

TAKEAWAY

Fighting Shadows: Apathy

In line with our goal to be a church of disciples who make disciples, this session is focussed on action, so that we are 'doers of the word' and not just hearers/people who enjoy a good discussion! It encourages focussed practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in the group so that our discipleship as followers of Jesus is deliberately pursued.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

You don't necessarily need to discuss these, but be aware as a leader.

- To see that apathy is counter to what God wants for us
- To be aware of some ways to fight apathy in our own lives

SHARE

Name three things that you are passionate about and why you are so.

READ

Romans 12:2

'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.'

Romans 8:11

"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you."

DISCUSS

Do you recognise apathy in yourself?

What things have you found make you more or less passionate about knowing God?

Why do our minds need renewing?

What, in your own words, is the result of having a renewed mind?

Have you experienced this at all personally?

The Spirit who raised Christ lives in His people! What does this mean practically?

Why do we need the work of the Spirit to help us with apathy about God?

READ

Acts 17:22-28

'The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'

DISCUSS

This passage, part of a sermon from Paul aimed at the Athenians who knew nothing about Jesus, is a sort of orientation to the story we are all a part of as God's people.

What, from this passage, challenges an apathetic approach to life?

What implications do these words have for things like our sense of purpose, priorities, and view of ourselves?

On Sunday, Matt suggested 3 ways to fight against apathy:

- 1.** *Get Some Good Theology Into Your Heart Via Your Brain*
- 2.** *Give Time to the Things That God Says Change A Person*
- 3.** *See Your Life As Within God's Greater Story*

What do you make of these? Which do you think you most need to do right now?

PRAY

TRY OUT

Do one of the three suggested ways to fight apathy. What does this look like for you?
Report next week.