



THE GOSPEL MOVES

SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

Small Group Study - Participant Guide

Everywhere. Everyone.

Acts 1:1-8

Overview

Jesus is still working. He sends His Spirit to empower us to be His witnesses in the world.

Background

Luke is writing the second part of his gospel account. Jesus has risen from the dead and is preparing His disciples to carry on His mission—empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions

Read Acts 1:1

1. What does Luke say Jesus was doing in his "first book" (v.1)? What does that tell us about how we should view the book of Acts?
2. What stands out to you in this passage?

Read Acts 1:2-5

1. What do vv.2–5 reveal about Jesus' priorities in the days after His resurrection?
2. Consider how Acts continues Jesus' mission rather than starting something completely new. Why do you think Jesus told the disciples to wait before going? (v.4)
3. Think about why the promise of the Spirit was so important for what was coming.

Read Acts 1:6

1. Why do you think the disciples asked in v.6 about the restoration of Israel? How do their hopes reflect something we also wrestle with?
2. Reflect on how your own hopes sometimes differ from God's bigger purpose.

Read Acts 1:7

1. What is Jesus' response in v.7, and how does it redirect the disciples (and us)?

Read Acts 1:8

1. According to v.8, what will the disciples receive, and what will they become? How are these two connected?
2. What do the locations (Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, ends of the earth) show us about the scope of the mission? Where is your "Jerusalem"?
3. Where are you sensing resistance or hesitation in being a witness? What would it look like for God to empower you to take a next step?



Reflection

1. How might your personal mission field expand outward like this?
2. Who in your "Jerusalem" might God be calling you to reach?
3. What might be keeping you from being a witness? What next step could you take?

Closing and Prayer

Spend time praying for boldness, love for the lost, and the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Invite group members to name someone in their life who may need to hear about Jesus.

Optional Deep Dive

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1–5. What does Paul say about his own limitations? How does this reinforce that God's mission isn't about impressiveness, but faithfulness? Leader Note: This underscores the message of Acts 1—God uses ordinary people through the Spirit to accomplish extraordinary things.



Small Group Study - Participant Guide

Everywhere. Everyone.

Acts 2

Opening Discussion

What's one of the most powerful moments you've experienced in a crowd or group setting? What made it so impactful?

Explore the Story

Read Acts 2:1-13

What happens when the Spirit arrives?

Read Acts 2:22-36

What does Peter say about Jesus?

Read Acts 2:37-41

How do the people respond to Peter's message?

Discuss Meaning

1. Why do you think God chose this moment and method to send His Spirit?
 2. What does this moment reveal about God's heart for all people?
 3. What does Peter's sermon show us about the core of the Christian message?
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Consider Implications

1. What role does the Holy Spirit play in empowering the church today?
 2. What do we learn about gospel witness from Peter's boldness?
 3. What does this passage teach about the nature of conversion and being in community?
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Respond Personally

1. How is the Spirit bringing clarity to your life right now?
 2. Where do you sense the need for courage in your witness?
 3. What is the Spirit revealing in your life to conform you to be more like Jesus?
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Challenge

The Holy Spirit doesn't just come to stir the room—He comes to change our lives—to make us more like Jesus. What will your response be?



Small Group Study - Participant Guide

The Church Begins
Acts 2:42-47

Read Acts 2:42-47

Opening Discussion Questions

- What are the key actions of the believers in this passage?
 - What do we learn about the way they lived together?
 - Are there any words or phrases that seem repeated or emphasized?
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What Do We Learn About the Early Church?

Discussion Questions

- **What was the relationship between the believers like?**
 - What kind of **community** did they have? What words describe it?
 - How did they **care for one another**?
- **What do you notice about the way they shared life together?**
 - How did their devotion to **certain practices** affect their relationships with each other?
- **What role did the apostles' teaching play in their community life?**
 - What does it mean to be **devoted to teaching** in our context today?

Focus on Key Practices

Discussion Questions

- **Apostles' Teaching:**
 - What does it mean to be **devoted** to the apostles' teaching?
 - Why is teaching such an important part of community life?
 - What happens when we **stop prioritizing teaching** in our lives or church community?
- **Fellowship:**
 - How does **fellowship** go beyond socializing?
 - What does it mean for them to have **"all things in common"**?
 - How does **fellowship** reflect the **love of Christ** in action?
- **Breaking of Bread (Communion):**



- How does the **breaking of bread** symbolize both **remembrance** and **proclamation**?
- Why is communion so central to the identity of the church?
- **Prayer:**
 - What does it look like for a church to be **devoted to prayer**?
 - Why is **prayer** more than just asking for things, but a way to align ourselves with God's will?

