

# DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

## YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

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A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ACTS



SUMMIT VIEW CHURCH





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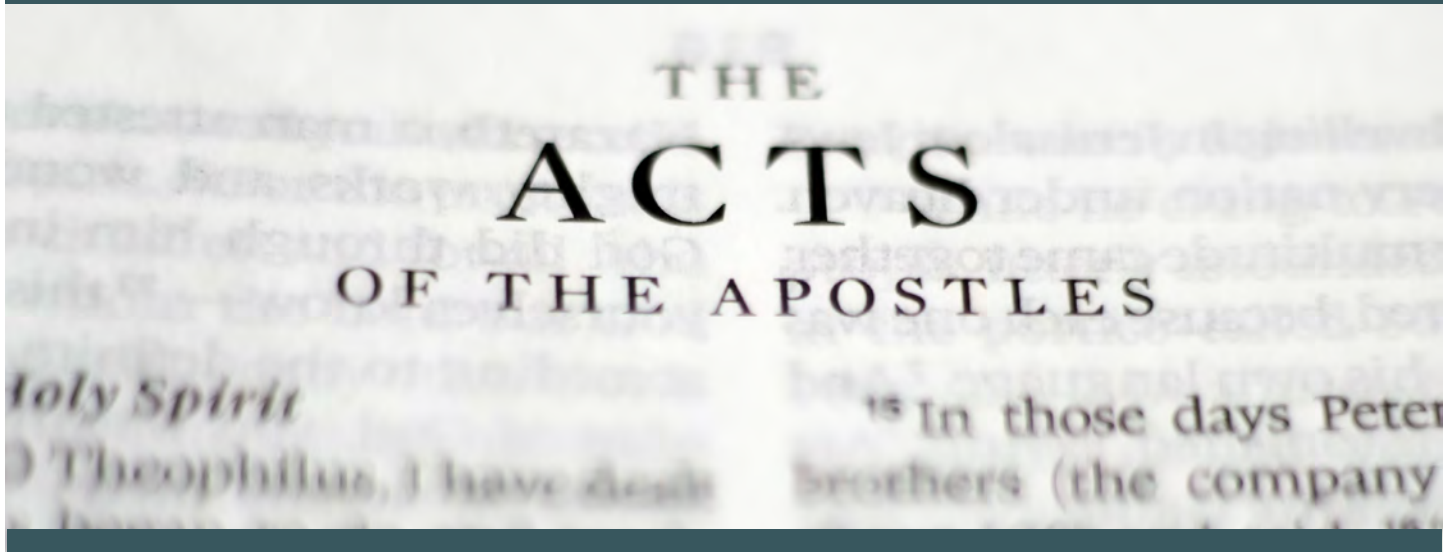
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# WELCOME TO ACTS PART I

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will **be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8*



## HOW DID WE GET HERE?

This is the question we often ask, trying to figure out how exactly we arrived at our current situation. It seeks to discern the series of events that caused our present circumstances to unfold. It is a question we will seek to answer through this study, that we might all understand how the Gospel message, known by only a handful of Jews in Jerusalem over 2000 years ago, made its way across the world, all the way to us, here in the Pacific Northwest.

Acts picks up where the Gospels left off. In the Gospels we see Jesus' earthly ministry executed by our Savior Himself; in the book of Acts we find this ministry continued by His people and ultimately by us today. Within Acts is the story of the Church's birth, from seedlings to its rapid growth, expansion, and the ultimate advancement of the Gospel message. Without Acts, we would know very little about how God's people took up the Great Commission to where we are today.

In the book of Acts we encounter the beginning of Church history—with no mature believers, brand new systems just being figured out, and all the while, souls being saved. Throughout the text, one theme rises above the rest: Jesus' call, for all of us, to be a witness to who He is, what He's done, and to take that message, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the ends of the Earth.

## AUTHOR

While the author does not directly identify himself in the text, it is almost certain that the author of Acts is the same as the Gospel of Luke. Besides the prevalence of this perspective passed down throughout Church history and Tradition, there are also similar prefaces between Luke and Acts as seen in Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1. We can also assume that the author of Acts would have been an eyewitness to some of the events recorded within the book, based upon the shift of tone in the letter when documenting the events in Acts 16, 20, and 27.

The authorship has been widely attributed to Luke as early as AD 180, where Irenaeus names Luke as the author; Tradition has firmly held this view ever since. Luke is known in the New Testament as the physician, friend, colleague, and travel companion of Paul as noted in Colossians 4:4, Philemon 24, and 2 Timothy 4:11.

## DATE

Due to the contents within the book, it is most likely that Luke wrote this before AD 70 as there are no references to Nero or the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. The book's abrupt conclusion suggests that it was finished while Paul was still under house arrest in Rome circa AD 62.

## REASON FOR WRITING

Luke's intention for the Gospel of Luke, found within Luke 1:3-4, applies also to the book of Acts: to give an "orderly" account of the early church after Christ's resurrection. Luke sought to give certainty and confidence to his readers that the events recorded truly happened as recorded. He sought to document the expansion of the early church and the work of the Holy Spirit in the people of God, highlighting and emphasizing the global scale of the Gospel, while also edifying believers. By reading the book of Acts we can see how the foundation of the Church was laid, how believers were empowered by the Holy Spirit, and the work of the Church to build and expand the Kingdom of God.

The book of Acts records the spread of the Gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.





Map Courtesy of ESV.ORG – Bible Study

# OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

I.	The Foundation: The Church and Its Mission	1:1–2:13
II.	The Witness in Jerusalem	2:14–5:42
III.	The Witness beyond Jerusalem	6:1–12:25
IV.	The Witness in Cyprus and Southern Galatia	13:1–14:28
V.	The Jerusalem Council	15:1–35
VI.	The Witness in Greece	15:36–18:22
VII.	The Witness in Ephesus	18:23–21:16
VIII.	The Arrest in Jerusalem	21:17–23:35
IX.	The Witness in Caesarea	24:1–26:32
X.	The Witness in Rome	27:1–28:31

## KEY THEMES

### 1. POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The book of Acts highlights the work of the Holy Spirit in the newly founded community of believers. We see the Holy Spirit empower the followers of Jesus to proclaim the Gospel, bring new life to those who heard it proclaimed, and ultimately form a new people with a new identity marked by knowing and loving God and others.

### 2. CENTRALITY OF THE MISSION

Acts establishes the mission of God as central and fundamental to the Church. We are given a depiction of all the early Christian leaders engaged in mission to ensure the Gospel went out to the ends of the earth. We also learn that the mission of God continued beyond the cross of Christ, given to His people to carry forth, both to the early believers and to us today.

