

The UPCSA General Assembly

Group Bible Study Guide

“Partners in Mission” (PIM)

Saturday 28th June Induction Service “***Stronger Together***” of General Assembly Moderator (led by incumbent GA Moderator, Rt. Rev Lydia Neshangwe).

Sunday 29th June General Assembly Sunday Communion Service “***Partners in Mission***” (led by the newly inducted GA Moderator, Rev Dr Amon Kasambala).

Monday 30th June Morning Devotion Group Bible Study – (**Acts 14:21-28**)

“***Spiritual Leadership***”

- (1) What is the role of spiritual leadership in the life of the Church? Why is it important?
- (2) Where are we lacking in terms of spiritual leadership, as the UPCSA, and what do you suggest should be done about it? (verse 21-23) Reference to Titus 1:7-9 and 1Peter 5:1-4
- (3) How are you going to practically apply today’s lesson(s) in your GA engagements from today and further on?

Tuesday 1st July Morning Devotion Group Bible Study – (**Acts 15:1-29**)

“***The Church in Conflict – Dealing with Controversy***”

- (1) Why is feedback (reporting back) part of a good discipline in leadership? (verse 26-28) What is at stake when there is no meaningful feedback on God’s work through us? How should we treat negative feedback? What does this teach us about accountability?
- (2) What lessons do we learn from the way the early Church leaders handled the issue around accepting Gentiles into the fellowship of believers? What steps did they take? (verse 6-23).
- (3) What should be our approach to any controversial issues in the Church? (verse 24-29)
- (4) What are you personally committing yourself to when it comes to dealing with controversial issues either in this General Assembly, your Presbytery (or Synod) or your local Congregation?

Wednesday 2nd July Morning Devotion Group Bible Study – (**Act 16:6-15**)

“***Spiritual Discernment and Direction***”

- (1) What is spiritual discernment? Why is it important for the Church setting?
- (2) How do we know God is leading us as a Church? What lesson(s) do we get from verse 6-10? What does it take to be led by the Spirit of God as a Church?
- (3) “*Come over and help us*” (verse 9). Where exactly have we missed this call as Christians and as a Church? Give practical examples.
- (4) What commitment are you making as a Presbyterian Christian from today’s lesson(s).

Thursday 3rd July General Assembly closing Communion Service “***Partners in Mission***” (led by the General Assembly Moderator, Rev Dr Amon Kasambala).

Group Bible Study Guidelines

45 minutes Group Discussions & 15 minutes Summary

1. Meet in your Insaka Groups, according to the allocated devotion time in GA programme. Please observe time. Start on time and end on time.
2. Make sure there is someone facilitating the discussions. You may choose to rotate facilitators for each day.
3. Start with prayer, then read the scripture passage. If the text is long, divide it into two or three portions of readings and allow two or three people to read each portion.
4. Use the questions above to lead the discussions. Please allow participation of everybody (that is the purpose of this Bible study, to make sure everybody participates).
5. Avoid the temptation to preach or lecture (especially those of you who are preachers!) – DISCUSS.
6. Try to give practical perspectives and examples – let the text come alive in your own contexts.
7. Before you end the discussion, take time for reflection. What have you discovered? What has been re-enforced from what you have heard before? What is the Lord saying to you and to the entire Church? What are the new learnings of the day?
8. Close with prayer as a group. Time to join the larger body of the General Assembly.
9. Use the reflections in your decision-making time and discussions of the General Assembly debates. The Bible study outcomes should influence our thinking throughout the day and the week of Assembly seating.
10. Chaplains will give a summary prior to the start of the General Assembly business of the day.

In His Service,

Rev Dr Amon Kasambala

Your Partner in Mission (PIM)