What Did Their Devotion Lead To?

Discussion Questions

- **What are some outcomes or results you see from the practices of the early church?**
 - **Awe:** What does it mean that they were filled with **awe**? How do we see awe in the early church?
 - **Signs and Wonders:** What role did **miracles** play in the life of the church? How does the church today experience God's **power**?
 - **Unity and Generosity:** How did their **generosity** and **unity** help them live out the Gospel? Why was **generosity** a natural result of their devotion to God?
 - **Worship:** How does their **worship** express their **devotion to God**? What role did it play in the community?
 - **Growth:** How did their daily commitment to God's Word and community impact the growth of the church?

How Does This Apply to Us?

Discussion Questions:

- **What practices do you think are essential for us to be devoted to as a community?**
 - How can we be more **intentional** about **being devoted to Scripture, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer**?
- **What role does generosity play in your life as a believer?**
 - How can you **share your resources** with others in a way that reflects **God's love** and the early church's example?
- **What does it mean to be a community that is marked by awe and joy in our devotion to Christ?**



- How does the Gospel fuel your **joy**? How do you **celebrate** God's work in your life and the church's life?

How can we as a group pray for one another, making prayer more central to our gatherings?

- What are some specific **areas of need** in our church or community that we can lift up together?
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Closing Application and Prayer

- **Pray for greater devotion** to God's Word, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer in our lives and as a church.
 - **Pray for a spirit of generosity and unity** that reflects the love of Christ and draws others to the faith.
 - **Pray for a deeper sense of awe** in our worship and in seeing God's power at work around us.
 - **Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel** and grow the church as we devote ourselves to these practices.
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Small Group Study - Participant Guide

Bold Faith

Acts 3-4

Overview

The apostles Peter and John demonstrate bold faith through their actions and words in Acts 3 and 4. This study will explore how their faith was anchored in Jesus, how they spoke boldly, faced opposition, and prayed for the strength to continue their mission.

Discussion Questions

The Healing of the Beggar

Read Acts 3:1-10

1. What do you notice about the beggar's situation before the healing? (e.g., his condition, what he asked for)
2. Why do you think Peter and John chose to heal this man instead of giving him money?
3. What might this teach us about how we help others?

Peter's Explanation of the Healing

Read Acts 3:11-26

1. What does Peter say is the source of the beggar's healing? How does he explain the role of Jesus in this miracle?
2. How does Peter use this moment to share the message of Jesus? Why do you think he mentions the resurrection so strongly?
3. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus' resurrection is central to the Gospel?

The Arrest and Trial of Peter and John

Read Acts 4:1-22

1. What did the authorities want Peter and John to stop doing? What was their response?
2. Why do you think Peter and John spoke so boldly, even when threatened with punishment? What enabled them to be so courageous?



3. When have you faced a situation where you had to choose between speaking up about your faith or staying silent? How did you respond?

Prayer for Boldness

Read Acts 4:23-31

1. What did the apostles pray for after being threatened? Why do you think they didn't pray for safety or protection?
2. How does their prayer challenge the way we might pray when we face challenges in our own faith? (e.g., Do we pray for boldness or for comfort?)
3. Have you ever prayed for boldness in your faith? What might boldness look like in your life?

Application

1. As you reflect on the apostles' boldness, what does bold faith look like for you today? How does Jesus' resurrection shape your willingness to speak up for Him?
2. Think about one situation this week where you can step out and speak boldly about your faith. Ask God to give you the courage to do so.



Small Group Study - Participant Guide

Holy and Set Apart

Acts 5:1-16

Opening Discussion

What's something you've seen people exaggerate or pretend about—maybe to impress others?

Today's passage shows how seriously God takes His peoples' pursuit of holiness.

Introduction

Read Acts 5:1–16

1. What is something that was said that struck you?
2. What are the key events that take place in this passage?
3. What is repeated or emphasized?

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Ananias and Sapphira die? What exactly was their sin (vv. 1–4)? Was it holding back money—or something deeper?
 - Why do you think this punishment was so immediate and severe?
 - What does this teach us about the identity of the Holy Spirit?
2. How did the church and outsiders respond?
 - What was the emotional and spiritual response of those who heard (v. 5, 11)?
 - How did this affect the reputation and growth of the church (vv. 12–16)?

Application

1. What lessons can we learn about integrity in the church?
 - Where do you see temptation to pretend or perform spiritually?
 - How do we guard our hearts from hypocrisy?
2. How should we think about “fear of the Lord” in light of this story?
 - Do you think the modern church has lost some of the awe and reverence for God's holiness?
 - How can we cultivate a healthy view of God including His love and holiness?
3. What does it look like for a church to be both pure and powerful?



