

WELCOME

November 22, 2009

Discovery is a non-denominational Christian Church that seeks to lead people to discover and experience life, love and hope in Jesus Christ. These values drive our Sunday morning worship, community gatherings throughout the week, and the ministries we serve in.

FALL MESSAGE SERIES

'CHURCH'

A Study Through the Book of Acts

This week's message:

CHURCH: Giving Thanks

Acts 8-10

God's heart is so much BROADER than our hearts.

Look who's coming to Jesus:

- Acts 8:4-15; **Samaritans: SPIRITUAL DEGENERATES**
- Acts 8:26-40; **An Ethiopian Eunuch: A SEARCHING OUTCAST.**
- Acts 9:1-31; **Saul: AN ENEMY OF GOD.**
- Acts 10:1-48; **Gentiles: OUTSIDERS WAITING TO HEAR.**

Lessons for Today:

▶ **Accept the invitation.**

(Luke 14:15-24; Romans 3:21-26; Romans 10:11-13)

▶ **Remember to be thankful for God's grace.**

(Luke 22:29-30; Philippians 4:12-13; Colossians 3:15-17; Heb. 12:25-29)

▶ **Get out of your "comfort zone."**

(Matthew 5:13-16; Acts 1:8; Col 4:2-6)

What's On the Table This Thanksgiving?

God is trustworthy and loving. *He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands.* - Deuteronomy 7:9

You can know God. *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.* - Jeremiah 29:13

God won't forget you. *Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant.* - Exodus 2:23-24

Your past can be forgiven. *...everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name.* - Acts 10:43

You can have peace with God. *...we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.* - Romans 5:1

You can have lasting hope and joy. *Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.* - Romans 5:2

We can find help in our time of need. *So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.* - Hebrews 4:16

We are God's children. *See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children.* - 1 John 3:1

God has a purpose for us. *He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.* - Ephesians 2:10

God will keep working in us. *...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.* - Philippians 1:6

God will guide us in life and show us His ways. *Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.* - Romans 12:2

One day our sorrow and suffering will end. *He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.* - Revelation 21:4

God's plan for YOU is good! *He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?." - Romans 8:32*

Community Group Discussion Guide

Review Acts 8-10 and the other Scriptures listed in the sermon notes.

Discuss the circumstances you've experienced over the past year.

How have you experienced God's gracious promises the past year? Are you able to be thankful even when you have experienced difficult times?

How do you live your life as a thankful offering to God? What does a thankful church look like?

Happy Thanksgiving!