

Introduction:

In the early days of the Church, miracles were expected and radical life-change was a regular occurrence: the Church seemed unstoppable. Today, we still serve the same God, but our experience has a way of seeming much less remarkable. What if we talked through the experience of those early Christians for a few weeks & intentionally began to follow in their footsteps? What if God wanted to do something radical through us? And what if we were ready? *What if?*

Scripture:

Psalm 32:5 - "Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, 'I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.' And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone."

1 John 1:5-7 - "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

Discussion Questions:

1. Are you, or is someone you know, humorously bad at keeping secrets?
2. When you are faced with an opportunity to keep something you've done or experienced secret, how do you tend to deal with it?
 - Do you try to make up for it or compensate for it?
 - Do you try to justify it through comparison?
 - Or do you try to talk yourself into believing that you can manage it?
3. In reading David's words in Psalm 32, we see one of the ways that God deals with secrets: confession. What do you think changed in David when he confessed his sins to God?
4. As we repent of our sins, we will begin to have opportunities to share our stories, but there is a part of us that would love to just forget the past.
 - How does it benefit us to share our stories & bring our past into the light?
 - How does it benefit the Church as a whole?

Take the Next Step:

Are you carrying a secret? What is one step you can take this week to confess it to God, repent, and begin sharing your story with other people?