

Teen Devotion

Year C – Epiphany 4

Uncovered



One truth shared: Jesus had an agenda for his life. He was not haphazardly going about his business, but in everything he was focused on the agenda given by his Father. As Jesus uncovers his agenda, he uncovers the agenda he wants for our life.

But [Jesus] said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Luke 4:43-44

Uncovered Agenda

It is true. Jesus was not rejected in every place to which he traveled or preached. He had some measure of success. After being thrown out of Nazareth, he traveled to Capernaum and was met with wild success. After an amazing day of preaching and healing, the disciples roused Jesus from prayer and said, "Everybody is looking for you!"

That town would have loved if Jesus would have stayed and kept serving them right there. But Jesus had a clear agenda, "No. I have to keep going into other towns with the gospel." So, he did. He went from town to town, Sunday after Sunday (actually, Sabbath after Sabbath), preaching and teaching his good news in their gathering spaces.

Jesus had a clear agenda, and that agenda included you! He wasn't going to let a little rejection stop him. He wasn't even going to let some wild success distract him. He was going to keep on going with the gospel until the whole world would hear.

Even after he died, rose, and then ascended into heaven, Jesus continued with this agenda. He uses his Christian agents to carry out his agenda.

He used the apostles. He has used countless Christians including people that you know, people who told you about this good news about the kingdom. Who has he used in your life? A parent? A pastor? A friend? A teacher? Who is it? (Send them a text message to say, "Thank you!")

Jesus refused to stop and set up shop in one town because he had a clear agenda for an entire world. Because he didn't, you have heard of him, and you believe in him.

Aren't you glad he didn't stop?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you didn't stop. You kept going with the gospel during your time on earth. You sent other people after your time on earth so that I would hear and know and believe. Thank you, Jesus, for your relentless pursuit of me. Amen.

Foundations Teen Facilitators Guide

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Uncovered Agenda

Starting the Discussion: *This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

- Name your favorite teacher. Explain why. What impact have they had on you?

Connecting: *This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they've looked at it.*

- Who has had the most *spiritual* impact on you? In what way have they impacted you?
- What are some of the spiritual truths you learned from them that you still remember today?

Digging In: *Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- Review Luke 4:31-44. Describe this day of ministry for Jesus.
- On a scale of 1-10, how successful was the day? (1 = failure, 5 = average, and 10 = totally best.)
- What did the people of the town want Jesus to do?
- Jesus said “no.” Why?
- Jesus’ mission is the gospel. Whether he himself was the messenger or he was sending someone else, his agenda is clear: Keep going with the gospel and do not stop! Imagine if your church’s agenda wasn’t the gospel. What would be the focus of your church? What would be the reason for it to exist?

Conclusion: *Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the “connecting question” above.*

- Handwrite a thank you note to a person who has encouraged you in your faith with the gospel. Be specific in the note and tell them exactly how they encouraged you. (If you are willing, please share with the group.)