- How can we aim for the kind of community where God's presence is felt and His power is seen?

Prayer

Confess areas where they may have lacked honesty before God or others.

Pray for the church to be both authentic and Spirit-empowered.

Ask God for boldness, integrity, and awe-filled reverence in your walk with Him.

Cross-reference reading

- Joshua 7 (Achan's sin and communal judgment)
- Leviticus 10:1–3 (Nadab and Abihu's unauthorized fire)
- Hebrews 12:28–29 ("Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.")



Small Group Study - Participant Guide

Growing Pains

Acts 6:1-7

Introduction

What is one area in your life where you've seen growth recently (in relationships, work, spiritual life)? What challenges did that growth bring?

Discussion Questions

1. What challenge did the early church face in Acts 6, and how did they respond?

- Reflect on the ways in which the early church handled growth. How can we respond to challenges in the same way?

2. How can we celebrate the growth of our church while also acknowledging the new responsibilities that come with it?

- How can you contribute positively to the growth and the responsibilities that growth brings?

3. Why was it important for the apostles to prioritize prayer and preaching the Word? How do we prioritize spiritual matters in our own lives?

- How can you ensure that your own priorities stay focused on spiritual growth?

4. How can you personally engage in the life of the church, ensuring that the work of the ministry is shared with others?

- What steps can you take to get more involved and contribute to the work of the church?

5. What qualities should we look for in those we share ministry responsibilities with? How can you develop these qualities in your own life?

- Reflect on how you can build these qualities in yourself and support others who are serving in ministry.

6. In what ways can we serve one another in our group or church? How can we empower others to serve as well?

- How can you help others discover their gifts and get involved in ministry?



7. How can we contribute to the gospel moving forward in our church and community?

- Think about how your actions and involvement can help the gospel spread further.
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Prayer

- Pray for wisdom in sharing the work of ministry, for spiritual maturity in leadership, and for the church to grow both spiritually and numerically. Ask God to raise up leaders and empower the body to serve.
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Small Group Study - Participant Guide

The Life That Points to Jesus

Acts 6:8-7:60 (Selected Segments)

Introduction

This week's study explores Stephen's witness in Acts 6:8–7:60. Through selected segments, you will reflect on how his life, message, and death point to Jesus.

Opening Discussion

- What's one person from history (biblical or not) whose courage or boldness you admire—and why?
- What's something you admire in someone else's faith that you'd like to grow in yourself?

Discussion Questions

Stephen accused, yet radiant

Read Acts 6:8–15

- What do we learn about Stephen and the Spirit in him?
- Why mention his face “like an angel”? What echoes of Scripture come to mind?
- What do these accusations reveal about the leaders?

Abraham & Joseph: chosen but rejected

Read Acts 7:1–16

- What does God's work in these stories tell us about His plan?
- What patterns of rejection and restoration do you see?
- Why would Stephen begin with stories familiar to his accusers?

Moses: rejected yet sent

Read Acts 7:17–36

- What parallels exist between Moses and Jesus?
- Why does rejection repeat throughout Israel's history?

Where does God dwell?

Read Acts 7:44–50

- What point is Stephen making about God's presence?
- Why is this a threat to religious traditions?



Hard truth

Read Acts 7:51–53

- What does he say about their hearts?
- Why is this the climax of his speech?

Stephen sees Jesus

Read Acts 7:54–60

- What stands out about Stephen's final words and posture?
- Why is it significant that Jesus is *standing*?

Application and Reflection

- What might it look like for your life to visibly reflect Jesus?
- How has God used rejection to shape your faith?
- In what ways might people today reject Jesus or the gospel?
- Where are we tempted to place our trust—in buildings, rituals, or routines—rather than in Christ?
- How do you respond to hard truths from God's Word? What does repentance look like?
- What would it look like to stay faithful to Jesus even under pressure?

Closing Reflection

What's one area where you want to grow in boldness or faithfulness to Jesus?

Close in prayer.



Small Group Study - Participant Guide

Scattered and Sent

Acts 8:1-8

Opening Discussion

Have you ever ended up somewhere unexpected and later realized God had a purpose for it? What happened?

Scattered for a Purpose

Read Acts 8:1–4

1. How do you see God's hand at work even in the midst of persecution?
2. Why might God allow hardship in order to move His people?
3. What do you make of the fact that the apostles stayed while others were scattered?

Ordinary People, Bold Witnesses

Read Acts 8:4

1. What does this verse tell us about the role of everyday Christians in God's mission?
2. How does this challenge your view of evangelism?
3. What are some ways you can "preach the word" in your everyday settings?