### 3. THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

While all of Scripture ultimately points to Jesus and the Gospel, within the book of Acts, it is found on every page. Throughout Acts, we find ten unique sermons, presented from various perspectives and persons, all outlining a clear Gospel message; the resurrection and exaltation of Jesus is at the center of the preaching in Acts. This is the message Jesus commissioned His believers to share, and primary story arc of the book of Acts centers around its spread.

### 4. INCLUSION OF THE GENTILES

Luke takes great lengths throughout the book of Acts to help us understand that non-Jews were now to be included in the people of God. As the narrative follows the missionaries further out from Jerusalem, we clearly see that salvation has nothing to do with ethnicity or social status, but simply faith in Christ's sufficiency alone.



## SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Name of Resource	Link to Resource
Forgotten God by Francis Chan ( <i>book</i> )	<a href="https://amzn.to/3BNb2l7">https://amzn.to/3BNb2l7</a>
Before You Share Your Faith by Matt Smethurst ( <i>book</i> )	<a href="https://amzn.to/3WdwvM4">https://amzn.to/3WdwvM4</a> <a href="https://amzn.to/3WdwvM4">https://amzn.to/3WdwvM4</a>
Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus by Mack Stiles ( <i>book</i> )	<a href="https://amzn.to/3YuFMB7">https://amzn.to/3YuFMB7</a>
Knowing Faith – Series of Acts ( <i>podcast</i> )	<a href="https://www.trainingthechurch.com/episodes/category/Acts">https://www.trainingthechurch.com/episodes/category/Acts</a>
Bible Project – Acts 1–12 ( <i>video</i> )	<a href="https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/acts-1-12/">https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/acts-1-12/</a>
Knowing the Bible: Acts ( <i>study</i> )	<a href="https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-acts/">https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-acts/</a>
Exalting Jesus in Acts ( <i>commentary</i> )	<a href="https://a.co/d/bVkgzil">https://a.co/d/bVkgzil</a>

### SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION BY MONTH

When you memorize Scripture, not only do you reflect on the Word of God in that time and moment, you also store it away for the Holy Spirit to bring it to your attention when you need it most. Paul encourages us in Colossians 3:2 to set our minds on the things above, and Scripture memorization allows us to do just that. Over the next two months as we study Acts, we invite you to join us in committing to memorize the following verses:

#### MONTH 1:

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

*And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ Acts 2:21*

#### MONTH 2:

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42*

*But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” Acts 4:19–20*



# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



This guide has been specifically and prayerfully created with you in mind. It is designed to complement your personal time with God, Sunday service engagement, and Life Group gatherings. Each week also includes unique content for students and our SV Kids; if you are a parent, we encourage you to go through this discipleship guide together as a family!

This resource is designed to function as a guide, not a straitjacket. You may not get through every question with your Life Group. This Discipleship Guide is designed to support your personal growth and spiritual community — not replace them. We also encourage you to find and incorporate supplementary resources throughout our study. Our desire is that this Guide might be used to facilitate a firmer grasp of Scripture, a stronger connection to Christ, and a hunger for spiritual growth.

## BIBLE READING PLAN

Engagement with the Bible is one of the greatest sources of spiritual growth. During our Acts series, we have put together a suggested reading guide that will help you further understand the passage we are studying each week. Our plan is for delight not duty. We pray it is a helpful guide that points you to Christ each and every day.

## LIFE GROUPS

The Life Group Questions are designed to generate conversation with those in your community also engaging with Acts. If you are not currently in a Life Group, we would highly recommend you join one! We were never meant to do life alone, and we don't want you to miss what God has for you in this season.

Learn more at [www.summitview.net/groups](http://www.summitview.net/groups).



## SV KIDS

Here at Summit View, we are passionate about the spiritual development of all ages. Each week's study concludes with age-appropriate prompts from SV Kids for family discussion.

These sections have been specifically prepared for families and are designed to help parents build family discipleship time. Learning about family discipleship and keeping it as a regular part of your family's rhythm can be challenging; one way to begin is with intentional family Bible reading time.

Each week there is a Session Starter followed by a Big Ideas teaching section, wrapping up with a Things to Think About section for going deeper with your older kids, or inquiring minds.

We've included questions for you to ask your kids (and the answers for your convenience) along with reading excerpts, and helpful Tips for Parents in suggestion boxes.

You do not have to use every question. Just like with the study guide, pick the ones that would work best for you and your family. Our hope is that by participating in this study, a vibrant family discipleship can take root and grow into the rhythm of family life.

## YOUTH

Additionally, our Youth Pastoral Team has prepared a Bible Reading Plan for student participation, as well as questions for our Middle School and High School students to engage during their weekly small group discussions.







# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following people contributed to the development and creation of this Discipleship Guide.

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## MAIN IDEA

*The people of God have a rich history to discover.*

## MEMORY VERSES

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8*

*And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2:21*

Each year thousands of people purchase genetic testing kits or pay professionals to trace their ancestry and family background. Due to the advancement of technology, we're now able to track lineages back to the start of the proverbial family tree! Knowing where we come from gives us context to understand our current reality.

Fortunately for the people of God, we have spiritual ancestors who documented our familial history in the Bible. Within the book of Acts, we find a historical account of God's relationship with His church. We see Him call us to Himself, give us the Holy Spirit, and send us on a mission to tell others of the great news of salvation. The book of Acts starts where the Gospels leave off: after Jesus' resurrection with 120 disciples left wondering what would happen next...

## BIBLE READING

☐ **Acts 1:1–5**

The people of God have a rich history to discover.

☐ **Luke 1:67–79**

John the Baptist was born to point to Jesus, through whom God would fulfill all His promises.

☐ **Gen 12:1–3 | 15:1–6 | 17:1–8**

God promised to establish His people through Abraham and to bless the whole world through Abraham's descendent.

☐ **2 Sam 7:8–16**

God promised to give His people peace, rest, and a King from the house of David to rule forever

☐ **Isaiah 40:1–11 | Luke 3:1–6**

God promised to send someone to prepare the way for His Son and declare the good news (Gospel) of His coming.

☐ **Isaiah 53:1–12 | 1 Cor 15:3–4**

God promised to send someone to bear the punishment of our sin.

☐ **Luke 24:36–49**

Through Jesus, God is fulfilling all His promises contained in Scripture — and we get to be part of that!

