



The Book of Acts – Part 3.

Overview: Acts is divided into 28 chapters, chronicling a history of the early church after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Throughout the text, we see the apostles grow into their own in ministry. The apostles had a huge responsibility (as do we), and their paths were rarely, if ever, easy. We can learn a lot from studying the early church and how the apostles witnessed throughout their lives.

Instructions:

The following is **Part 3** of our featured study on Acts. We suggest that you divide the chapters of Acts up into reading assignments based on the meeting schedule and reading pace of your group. Then, discuss what you are reading and learning during your meetings! You might decide to have one of you responsible for recapping the reading each time you meet. If you would like to follow along with the sermon series, please see the outline below for the text that will be covered each week. The text and questions will be updated every 4-6 weeks.

Week 10: Nov 15th

- Reading: Acts 6:1-7
- Question: We must use discernment when choosing how, when, and where to exercise our gifts and abilities in and through the church. In what areas do you think God has blessed you with talents to serve in the church? What steps can you as an individual and as a group take to start using your talents for God in the church. If you haven't prayed about this by yourself and as a group, give it a try now.

Tip: Reread about the 6th core value of community groups, **Engage Missionally**.

Week 11: Nov 22nd

- Reading: Acts 6:8-8:1a
- Question: Real faith is trusting in God when something is on the line. We will probably never be in a situation like Stephen, but all of our faith will be tested at some point. And when your faith is tested there is a good way to know how you will react.

How do you react with the small things? When we go to Him when small things go wrong, we will naturally turn to Him when we are being tested with something larger.

What are some ways you can work on turning to God in the small things, and how can you encourage your small group to trust God in all things.

Week 12: November 29thth

- Reading: Acts 8:1b-40

- Question: God can and does take messy situations and uses them for good. We see this exact thing happen in these verses. Have you ever been in a spot where God has taken a messy situation and turned it into something good? Now is a great time to encourage your community group by sharing it.

Week 13: Dec 6th

- Reading: Acts 9:1-35

- Question: Knowing Jesus changes everything. The story of Saul's conversion is probably the greatest example of this ever. If we truly believe that knowing Jesus changes everything, we should be sharing the good news with everyone. Who is someone in your life you can share Jesus with? This is also a great time to set up a plan as a community group to keep encouraging each other to share the news of Jesus.

Please remember, you need not be limited by these questions! The goal of all of these studies is that we would be devoting daily to our relationship with Jesus: getting into a habit of regularly studying His word and responding to His teachings in our lives. How you do that is entirely dependent on your group!

The following are general resources we recommend to everyone who is studying the Bible.

- A good **study Bible**. This is essential. For example, the ESV study Bible is available for the purchase online.
- A **concordance** (e.g. Strong's exhaustive concordance): A concordance is an alphabetical list of words that allows you to search for words in the Bible. For example, if you wanted to study prayer, you could look up "prayer" in the concordance and it would provide every instance of where "prayer" appears in Scripture!
- **Holman's Bible Dictionary**
- **A journal**: This may seem simple, but it's really important. Journaling often helps us to be more intentional about our Bible study and record what God is teaching us throughout various points in our lives.

If you have questions about any of these resources, or would like to know more about where to access them, please feel free to reach out anytime!