The Gospel Breaks Barriers

Read Acts 8:5–7

1. Why is it significant that Philip went to Samaria?
2. How does the gospel challenge cultural or social barriers today?
3. What barriers in our own community need the healing power of Jesus?

Joy Follows the Gospel

Read Acts 8:8

1. What does this verse teach us about the emotional and social impact of the gospel?
2. How can our group bring joy to our community?
3. In what ways can joy be a testimony to the world?



Reflection & Application

1. Where might God be "scattering" you right now—not through persecution, but through life changes, jobs, or relationships?
2. What opportunities do you have to speak the gospel where you live, work, or study?
3. How can this group be a source of gospel joy in your neighborhood or city?

Prayer

Pray for boldness to proclaim the gospel in everyday places.

Pray for those facing hardship, that God would use their season for His glory.

Pray for your community, especially those who haven't yet encountered the hope and joy of Jesus.



Small Group Study - Participant Guide

How Ordinary People Live on Mission

Acts 8:26-40

Introduction

What's one time in your life when your plans changed unexpectedly—but ended up leading to something better?

Discussion Questions

Read Acts 8:26–40

1. What surprises you about this story?
(*What's unexpected, strange, or worth noticing?*)
2. What do you learn about Philip?
 - What does he do?
 - What seems to motivate him?
 - How would you describe his role in the story?
3. What stands out about the Ethiopian eunuch?
 - What do we know about him?
 - What do you think he was looking for?
4. What do we learn about how God works in this story?
 - Through whom?
 - In what ways?
 - With what timing?
5. Why do you think the Holy Spirit led Philip to this one man at this moment?
6. What's the significance of verse 35?

Application and Reflection

1. What would it look like to live with the kind of availability Philip had?
 - What keeps you from being more responsive to God?
2. How comfortable are you with sharing your faith or pointing someone to Jesus?
 - What would help you grow in that area?
3. The eunuch had questions, but he needed someone to help him connect the dots. Who might God be putting in your life that needs help seeing Jesus more clearly?



Small Group Study - Participant Guide

Jesus Saves

Acts 9:1-19

Introduction

Share a time when you were convinced you were doing the right thing, only to realize later you were way off.

Discussion Questions

Read verses 1-2

How is Saul described in vv.1–2? What drives him? What stands out to you about Saul's mission and mindset at the beginning?

Read verses 3-6

Imagine being Saul in vv.3–6. What would you be thinking or feeling in that moment? What's surprising about how Jesus confronts him?

Jesus says, "Why are you persecuting Me?" What does that suggest about how Jesus relates to His people?

Read verses 7-9

Saul is blinded and led by the hand (vv.7–9). What might that physical blindness symbolize? How might Saul's blindness have helped prepare him for change?

Read verses 10-16

How do you relate to Ananias in vv.10–16? What do you admire? What would be difficult? What do you learn from Ananias's response to God's call?

Read verse 17-19

Why is it meaningful that Ananias calls him "Brother Saul" in v.17?

What evidence do you see of Saul's transformation in vv.17–19? What do you notice about how Saul begins his new life?

Reflection

- In what ways do you identify with Saul—his passion, blindness, pride, or surrender?
- What would it look like for Jesus to interrupt your week?
- Who in your life seems far from God—but might be closer to salvation than you realize?
- If God uses ordinary people like Ananias, what does that say about how He might want to use you?



Small Group Study - Participant Guide

The Gospel is for Everyone

Acts 10:1-48

Introduction

When have you had to step out of your comfort zone to build a relationship or share your faith?

Discussion Questions

Read verses 1-8

What do we learn about Cornelius's character and spiritual hunger?

Why do you think God didn't let the angel deliver the gospel directly?

Read verses 9-16

What might have been most difficult for Peter to accept?

How does God challenge our assumptions or comfort zones today?

Read verses 17-29

What barriers did Peter have to cross to enter Cornelius's home?

What stands out about Cornelius's preparation to hear from God?

Read verses 30-33

How does Cornelius's openness challenge us in our own response to God?

Are we as ready to hear and obey as Cornelius?

Read verse 34-43

What is central in Peter's explanation of Jesus?

What does this teach us about what the gospel truly is?

Read verse 44-48

Why is it significant that the Spirit came before baptism?

What does this event teach us about who can belong to God?

Reflection

- Who might see you as "unlikely" to believe? How might God be calling you to take a step toward them?
- What personal or cultural barriers might you need to let go of to be obedient?



Small Group Study - Participant Guide

A Model Church for a Messy World

Acts 11:19-30

Big idea

God builds His church through ordinary people who share Jesus boldly, grow deeply, and love generously — even when it costs them.

Introduction

Share a time when you stepped into something new or uncomfortable — a new job, new city, new school, new ministry role. How did you feel? What did you learn?