## PRAYER & MEDITATION PROMPTS

- Reflect on the truth that the story of Scripture is your own family history. Imagine, as you read these passages, that you are reading a story about your own family in the distant past. Finish by thanking God for His faithfulness to your family, even before you were born.
- Acts 1:3 tells us that Jesus repeatedly demonstrated and proved that He was alive. In our memory verse, the Apostles were called to be witnesses of what God had done through Jesus. What have you witnessed? Spend some time in reflection, picturing in your mind the times that He has proven Himself to you and thanking God for these stories. Whenever you encounter Acts 1:8, recall those stories to mind.





## CONNECTED TO:

- CHRIST
- COMMUNITY
- CALLING
- OUTREACH
- CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION
- NATIONS

Here at Summit View Church, in addition to our Mission & Vision, we structure our ministries and opportunities around our Strategies, or **Connected To** statements.

Each area of connection builds on the others and reflects a life rooted in the Gospel, ultimately connecting us as a church to a movement of God. Each week we invite you to explore with us the practical ways we can apply the text in one of our areas of connection.

## CONNECTED TO: CALLING

As we get started, we invite you to explore a Connection to Calling by taking a Spiritual Gifts Test. Like the disciples in this week's passage, we each are given spiritual — sometimes supernatural — gifts by the Holy Spirit. These gifts are designed to be used to serve each other and to contribute to the betterment of the body.

Take the test using the link below and share your results with your Life Group. Not in a Group yet? Join one today at [www.summitview.net/groups](http://www.summitview.net/groups).

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS TEST:** <https://spiritualgiftstest.com/embed-2/church-id/E61D3B>

# LIFE GROUP & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

## GETTING STARTED:

Do you have any interesting “branches” in your family tree? How did you discover them?

### QUESTION ONE:

How well do you think you understand the context of the book of Acts? What are you looking forward to learning the most?

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**Follow Up:** How will you commit to growing in the spiritual disciplines and your Gospel understanding through this series?

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### QUESTION TWO:

Read Acts 1:1-5. Describe what’s happening in your own words. What stands out to you?

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### QUESTION THREE:

Look closely at Acts 1:1. The author of Acts, Luke, mentions a “first book.” What was that book and why did he write it? Read Luke 1:1–5.

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**Follow Up:** How does understanding why Luke wrote his first book, his letter to Theophilus, help you understand why he may have written Acts?

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#### QUESTION FOUR:

Pay close attention to Acts 1:2–3. What do these verses tell us Jesus was doing after His resurrection?

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**Follow Up:** How long did He do these things?

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**Follow Up:** The number 40 should sound familiar to you; the Bible often uses numbers to reinforce important ideas. The number 40 can be used to make us recall times of testing, trials, or expectant waiting on God. Can you think of other things that happened in the Bible with the number 40? See Genesis 7:17, Numbers 32:13, and Matthew 4:2 for examples.

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#### QUESTION FIVE:

Imagine you're a Jew who witnessed the long-awaited Messiah or "the Anointed One," the promised deliverer of Israel — named Christ or Messiah in the Greek — raised to life after being crucified. You'd want to go tell your friends and family, right?! But Jesus gives His followers a very specific command in Acts 1:4; what is it? Why does He tell the apostles to do this?

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**QUESTION SIX:**

When you hear the name of the third person of the Trinity, Holy Spirit, what comes to mind?

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**Follow Up:** What does Jesus say about the Holy Spirit? See John 14:15–18, 26.

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**Follow Up:** Do you ever think about Jesus needing the Holy Spirit to empower His ministry (see Isaiah 42:1, 61:1; John 1:32)? Does this change how you think about your own need for the Holy Spirit as you seek to live a Gospel-centered life?

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**QUESTION SEVEN:**

A Spirit-led life is a Gospel-centered life. Read Galatians 5:16–25. This passage provides a clear contrast between a life lived apart from Christ, and one empowered and led by the Holy Spirit. What differences stand out to you?

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**Follow Up:** Which areas of your life do you recognize are out of alignment with the Spirit’s lead? Take some time to confess and repent of those areas, surrender them to God, and begin walking in the Spirit.

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## APPLICATION

How often do you think about the importance and impact living by the power of the Holy Spirit has in our lives? Do you make it a priority to thank God for giving us this great gift? On a scale of 1–5, how dependent on the Holy Spirit are you? We all have room to grow, but thankfully God is patient with us! Take time to meditate on the following:

1. Jesus promised to send us, His followers, a *helper*—the Holy Spirit—to empower us to do the work He has asked us. This is the same Spirit that empowered His own ministry. How would you live differently if you truly believed and internalized the reality of the Holy Spirit's help?

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2. Take stock of your day-to-day activities and your heart posture. Read through Galatians 5:16–25 again slowly, prayerfully. Which list sounds more like your heart? If, as verse 24 says, we who belong to Christ have crucified our flesh with its passions and desires, what should your life look like?

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## KEY VERSE

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8*

## GETTING STARTED:

Who do you think wrote the Gospel of Luke?

Yes, the book of Luke was written by Luke, a disciple of Jesus. Our family discipleship time will be spent in the Book of Acts. Acts was also written by Luke. The Gospel of Luke details what Jesus did and taught while here on earth in His human body. The Book of Acts tells us what Jesus continued to do and taught through His spiritual body—the church—as well as through the Holy Spirit.

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**TIPS FOR PARENTS:** *Keep an eye out for these Tips for Parents boxes! Each week we'll provide helpful tips and resources for you as you seek to develop your family discipleship time.*

### 1. PROOFS & EVIDENCE

Read Acts 1:3 out loud.

**QUESTION:** After Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He spent more days on earth appearing to different people. How many days did He do this?

**ANSWER:** 40

**QUESTION:** What did Jesus do during this time?

**ANSWER:** Proved Himself alive and spoke about the Kingdom of God. Accounts of Jesus' last forty days can be found in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20-21, and Acts 1:3.

During those 40 days, Jesus gave them many proofs (or evidence) that He was alive, and He spoke about the Kingdom of God. Jesus was preparing His disciples.

### 2. PREPARING

**QUESTION:** For what do you think Jesus was preparing His disciples?

**TIPS FOR PARENTS:** *Allow kids to guess first.*

Jesus' disciples were chosen to be witnesses of His resurrection (rising from the dead). It was important for the disciples to tell others about Jesus' death and resurrection for two reasons:

1. To disprove the story that Jesus' body had been stolen.
2. To inform others that after Jesus was crucified on the cross, Jesus rose from the dead.

