

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FOR ACTS

WARM UP

What was a primary takeaway for you from Sunday's sermon on Acts?

The focus of the book of Acts is the fulfillment of the Great Commission and the power through which Jesus Christ is proclaimed through his Spirit-indwelt believers, showcasing the spread and growth of the church. This book is meant to bring encouragement and vision despite the hardships that the early church faced. What has encouraged you most while engaging with this book?

EXPLORATION

1. The Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 would have been a sight to see! The early church was debating whether Gentile (non-Jewish) believers had to follow the old Jewish customs as Christians. Read Acts 15:7-12 together. What yokes or burdens might we inadvertently place upon ourselves or others which diminishes the grace of Jesus?
2. While traveling in Athens, Paul declared the character of God to a large group of people at the Areopagus after seeing them worship idols without names. Read Acts 17:22-31. What attributes of God do you see? As a believer that today proclaims to know this God and be known by him, what attributes might have been the most shocking to the group of pagan Gentiles?
3. The book of Acts includes many descriptions of how early Christians practiced their faith together. While not necessarily prescriptive for us today, what are activities or practices that you read that they did that your community group could engage in? Read Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-37.

APPLICATION

1. There are numerous stories in the book of Acts of people stepping out in boldness to proclaim the Gospel. The final verse of the book even ends with the summary that Paul's ministry in Rome was done in boldness (Acts 28:31). Read Acts 4:23-31 together (or the whole chapter!). How can you be bolder in proclaiming Jesus to your friends and community. Pray for boldness together.
2. While the Christian faith is not one that can be scientifically proven, God calls for us to have a reasoned faith (Isaiah 1:18) and his Gospel message is one that is understandable. Faith does not oppose reason. It is because of that fact that Paul, as recorded in his trip to Corinth, "reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks" (Acts 18:4). Is your faith one that is bolstered by the basis of Scripture? How can we study and meditate on Scripture better so that our faith is more built upon the true and sure foundation of the Word of God?
3. **Share your story.** The book of Acts is not simply an early church history book, but it is a testament of the work of Jesus among his people. Every chapter, people are proclaiming of the grace and goodness of Jesus. Would you be willing to share a brief proclamation or extended testimony of God's reign and goodness of your life?