Discussion Questions

Scattered but not silent

Read verses 19-21

1. What stands out to you about these believers sharing the gospel even though they were scattered by persecution?
2. Why do you think some only spoke to Jews, but others shared with Greeks (Gentiles) too?
3. What might it have cost them socially or culturally to share Jesus in Antioch?

Strengthening and discipling new believers

Read verses 22-26

1. Why did the Jerusalem church send Barnabas to Antioch? What does that tell us about their priorities?
2. How does Barnabas respond when he sees what God is doing?
Why did Barnabas go get Saul (Paul) to help?

Identity and witness

Read verse 26

1. Why do you think the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch?
2. What does that title suggest about their lives and witness to others?



Responding to needs

Read verses 27-30

1. What was the church's response to hearing about the coming famine?
2. How did they decide what to give?
3. What does this teach us about generosity?

Application Questions

1. What holds us back from talking about Jesus or being generous with what we have — our time, words, or resources?
2. Where might God be calling you to step out — even if it feels awkward, risky, or costly?
3. Who has helped you grow in your faith, and who could you come alongside to encourage or disciple right now?
4. What does it look like to remain faithful with purpose in your current season — and what kind of reputation do you want to have as a follower of Jesus?
5. How do you typically respond when you hear about needs — in your community or around the world — and is there a step God might be leading you to take?

Prayer

- Pray for courage to speak about Jesus in hard places.
- Pray for deeper faithfulness and growth in your own walk.
- Pray for hearts to be generous and open-handed toward others in need.



Small Group Study - Participant Guide

Earnest Prayers, Unstoppable God

Acts 12

Big idea

God is at work even in chaos and opposition, and He invites His people into that work through prayer and trust.

Discussion Questions

Persecution and Prayer

Read Acts 12:1–5

1. What stands out about Herod's actions and motivations?
2. Why do you think Herod targeted leaders like James and Peter first?
3. How does the church respond to Peter's arrest?

A Miraculous Rescue

Read Acts 12:6–11

1. What details show how impossible Peter's escape was from a human perspective?
2. Why might Peter have been able to sleep so peacefully the night before his trial?
3. What does this say about God's power and intervention?

Surprised by the Answer

Read Acts 12:12–17

1. How do the believers react when Peter shows up?
2. What might their surprise reveal about their expectations in prayer?
3. How do we relate to this tension between praying and truly expecting God to act?

God Reigns Supreme

Read Acts 12:18–24

1. What contrasts do you see between Herod's power and God's power?
2. Why is verse 24 ("But the word of God increased and multiplied") significant in the story?
3. How does this shape our perspective on temporary human authority versus God's enduring kingdom?



Personal Reflection & Application

1. When you face impossible or overwhelming situations, what is your first instinct?
2. What might it look like to prioritize prayer as your first response rather than your last resort?
3. Where in your life do you struggle to believe God can act?
4. How can this passage encourage you to live with greater boldness and trust?

Prayer Focus

Pray for areas in your life where you may need to trust God's power.

Pray for boldness to pray bigger prayers and expect God to work.

Pray for gospel opportunities and open hearts in places that seem "impossible."



Small Group Study - Participant Guide

Obedience on the Front Lines

Acts 13:1-13

Big Idea

God calls and sends His people to proclaim the gospel—even when the mission is hard or opposed. The Spirit empowers ordinary believers to carry the extraordinary message of Jesus.

Opening Discussion

What's the most unexpected place or situation you've ever been in where you ended up talking about Jesus?

Discussion Questions

The Church in Antioch: Spirit-led Sending

Read Acts 13:1-3

- What do we learn about the church in Antioch
- What do you notice about how they discern God's will? What role does the Spirit play?
- How does the church respond to the Spirit's call?

Ministry in Cyprus: Gospel Proclaimed and Power Displayed

Read Acts 13:4-12

- What happens on the mission in Cyprus
- What do you notice about how Paul confronts opposition?
- What role does the Holy Spirit play in this moment?
- What does this tell us about how the gospel advances, even in opposition?

Departure and Desertion: The Reality of Hardship

Read Acts 13:13

- What happens in verse 13 that might seem small but is significant?
- Why do you think Luke includes this note?
- What might this mean for us as we follow Jesus?



Application Questions

1. Where in your life do you need to slow down to hear the Spirit's leading? Are you making space for worship, prayer, and fasting to seek God's direction?
2. How do you usually respond to spiritual opposition? What does this passage teach us about standing firm and speaking boldly?
3. Are there any areas where you've "checked out" of the mission like John Mark? What might God be calling you back into?