**ANSWER:** Jesus was preparing them to be disciples who made more disciples.

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- By the witness of Jesus' followers, the good news about Jesus would be spread throughout the city (Jerusalem), country (Judea), nearby countries (Samaria), and the world (to the ends of the earth).
- The word "Gospel" simply means "good news."
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:3–4 out loud.  
There are three important parts of 1 Corinthians 15:3–4:

1. Jesus died for our sins.
2. He was buried.
3. He rose from the dead on the third day.

**Question:** Why is this important?

**TIPS FOR PARENTS: Answers may vary:** Sin separated us from God. We cannot do anything to fix that. God is the only one who can fix it. He could have left us as sinners, apart from Him, but He didn't. God loves us no matter what. He loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus, who died on the cross for our sins, and in three days was resurrected. This allows us to come close to God, if we believe.

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## CONNECTED TO: GOSPEL-CENTERED LIVING

When we say “me-centered,” it means that everything revolves around us. A common teasing phrase is, “It’s all about me!” With that in mind, what does it mean to be Gospel-centered?

**TIPS FOR PARENTS:** *Be prepared for the fast, easy answer of, “It’s all about the Gospel” or “Everything revolves around the Gospel.” Focus the discussion on “The Gospel.” If you get the fast, easy answer, then counter with, “What is the Gospel?” (There are helpful answers on “What is the Gospel” on page 20.)*

Every person’s life has a center—that which influences our actions and decisions. We must strive daily to not be me-centered, but to live Gospel-centered. Even people who are kind and good can be me-centered, if their reason for being kind is to just feel good about themselves and not to glorify God.

A Gospel-centered life is a Jesus-centered life. When we speak of a person who lives a Gospel-centered life, we mean that person has believed the good news of Jesus. But not only that, they also understand and apply the Gospel to their lives, no matter how old they are. They have made following Jesus a lifestyle, not a mere activity.

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## THE GOSPEL

**QUESTION:** What is the Gospel?

**ANSWER:**

- We aren't perfect. We mess up. We cannot live a good life all by ourselves; we just don't have what it takes. If we stopped there, it would be very, very sad. But we are not stopping there. There is some Good News. The Good News, the Gospel, is that God loves us. Period. He loves us no matter what. He loves us even though we are rotten people; even though we are sinners.
- The Bible says we are dead in sin. We cannot save ourselves. Thankfully, God's perfect plan was to send His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins and give new life to everyone who believes in Jesus.
- What is it that we believe about Jesus? We believe that Jesus is the Son of God, sent by God. He died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and rose again. When we believe, we are adopted into God's family and become a part of His Kingdom.

# YOUTH

## MAIN IDEA

*The people of God  
have a rich history  
to discover.*



### QUESTION ONE:

Luke, the author of the Gospel of Luke and Acts, writes to a specific person in both books. Acts is the second part of a larger story. Read Luke 1:1–4 and Acts 1:1–5. Who is the person Luke writes to and for what reason?

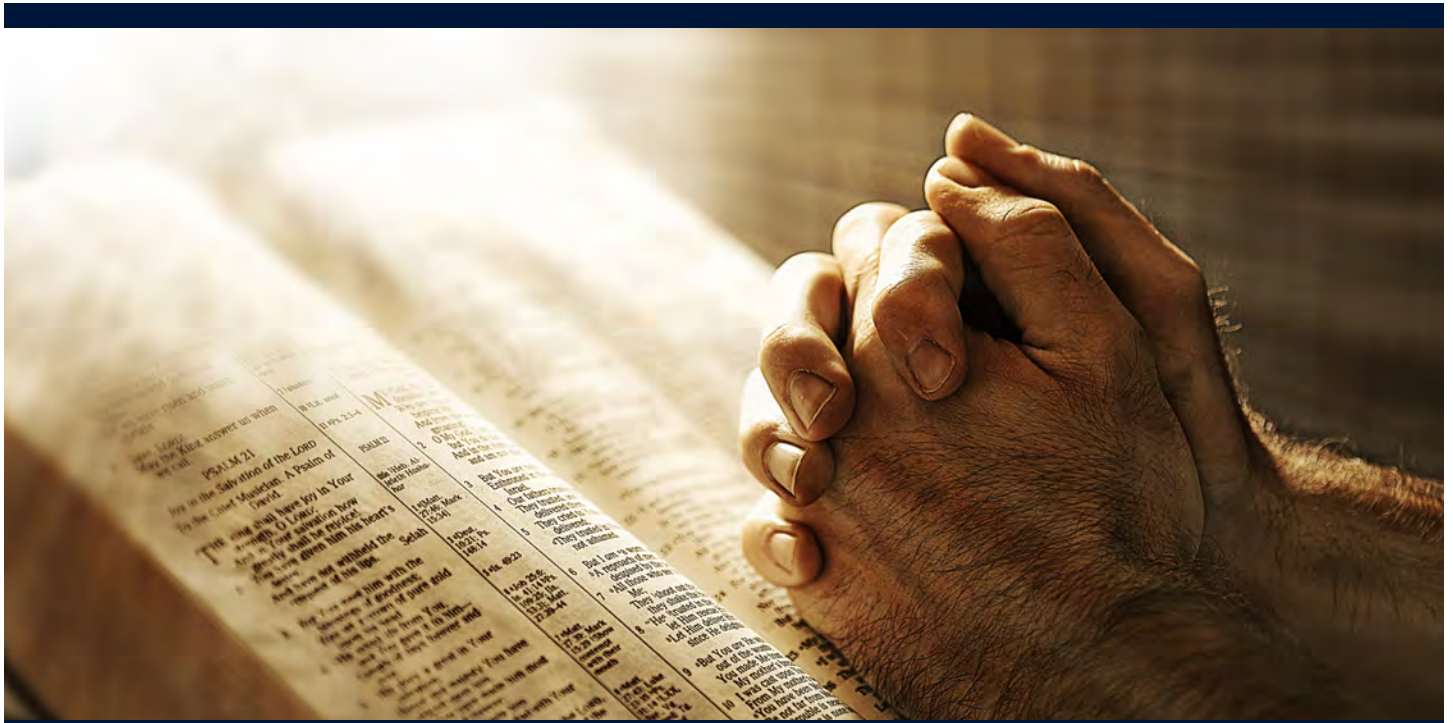
**Follow Up:** Who is a person you would want to share the story of Jesus with?

### QUESTION TWO:

The beginning of Acts is a summary of what Jesus did after He was resurrected and sets the stage for how the disciples would start the church. Read through Acts 1:1–5 again and list out what Jesus did and what He said to His disciples.

**Follow Up:** Jesus tells His disciples to “wait for the promise of the Father” which is the Holy Spirit. Why do you think it was critical that the disciples received the Holy Spirit? What questions do you have about who the Holy Spirit is?





