562); Col 3:16 (p. 1578); 1 Thess. 5:11 (p. 1584); Heb.3:13 (p. 1611); 10:24-25 (p. 1621).
 - What does the Bible teach about the value of doing life together as a group?
2. Read the Bible to Find the Truth
 - Acts 17:11 says, “every day they studied the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was really true. Why is studying the scriptures an important element in becoming anchored?
 - How can reading the scriptures with Tom’s book help someone investigating Christianity?
 - How can reading the scriptures with Tom’s book help someone who is already a believer?
3. Put Your Heart Into It – Be Eager to Learn
 - Acts 17:11 says, “they listened to the message with great eagerness.” Describe your level of eagerness toward this eight-week study. What can you do to increase the emotional commitment of others? Yourself? What benefits do you perceive coming from this study?

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Apply the Discussion (11:35 am)

You are about to launch into an eight-week study of the basic beliefs of Christianity. It is recommended that you read the Anchor Course book and search the scriptures as you do. There will be great benefit if you will be diligent about this process. How will this study benefit our church? Check the scriptures:

How would you describe the following benefits.

- It will help us love God. Mk. 12:30
(p.1322-DSB*)
- It will help our influence. Acts 16:4-5
(p.1462-DSB*)
- It will help us be discerning. 1 Jn. 4:1
(p.1652-DSB*)
- It will help others find God. Heb. 6:19
(p.1616-DSB*)

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Pray for those who share things God is leading them to do in response to this discussion.
- Pray for other shared needs from the group.
- Pray for absentees by name. (*Who will contact them this week and fill them in on group time?*)

Go Deeper: Use the “*Going Deeper*” section in your personal daily devotionals. It is a great way to strengthen and reinforce what you are learning and applying to your life.

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➤ Going Deeper

Last Sunday you were introduced to the need for an anchor. Our anchor is referred to as “the faith” in the New Testament. If “faith” is the act of believing, “the faith” is the development of beliefs. These readings illustrate and reinforce that truth.

Monday, September 11: Read 1Cor. 16:13

(p.1532-DSB*). In order to stand firm in “the faith,” how solid does your belief system need to be? Is there work to do?

Tuesday, September 12: Read Phil. 1:25 (p.1369-

DSB*). What do you think it means to have “progress” in “the faith”? Are you moving forward in understanding and conviction?

Wednesday, September 13: Read Col. 2:7 (p.1577-

DSB*). What part does “teaching” play in the strengthening of “the faith”?

Thursday, September 14: Read 1 Tim. 6:20-21

(p.1289-DSB*). There is a danger for those who are not sure of their beliefs. They can “wander away from the faith!” Are you prone to wander?

Friday, September 15: Read Matthew 24:9-10

(p.1289-DSB*). Jesus said that for many “the faith” would not withstand the pressure of extreme adversity. Is your anchor up to being tested by adversity?

**DSB” refers to the “Discovery Study Bibles” available in common ground.