Follow Through

The gospel mission didn't start with Paul—it started with the Spirit. He still speaks, still sends, and still empowers.

- Where is He sending you?
- Who is someone in your life who is "close to belief" like Sergius Paulus—but is being blocked or misled spiritually?
 - Pray by name for that person.
 - Ask God for a clear opportunity to speak truth this week.
 - Commit to sharing what happens next week.

Prayer

- Pray for spiritual boldness.
- Ask for sensitivity to the Spirit's voice.
- Pray for endurance in mission, even when it's hard or lonely.



Small Group Study - Participant Guide

Through Many Tribulations

Acts 14

Main Theme

Following Jesus with perseverance, even when the mission is hard.

Discussion Questions

Bold Witness in a Divided City

Read Acts 14:1–7

1. What response do we see to the gospel in verse 1?
2. According to verses 2–3, how did Paul and Barnabas respond to opposition?
3. What stands out to you about how the city was divided?

Misunderstood but Faithful in Witness

Read Acts 14:8–18

1. What do verses 8–10 show about God's power at work through the apostles?
2. How does the crowd respond in verses 11–13?
3. What do Paul and Barnabas say about God in verses 14–17?

From Praise to Persecution

Read Acts 14:19–20

1. What does verse 19 reveal about how quickly crowds can be swayed?
2. What is surprising or challenging about Paul's response in verse 20?

Strengthening Disciples & Appointing Elders

Read Acts 14:21–23

1. What actions do Paul and Barnabas take in verses 21–22?
2. According to verse 22, what do they teach the new disciples about following Jesus?
3. What does verse 23 say about how they establish churches?

Reporting What God Has Done

Read Acts 14:24–28

1. Who do Paul and Barnabas report to, and why is that important (v.26–27)?
2. What do they emphasize in their report?
3. How does verse 27 reflect their view of ministry success?



Application Questions

1. Where do you need to be more faithful to speak the truth, even when it's unpopular or opposed?
2. How can you be more intentional this week to point people to God rather than yourself — in success, leadership, or influence?
3. When has faithfulness to Jesus cost you something? How did you respond?
4. How are you helping others grow strong in the faith — and who is doing that for you?
5. What is one way you can give God credit this week for something He has done in your life or through you?

Living It Out – Reflection Questions

1. Where do you feel most tempted to quit or stay quiet in your faith?
2. What does it look like to “strengthen the souls of the disciples” in your context?
3. How does this chapter reshape your view of hardship in the Christian life?

Closing Prayer

Thank God for His work through ordinary people.

Pray for strength to persevere in hard places.

Ask God to use the group to encourage and strengthen one another.



Small Group Study - Participant Guide

Grace Alone

Acts 15:1-35

Main Theme: Staying anchored in the gospel of grace

Scripture Context

- This is often called the **Jerusalem Council** — a crucial moment in church history where leaders gathered to resolve a sharp theological dispute.
- The core issue: Must Gentiles follow Jewish laws (especially circumcision) to be saved?
- The decision preserved gospel clarity: salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus, not by religious law-keeping.
- The church models humility, discernment, and unity even amid disagreement.

Discussion Questions

The Dispute Emerges

Read Acts 15:1–5

1. What does verse 1 reveal about what some believers were teaching?
2. How did the church in Antioch respond in verses 2–3?
3. What is the disagreement really about at its core?

Peter Speaks About God's Grace

Read Acts 15:6–11

1. In verses 7–8, what does Peter say God did among the Gentiles?
2. What reason does Peter give in verse 10 for opposing the legalistic teaching?
3. What does verse 11 teach about how anyone is saved?

James Brings Biblical Wisdom

Read Acts 15:12–21

1. What do verses 12–14 add to the conversation about what God is doing?
2. In verses 15–18, how does James use Scripture to support their decision?
3. Why does James suggest the four abstentions in verse 20?

The Church Responds with Clarity and Unity

Read Acts 15:22–29

1. What stands out about the way the church makes this decision together (vv. 22–23)?
2. According to verses 24–26, what are they affirming about those who had been disturbed?
3. What's the tone of the letter in verses 28–29?



Encouragement and Strengthening

Read Acts 15:30–35

1. What is the response of the Gentile believers in verse 31?
2. What roles do Judas, Silas, Paul, and Barnabas play in strengthening the church?

Application Questions

1. Where are you tempted to add extra requirements — for yourself or others — when it comes to being accepted by God?
2. How does remembering God's grace in your own salvation shape the way you view others who are different from you?
3. How can we be thoughtful about our actions and practices, so we don't create unnecessary obstacles for others in their faith?
4. When facing disagreement or confusion in the church, how can we pursue clarity and unity without compromising truth?
5. How can you intentionally encourage someone this week with truth that builds them up in their faith?