## BIBLE READING

The Bible is more than just a random chain of events strung together; it is a collection of intricately interwoven stories that work together to show us new truths about God. To gain a deeper understanding of Acts 1:1–5, spend a little time throughout your week reading these additional passages:

☐ **Gen 12:1–3, 15:1–6, 17:1–8**

God promised to establish His people through Abraham and to bless the whole world through Abraham's descendent.

☐ **2 Sam 7:8–16**

God promised to give His people peace, rest, and a King from the house of David to rule forever.

☐ **Isaiah 53:1–12; 1 Cor 15:3–4**

God promised to send someone to bear the punishment of our sin.

☐ **Luke 24:36–49**

Through Jesus, God is fulfilling all His promises contained in Scripture... and we get to be a part of that!

## PRAYER

Spend time in prayer reflecting on the memory verse, Acts 1:8.

Praise God for the gift of His own Holy Spirit-empowered believers. Thank God for His presence and involvement in your life. Ask Him to help you recognize His involvement in all areas of your life.

## ACTION STEP

Take 5-10 minutes each night before you go to sleep to speak with God, and then wait on the Holy Spirit to respond. Consider using the Bible App or another source to notify you at a certain time to pray, so you don't forget. As you pray, ask Jesus, *How can I be more like You today? What are You calling me into this week? What must I lay down for Your sake? How can I better help further Your Kingdom? Who can I encourage tomorrow?*

Ask and then listen.

NOTES:

NOTES:

Dotted lines for note-taking.





**MAIN IDEA**

*The church has been commissioned and gifted by Jesus to be witnesses for Him globally.*

**MEMORY VERSES**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8*

*And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ Acts 2:21*

Final words are powerful. Whether in a farewell address to beloved colleagues or final words from a passing loved one, the words we share at the end of a season hold weight and leave a lasting impact. In Jesus’ final words on earth to His disciples, He leaves them with a call and a mission to fulfill while they await His return:

## TO BE HIS WITNESSES

To be a witness is to communicate the Good News of the Gospel to those in your sphere of influence. Within Jesus’ commission, there are two things of note:

1. The disciples couldn’t do it without Him—thus His instruction to wait for the Holy Spirit
2. They wouldn’t be going out without Him—the promise of the Spirit’s ongoing presence

For believers today, Jesus’ words invite us to remember that these promises are true for us as well. Do we live as though we truly believe the Holy Spirit is with us and empowers us to do the work of the ministry?

☐ **Acts 1:6–26**

The church has been commissioned and gifted by Jesus to be witnesses to Him globally.

☐ **Psalm 16:23–27 | Luke 24:44–49**

God's plan has always been for His people to preach the gospel to the whole world.

☐ **Isaiah 52:6–10 | Isaiah 53:1–6**

God always intended His message of salvation, through the suffering of Jesus, to be preached to the whole world.

☐ **Isaiah 52:6–10 | Romans 10:8–15**

We need to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to those around us.

☐ **1 Corinthians 15:3–5**

The Good News we are to preach is that God has fulfilled His promises by sending Jesus to die for us and be raised from the dead.

☐ **Matthew 28:18–20 | Luke 24: 46–49 | Acts 1:8**

Jesus commanded His people to make disciples.

☐ **Matthew 28:18–20 | Deuteronomy 6:4–9**

Making disciples means training people to know, love, and obey God.



## PRAYER & MEDITATION PROMPTS

- Deuteronomy 6:4–9 teaches us that we should constantly be talking about God’s Word. This week, write out our memory verses on 3x5 cards. Place them somewhere you’ll see frequently throughout the day. Every time you see them, read the verses out loud.
- God’s salvation is for everyone! Consider who you know but have yet to share the gospel with. Pray for that person whenever you recite our memory verses; we’ll build on this in the coming weeks.

## CONNECTED TO: NATIONS

In this week’s passage, Jesus charged His followers to “go and make disciples” not only in their immediate sphere of influence, but “to the ends of the earth.” As modern-day followers of Jesus, this charge applies to us as well.

Here are a few ways you can contribute to making disciples globally:

1. Pray for the 10/40 window. The 10/40 window is a section of the globe in which 2/3 of the population lives and 3/5 currently have no access to the Gospel.
2. Give to International Church Planting. To support the global efforts Summit View is already involved with visit [www.summitview.net/giving](http://www.summitview.net/giving).
3. Go. Prayerfully consider if God might be calling you to personally spend time abroad making disciples. Talk to your campus pastor about opportunities with Summit View and our partnering organizations.



# LIFE GROUP & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

## GETTING STARTED:

If you were able to choose your last words, what would they be?

### QUESTION ONE:

Review Jesus' last words to His followers in Luke 24:46–49 and in Matthew 28:19–20. Summarize His commands in your own words.

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### QUESTION TWO:

Read Acts 1:6–7. The disciples asked Jesus about His return and He essentially told them that they didn't need to know. It can be easy to lose sight of eternity in the waiting, but not knowing when Christ will return should spur us on and inspire us to step into His mission today—tomorrow might be too late! If Jesus were to return in 20 minutes, 2 days, 2 years, or 2 decades from now, would He find you at work, fulfilling His mission? How can you be sure?

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**Follow up:** Our response to Jesus' unknown date of return shouldn't be one of guilt or fear, but it can be one of conviction. We prioritize the things that matter most to us, procrastinating on the less important or uncomfortable. If you find yourself delaying in your obedience to Jesus' call to make disciples, what does that reveal about your heart?

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### QUESTION THREE:

Read John 14:16–17. Who is the Holy Spirit?

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#### QUESTION FOUR:

What do we receive from the Holy Spirit? What is its intended use? Remember to ground your response in the truth of Scripture as you ponder this question.

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#### QUESTION FIVE:

Look very closely at Acts 1:8. We're given the power of the Holy Spirit for a purpose. When you look at the whole verse, what is the purpose behind the gift of the Holy Spirit? Consider Acts 1:1-5 for additional context.

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**Follow Up:** Fill in the blank using your Bible: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you and you will be my \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

**Follow Up:** Look up the legal definition of the word you filled in the blank. Does this person get to tell just any story, or do they have a very specific job to do? What difference does that make?

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**Follow Up:** Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, Ephesians 3:14–19, and Ephesians 4:4–7, 11–13. What do these texts tell us about the role of the Holy Spirit? What commonality do you notice?

