



## Sermon Notes - April 28, 2024

### Gather, Grow, Go Opportunities

- ✓ **Worship with us next Sunday as we see how God continues to transform the world one person at a time.**
- ✓ **Interested in joining a small group or becoming a member?**  
Talk to Pastor Jordan about ways to get plugged in.
- ✓ **Interested in children's ministry?**  
We are planning some fun summer programming for children. Volunteer this summer. Talk with LuAnn Berkhof for details.

### Prayer for the Week

*Almighty God, lead us forward in faith as we seek to be a sanctuary of Christian hope, love, and encouragement, now and for generations to come. Amen.*

### Grow Through Bible Study

This week's Scripture passages reflects God's heart for unexpected people.

1. What words or phrases stand out to you in this Scripture today?
2. As you read the Scripture, what questions do you have?  
Discuss it with others, consult a biblical commentary, or study bible.
  - Day One – Acts 11:1-18
  - Day Two – Acts 8:26-40
  - Day Three – Luke 8:26-39
  - Day Four – Mark 14:3-9
  - Day Five – Matthew 15:21-28

### Spiritual Practice - Practicing Patience

The apostle Paul talks about the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-26. They are **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control**. Sometimes being patient is very difficult, but it is evidence of God at work in your life. This week ask for God's help in being patient with others.

When you find yourself losing patience with someone, take a moment to deescalate. Perhaps take a few deep breaths or say a quick prayer. If you are in a conversation with someone that is getting heated, try operating from a posture of curiosity rather than trying to win the argument. Before responding to someone's political post on social media, ask if your response is needed or kind. And when you are out to eat or in line at the grocery store, take extra care to give others grace when things are not going as quickly as you want them to go. Being patient is not often shown as a strength. But it is a witness to our God who helps us grow our capacity to love our neighbors fully.