Living It Out – Reflection Questions

1. What are some ways we unintentionally add burdens to others' faith journeys?
2. How does gospel grace bring freedom — not just in salvation, but in everyday life?
3. Who in your life needs to be reminded that God's acceptance is based on grace, not performance?



Small Group Study - Participant Guide

The Gospel Comes to Philippi
Acts 16:6-40

Context & Commentary

Paul's second missionary journey takes a surprising turn. Instead of continuing into Asia, the Holy Spirit redirects him and his team to Macedonia through a vision (vv. 6–10). This marks the first time the gospel enters Europe, a hinge moment in church history.

In Philippi, the gospel breaks into three very different lives:

Lydia (vv. 11–15), a wealthy businesswoman whose heart the Lord opens.

A slave girl (vv. 16–18), exploited for profit until Christ sets her free.

A jailer (vv. 25–34), a Roman authority figure transformed by God's power and grace.

These conversions show that the gospel is for **all people**—regardless of gender, class, or background. Paul and Silas' suffering and eventual vindication (vv. 35–40) highlight both the cost of discipleship and the boldness of gospel integrity.

Icebreaker

When has a closed door in your life unexpectedly led to a better opportunity?

Discussion Questions

God's Leading

Read Acts 16:6-10

1. What do we learn about the Spirit's role in guiding the mission?
2. Have you ever experienced God redirecting your plans? How did you respond?

The Conversion of Lydia

Read Acts 16:11–15

1. Verse 14 says, "The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul." What does this teach us about salvation?
2. How does Lydia immediately demonstrate her new faith?
3. What would it look like for you to open your home or resources for gospel purposes?

Deliverance and Opposition

Read Acts 16:16–24

1. Why do you think Paul was "greatly annoyed" with the slave girl?
2. How does the reaction of her owners show the conflict between gospel power and worldly profit?
3. What forms of opposition might we encounter today when people's idols or profit systems are threatened by the gospel?



Singing in the Night

Read Acts 16:25–34

1. What stands out to you about Paul and Silas praying and singing hymns at midnight in prison?
2. The jailer asks, “What must I do to be saved?” (v. 30). How does Paul’s answer shape our understanding of the gospel?
3. How does the jailer’s transformation show both personal faith and household impact?

Bold Integrity

Read Acts 16:35–40

1. Why does Paul insist on public acknowledgment of their mistreatment rather than leaving quietly?
2. What does this teach us about integrity and protecting the witness of the gospel?
3. Where might you need to stand firm for truth and justice, even if it’s costly?

Application

Trust God’s Direction: Closed doors are not rejection but redirection for greater gospel impact.

Open Your Life: Like Lydia, use your resources, home, and hospitality for God’s mission.

Find Joy in Suffering: Choose worship and prayer even in difficulty, knowing God works through it.

Proclaim with Boldness: Don’t shrink back from standing for truth or protecting the witness of the gospel.



Small Group Participant Guide: Acts 17:16–34

Opener

What's a public place where you've recently noticed spiritual confusion or cultural tension? What do people seem to believe about God or life there?

Acts 17:16–21 — What Paul Saw & Felt

Summary: Paul is provoked by the idolatry in Athens. He reasons with Jews and Gentiles, eventually drawing the attention of local philosophers.

Discussion Questions

What emotions does Paul feel in verse 16? Why is that significant?
What's surprising about how Paul interacts with people in verses 17–18?
How would you describe the spiritual atmosphere in Athens?

Application Questions

When you look at the spiritual climate around you, what emotions do you feel?
Does what you feel line up with the way God feels?

Acts 17:22–29 — What Paul Said About God

Summary: Paul begins with the Athenians' altar to an "unknown god" and explains the true God: Creator, Sustainer, Ruler, and Father.

Discussion Questions

What truths about God does Paul highlight in verses 24–26?
What does verse 27 say about God's desire for people?
How does Paul challenge the Athenians' understanding of God in verse 29?

Application Questions

What cultural "idols" or false ideas about God do you see today?
How can we speak the truth in a way that builds bridges, not walls?



Acts 17:30–34 — What Paul Said About Jesus

Summary: Paul calls people to repentance and proclaims that Jesus will judge the world. He points to the resurrection as proof.

Discussion Questions

- What does verse 30 tell us about God’s response to ignorance?
- Why does Paul highlight the resurrection in verse 31?
- What do verses 32–34 show us about how people respond to the gospel?