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**QUESTION SIX:**

As you go about your day, whether you are at home, at work, with friends, or at church, do you think of the gift of the Holy Spirit empowering you to fulfill Jesus’ mission? If yes, what helps you keep this at the forefront of your mind? If not, what do you need to start doing differently to live a life empowered by the Spirit?

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**QUESTION SEVEN:**

Who practically in your life falls within your “Jerusalem,” “Judea,” “Samaria,” and the ends of the earth? How much time do you spend thinking, praying, and working toward reaching those people? What does that reveal about your heart and the seriousness with which you take Christ’s Word?

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**QUESTION EIGHT:**

Read Acts 1:9–26. Summarize who was there and what they were doing—hint: it wasn’t just the 11 disciples.

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**Follow Up:** In Acts 1, we see the early church begin to emerge as a diverse but unified force, brought together by the common call to follow Christ’s command and fulfill His mission. Why would unity have been so significant, especially at that time?

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## APPLICATION

Do you tend to think of Jesus' last words as a charge to specific people, or a command to all of His followers? Look at your life and actions; do they communicate that you've taken Christ's words to heart for yourself, or that you think it's someone else's responsibility? If Christ were to return today, would He be pleased with your obedience, or would you be found disobedient? There is good news if you have been complacent! You can confess and repent right now and ask the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you toward obedience.



## KEY VERSE

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

## GETTING STARTED:

Witnesses are very important in court trials or court cases.

**TIPS FOR PARENTS:** Find some pictures of a court room on the internet to show your kids. Or, say the following, “Close your eyes and imagine a court room.”

It is here in a courtroom that people stand before a judge, present their side of the story, and bring in witnesses. Witnesses can help explain what happened by telling them everything they know about an event or a person. This helps the judge decide what took place and what is the truth.

We learned last week that in the last forty days of Jesus’ time on earth, He prepared His disciples. They were witnesses of Jesus’ resurrection. They could give proof that Jesus rose from the dead. They were to tell others the Good News about Jesus.

## BIG IDEAS

### 1. WITNESS

Read Acts 1:6 out loud

**QUESTION:** A group of people came together in this verse; who were they?

**ANSWER:** The disciples/Jesus’ followers.

**QUESTION:** To whom do they ask a question?

**ANSWER:** Jesus

**QUESTION:** What does Jesus tell them in Acts 1:8?

**ANSWER:** “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

By the witness of Jesus’ followers, the Good News about Jesus would be spread throughout the city (Jerusalem), country (Judea), nearby countries (Samaria), and the world (to the ends of the earth).



## 2. ASCENSION

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to many people, Jesus ascended to Heaven.

**TIPS FOR PARENTS:** You can read that story in Mark 16:19–20, Luke 24:50–53, and Acts 1:6–11.

**QUESTION:** Where is Jesus now? Let's look at Mark 16:19. (Read it out loud.)

**ANSWER:** Seated at God's right hand/at the right hand of the Father.

We don't see Jesus on earth because He went back to Heaven. This is important because being "seated at God's right hand" shows us that Jesus is honored and glorified, and that His work is complete—Jesus had risen from the dead, never to die again.

## 3. UNITY AND PRAYER

Even though Jesus was gone, there was great unity among this little group of Jesus followers. They did not argue about who among them was the greatest. In Acts 1:14 it says they were "*with one accord*." They were given a great task of telling the world about Jesus that they could not do alone. They needed the Holy Spirit and one another. They also did not argue about who should be in charge because they knew who was leading them—God.

Read Acts 1:14 out loud.

**QUESTION:** Besides being "with one accord," what did Jesus' followers devote themselves to?

**ANSWER:** Prayer

Jesus' followers prayed for guidance in Acts 1:15–26. In almost every chapter of Acts, we will see that there is a reference to prayer.



### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

We will see the Good News spread from a small area to the ends of the earth. We will also see that ordinary people did extraordinary things in the book of Acts. It is important to remember by whose power these things were able to be accomplished. Our key verse tells us. Read Acts 1:8 out loud.

**QUESTION:** Were these things done by the disciples' power?

**ANSWER:** No

**QUESTION:** Then, by whose power?

**ANSWER:** The Holy Spirit's

The spread of the Good News about Jesus was not from the disciples' power, but through the Holy Spirit. Ordinary people did extraordinary things because the Holy Spirit was in their lives.

## CONNECTED TO: NATIONS

What would it be like if the disciples had not shared the Good News about Jesus? The spread of the Gospel took a disciple obeying God, who told someone, who told someone else, who told someone else... all the way down to me so I can tell you, and so you can tell the next person. It's important that we do not let the Good News end with us.

Many people believe that it is a missionary's job to tell others about Jesus. But we are all disciples of Jesus and disciples are to make more disciples.

# YOUTH

## MAIN IDEA

*In Acts 1:6–11 Jesus ascends into heaven. However, before Jesus leaves, He has some final words for the disciples.*



Read Acts 1:6–26.

### QUESTION ONE:

What is the mission that Jesus gives the disciples? What does the Holy Spirit allow the disciples to do? Do you think the disciples would be able to witness without the power of the Holy Spirit? Do you try to do things in your life without the Holy Spirit?

### QUESTION TWO:

What questions would you want to ask Jesus before He ascended?

### QUESTION THREE:

Acts 1:12–26 is a small scene where we see the disciples turn their decision-making over to the Lord by casting lots to determine who should be chosen as the 12th disciple. What would your life look like if you turned over all your decisions to the Lord? How can you begin surrendering decisions over to God right now?

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## BIBLE READING

The Bible is more than just a chain of events strung together one-by-one; it is a collection of intricately interwoven stories that work together to show us new truths about God. To gain a deeper understanding of Acts 1:6–26, spend a little time throughout your week reading these additional passages:

☐ **Psalms 16:23–27 | Luke 24:44–49**

God's plan has always been for His people to preach the Gospel to the whole world.

☐ **Isaiah 52:6–10 | Isaiah 53:1–6**

God always intended His message of salvation, through the suffering of Jesus, to be preached to the whole world.

☐ **Isaiah 52:6–10 | Romans 10:8–15**

We need to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to those around us.

## PRAYER

Pray, recognizing your dependence on the Holy Spirit to help you carry out the mission Jesus gives His followers. Ask the Spirit to help you to recognize where and how He's calling you to be a witness for Jesus.

## ACTION STEP

As you reflect on Jesus' call to share the Good News, and make disciples of all nations, add on to your prayer time from last week and pick one person, any person, with whom you can begin a conversation about Jesus and His influence in your life this week. How has Jesus' life, death and resurrection changed you?