Application Questions

- What does repentance look like today—in a culture that resists being told it’s wrong?
 - How can we call people to repentance with both truth and love?
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Living It Out

- Where is God placing you “in the marketplace”—among people who don’t know Him?
 - What’s one false idea about God you’ve had to unlearn yourself?
 - Who needs to hear not just *about* God, but *about Jesus*?
-

Closing Prayer

- Pray for courage to speak in spiritually confused spaces.
- Pray for wisdom to engage people where they are.
- Pray for compassion to feel what Paul felt.



Group Participant Guide

Series: Everywhere. Everyone.

Gospel Expectations

Acts 18–19

Icebreaker Question

- What's something from your everyday routine that most people wouldn't expect or know about you? (e.g., a habit, hobby, conversation, or moment that's surprisingly meaningful)

Faithful in the Ordinary

Read aloud: Acts 18:1–5

Summary: Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth, works alongside them, shares the gospel, and receives encouragement from God to remain.

Discussion Questions:

- What does Paul's relationship with Aquila and Priscilla show us about gospel partnership?
- What stands out about how Paul balances work and ministry?
- What does God say to Paul in verses 9–10, and why does it matter?

Application:

- Where has God placed you to be faithful in ordinary, everyday life?
- Are there hard places or people you've been tempted to walk away from? What would it look like to stay and trust God there?
- Who are your gospel co-laborers? How can you encourage them this week?

Growth, Clarity, and the Spirit

Read aloud: Acts 18:24–26 and Acts 19:1–7

Summary: Apollos teaches boldly but needs more clarity, which he receives from Priscilla and Aquila. In Ephesus, Paul helps believers receive the Holy Spirit.



Discussion Questions:

- What does Apollos model about humility and growth?
- Why is the Holy Spirit essential in the Christian life?

Application:

- Are you growing in gospel clarity, or coasting on past knowledge?
- What role does the Holy Spirit play in your daily walk with Jesus? Where do you need to depend more on Him?
- Is there someone God is prompting you to come alongside and help grow in the truth?

God's Word Confronts and Transforms

Read aloud: Acts 19:8–10, 18–20

Summary: Paul teaches, people respond, and new believers abandon practices tied to magic and false worship.

Discussion Questions:

- How do we see God's Word confronting culture in this passage?
- What do the believers' actions in verses 18–20 tell us about real repentance?

Application:

- Is there anything in your life God is calling you to confess, surrender, or remove so you can walk in greater freedom?
- What does wholehearted repentance look like practically for you?
- How can you cultivate greater hunger for God's Word this week?

Closing Reflection & Prayer

- Where did God speak to you most clearly today?
- What's one thing you'll carry forward from this study?
- Pray for boldness, humility, and Spirit-empowered obedience in everyday life.



Group Participant Guide

Series: Everywhere. Everyone.

What Makes Life Count

Acts 20

Opening Question

- What's one daily or weekly routine that helps you stay focused or grounded?

Ministry Along the Way

Read Acts 20:7–12

Summary: Paul continues encouraging churches, traveling with companions. In Troas, a young man named Eutychus falls asleep during a long message, falls from a window, and dies—but Paul raises him back to life.

Discussion Questions:

- What does this section show about Paul's rhythm of ministry and the value of spiritual encouragement?
- Why do you think Luke included the story of Eutychus?
- What does this teach us about the cost and urgency Paul felt in his final days of ministry?

Application:

- Are there people around you who need encouragement to keep going in their faith?
- Where do you need renewed spiritual hunger and urgency?

A Life Lived Before Them

Read Acts 20:17–21

Summary: Paul reviews how he lived among the Ephesians: with humility, tears, trials, and boldness. He reminds them he held nothing back and taught both publicly and privately.

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out about Paul's posture toward the people he served?
- How does verse 20 challenge the way we think about sharing truth?
- What does it mean to "serve the Lord with all humility" in today's world?



Application:

- Is your faith visible in both public and private spaces?
- Who in your life are you intentionally helping grow spiritually?

Surrendered and Steady

Read Acts 20:22–24, 28–32

Summary: Paul describes his resolve to obey the Spirit, even if suffering awaits. He charges the elders to care for the church faithfully, warning them of threats to come. His confidence is in the Word of God to sustain them.

Discussion Questions:

- In verses 22–24, what do we learn about how Paul viewed his own life?
- According to verses 28–32, what does faithful spiritual leadership look like?
- What role does God's Word play in protecting and building up the church?

Application:

- Where are you resisting the Spirit's leading because it feels costly?
- What's one way you can encourage someone in your church family this week?
- How can you build greater dependence on God's Word in your daily life?

Closing Prayer & Reflection

- Where did this passage encourage or challenge you most?
- What's one step of obedience or surrender God is pressing on your heart?
- Pray for endurance, courage, and love for the church like Paul demonstrated.