## NOTES:





## MAIN IDEA

*Pentecost is a preview of what is to come in God's Kingdom.*

## MEMORY VERSES

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8*

*And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2:21*

What is an event in your life that seemed to require an extraordinarily long wait leading up to it? Kids may say it's the next holiday they're anticipating. For some maybe it was their wedding day. Others might say some other monumental event they have built up in their mind. In Acts 2, we come to the day that the disciples were waiting for that far exceeded all that they could have imagined. The disciples had heard the prophecies in which God would pour out His Spirit on His people, they'd heard about the coming of the Spirit from Jesus, and had been told to wait for that day. Acts 2 was the day God delivered on that promise. The people of God would be radically different from this day forward. God was now indwelling and empowering them for the mission of Jesus. The transformation in their life would bear witness to the world around them, that they in fact were connected to Christ.

☐ **Acts 2:1–13**

Pentecost is a preview of what is to come in God's kingdom.

☐ **Jeremiah 31:31–34 | Luke 22:14–20**

Pentecost was the celebration of remembering God's covenant with Israel, and now it is the celebration of the new covenant that we have through Jesus.

☐ **Joel 2:28–32 | Ezekiel 36:25–27 | Isaiah 44:1–5**

Through the coming of the Holy Spirit, God fulfills His promises to empower His people to live righteously.

☐ **Isaiah 42:1–4 | Isaiah 61:1–3**

God promised to live as a man among His people, living in the power of the Holy Spirit.

☐ **Luke 4:1, 14, 18 | Luke 10:21–22**

Jesus lived a life that was empowered and led by the Holy Spirit.

☐ **Luke 3:15–17 | Luke 11:5–13 | Luke 12:11–12 | Luke 24:46–49 | Acts 1:8**

At Pentecost, Jesus kept His promise to empower His people to live lives that are strengthened and led by the Holy Spirit.

☐ **Galatians 5:13–26**

The Holy Spirit empowers us to live Gospel-centered lives that are shaped by the teachings of Scripture.



## PRAYER & MEDITATION PROMPTS

- The Holy Spirit empowers us to live as Jesus did. Spend some time meditating on the life of Jesus. Consider the things He did, the way He served, how He loved both God and people. Bask in the glorious gift of God that we have the same spirit in us because of the work of Christ.
- As you consider the person of Jesus and the empowerment of the Spirit, spend some time praying, asking God to continue to grow you in the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22–24), that you might daily look more like Him.

## CONNECTED TO: CHRIST

In this week's text we see how God radically met with His people, when they met together. In Matthew 18:20 Jesus promises that "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Do you make it a priority to meet with God and your church family in this way? If not, you are missing out! Consider making the commitment to showing up each week. Currently coming once a month? Consider coming twice! Already coming twice? Come three times! Want a challenge? Commit to coming every week for the rest of Acts.



# LIFE GROUP & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

## GETTING STARTED:

What is your favorite holiday or event? What significance does it bear in your life?

This passage is filled with imagery and events that are connected to Israel's past. To better understand what the followers of Christ are experiencing, we first need to know what they were doing and why.

### QUESTION ONE:

Read Acts 2:1. Do you know what the day of Pentecost was to the Jewish people? If you're like most modern readers, you'll need a little help. Let's look back in time: Passover and Pentecost are two connected events. When was the first Passover? Read Ex. 12:17.

Passover became a celebration of Israel's freedom from slavery to whom?

### QUESTION TWO:

Read Exodus 13:3–4, 16:1, 19:1, 20:1–17. What happened 50 days after Israel was freed from captivity? Pentecost is the celebration of the giving of the Law, or Torah. According to Exodus 23:6, how were the Israelites to celebrate?

**Follow Up:** During their celebration, the Israelites would have read prescribed text from the Law. Read Deuteronomy 26:5–11 out loud, either by yourself or with your group.

**QUESTION THREE:**

Now that you’re an expert, let’s get back to Acts! Imagine you are a follower of Jesus whom you saw crucified (horrifying), miraculously resurrected (never seen that before), and now He has confounded you by ascending to heaven in a cloud (why did He have to leave?). You are gathered with your friends who also witnessed these strange events during your very important holiday. Using the timeline of events we just covered, what would be going through your mind as you all sit in that room?

**QUESTION FOUR:**

Have you ever been in a terrifying windstorm? Perhaps a hurricane or tornado? The power of the wind is incredible! Read Genesis 2:7 and Ezekiel 37:7–10. In Scripture, wind, or pneuma in Greek (which can also mean breath), often represents the Holy Spirit. What connection is being made here with the wind and the Spirit?

**QUESTION FIVE:**

Read Acts 2:3–4. What happens? Going back Questions 1–2, what was given to God’s people at Pentecost? What is given to Jesus’ followers at this Pentecost? Read Ezekiel 36:24–27 and John 14:16–17 to help you connect the events.



**QUESTION SIX:**

The Holy Spirit indwells and empowers God’s people to live powerful lives as a witness to God’s power and glory. Read Acts 2:5–13, trying to put yourself into the event—remember, you’ve never seen anything like this before; it would be both incredible and confusing. Summarize what you read in your own words as though witnessing it live.

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**Follow Up:** What new thing happened? Who does it impact?

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**Follow Up:** What is the purpose? Remember, many people from neighboring regions would have gathered in town to celebrate the holiday.

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**QUESTION SEVEN:**

Read Acts 2:13. A movement of God will always face opposition by nay-sayers, those who search for a natural, easy explanation to the supernatural, and those who are violently opposed to the work of the Spirit. According to Ephesians 6:12, why is this?

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**Follow Up:** Knowing this, how will you prepare for opposition? For encouragement, read 1 Peter 3:8–15.

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# APPLICATION

Read Matthew 28:18–20, Revelation 5:4–10, Revelation 7:9–10, and Acts 2:2–11.

What has God been working toward throughout the entirety of Scripture? It is incredible that God invites us into His story to be part of His solution—the redemption of humanity and restoration to right relationship so we can worship and enjoy Him forever! According to Scripture, how are each of us called to participate? What do you need to do to live a life fully dependent on the sufficient power of the Holy Spirit living within you?







## KEY VERSE

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

## REVIEW & GETTING STARTED:

We will see the spread of the good news from a small area to the ends of the earth. We will also see that ordinary people did extraordinary things in the book of Acts! It is important to remember with whose power these things were able to be accomplished.

**QUESTION:** Were these things done with the disciples' power?

**ANSWER:** No

**QUESTION:** Then, with whose power?

**ANSWER:** The Holy Spirit

The spread of the good news about Jesus was not from the disciples' power, but through the Holy Spirit. Ordinary people did extraordinary things because the Holy Spirit was in their lives.

## BIG IDEAS

### 1. THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME

Read Acts 2:1-4 out loud.

There was a major festival for the Jewish people at this time. Many Jewish people were visiting from other cities and countries. The disciples were together when suddenly...

**QUESTION:** What did the disciples hear?

**ANSWER:** A mighty, rushing wind

**QUESTION:** What did they see?

**ANSWER:** Fire/tongues of fire appeared to them, and rested on them

**QUESTION:** Where did it come from?

**ANSWER:** Heaven

**QUESTION:** What did it do?

**ANSWER:** Filled them and the disciples were able to speak in other languages

**QUESTION:** What or rather who was it?

**ANSWER:** The Holy Spirit



The Holy Spirit came and filled the believers. They were able to speak in other languages! It certainly got the attention of the people there for the festival! The crowd was amazed and astonished! “Isn’t this the group that is from Galilea? How is it that we hear, each of us in our own language?” the people in the crowd asked. “We hear them telling the mighty works of God!” The people witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit.

We will see the disciples continue to tell others about Jesus using the Holy Spirit’s power wherever they went—making disciples. Our key verse, Acts 1:8, tells us that Holy Spirit’s power was for telling others about Jesus. We need the Holy Spirit’s power if we are to be disciples who make disciples.

**2. THE HOLY SPIRIT FOREVER**

Read John 14:16-17 out loud.  
Before Jesus went to the cross, He talked to His disciples and promised to send a helper—the Holy Spirit....

**QUESTION:** How long was the Helper—the Holy Spirit—to be with them/us?  
**ANSWER:** Forever

**QUESTION:** The Holy Spirit dwells with us and \_\_\_\_\_ us.  
**ANSWER:** in

Before this Pentecost, the Holy Spirit had been active and working, but only to a few select people, at specific times, and temporarily. But now, when we believe in Jesus and are part of God’s family, the Holy Spirit dwells in us forever. The same power the disciples experienced from the Holy Spirit is available to us!



## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

### 1. TOWER OF BABEL VS. PENTECOST

Read Genesis 11:1–9 out loud.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the believers, and they began talking in different languages so that many people from different areas were able to understand them! This is a reversal of what happened at the Tower of Babel in the Old Testament.

Let's practice some opposites to see this reversal:

**QUESTION:** What's the opposite of "united?" The Tower of Babel \_\_\_\_\_ the people.

**ANSWER:** separated

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit united believers.

**QUESTION:** What's the opposite of "understand?" At the Tower of Babel, the people were \_\_\_\_\_ by what was said to them.

**ANSWER:** confused

At Pentecost, the people could understand what was said.

The Tower of Babel's purpose was to glorify man. The coming of the Spirit at Pentecost was to glorify God.

## CONNECTED TO: CHRIST

At Pentecost, the people were surprised to hear the disciples speaking in their language. God's Kingdom is not limited to any one language, people group, age, or gender (male and female). God's invitation to join His family is for everyone.



# YOUTH

## MAIN IDEA

*Pentecost is a preview  
of what is to come in  
God's Kingdom.*



Read Acts 2:1–13.

### QUESTION ONE:

The promise of the Holy Spirit is fulfilled in a miraculous way. What did the Holy Spirit give the disciples the ability to do?

**Follow Up:** How did this gift aid the disciples in their ability to witness to the people in Jerusalem?

### QUESTION TWO:

What was the crowd's response to the disciples? Has the Holy Spirit ever worked through you to speak to someone?

### QUESTION THREE:

Jesus told His disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit. What does it look like for you to wait for the Holy Spirit and how do you think that would change the way you live your life?

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## BIBLE READING

The Bible is more than just a random chain of events strung together; it is a collection of intricately interwoven stories that work together to show us new truths about God. To gain a deeper understanding of Acts 2:1-13, spend a little time throughout your week reading these additional passages:

- ☐ **Joel 2:28–32 | Ezekiel 36:25–27 | Isaiah 44:1–5**  
Through the coming of the Holy Spirit, God is fulfilling His promises to empower His people to live righteously.
- ☐ **Luke 3:15–17 | Luke 11:5–13 | Luke 12:11–12 | Luke 24:46–49 | Acts 1:8**  
At Pentecost, Jesus keeps His promise to empower His people to live lives that are empowered and led by the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ **Galatians 5:13–26**  
The Holy Spirit empowers us to live gospel-centered lives that are formed around the teachings of Scripture.

## PRAYER

Recall some of God's actions. How has He worked throughout history? How has He worked in your own life? Thank Him for His miraculous actions on behalf of you and His people throughout history. Praise Him for what those actions show about who He is: powerful, loving, involved, sovereign, etc.

## ACTION STEP

Swap stories with a friend or family member about how the Holy Spirit has worked in your lives and then give glory to Him for those things together.

## NOTES:

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Dotted lines for note-taking.



**MAIN IDEA**

*We can speak fearlessly, boldly,  
and with confidence in what  
Jesus has done.*

**MEMORY VERSES**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8*

*And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2:21*

There are times in life where God moves and the events that occur leave us dumbfounded, wondering how or why it happened; perhaps something so supernatural we're left unable to even explain it. In Acts 2, Jesus fulfills His promise, and the disciples find themselves supernaturally filled with the Holy Spirit—and it wasn't a quiet event! The entire city found itself in an uproar, and the disciples found themselves with an attentive audience dying to know what happened. Peter, empowered by the Holy Spirit, seized the opportunity to share the Good News, the story of redemption to all those who witnessed the event, and to put on full display the power, majesty, and beauty of Jesus Christ. Peter stood and declared, in the first of many sermons documented throughout the book of Acts, what God had done and invited those listening to repent and believe.

While this short chapter of Acts offers only a condensed account of the event itself, as modern-day Christ followers, we gain a framework and example of what it looks like for us today to share the Good News in the mission field of our workplaces, neighborhoods, and every sphere of life where we hold influence.



☐ **Acts 2:14–41**

We can speak fearlessly, boldly, and with confidence in what Jesus has done.

☐ **Luke 13:10–17 | Luke 18:31–34**

Jesus spoke fearlessly, boldly, and with confidence about the work He was doing.

☐ **Luke 10:1–9, 16**

Jesus has sent His disciples out to proclaim fearlessly, boldly, and with confidence that the Kingdom of God has come.

☐ **Luke 12:4–12**

The Holy Spirit teaches us how to boldly proclaim the Gospel when we face opposition.

☐ **1 Tim 1:6–14**

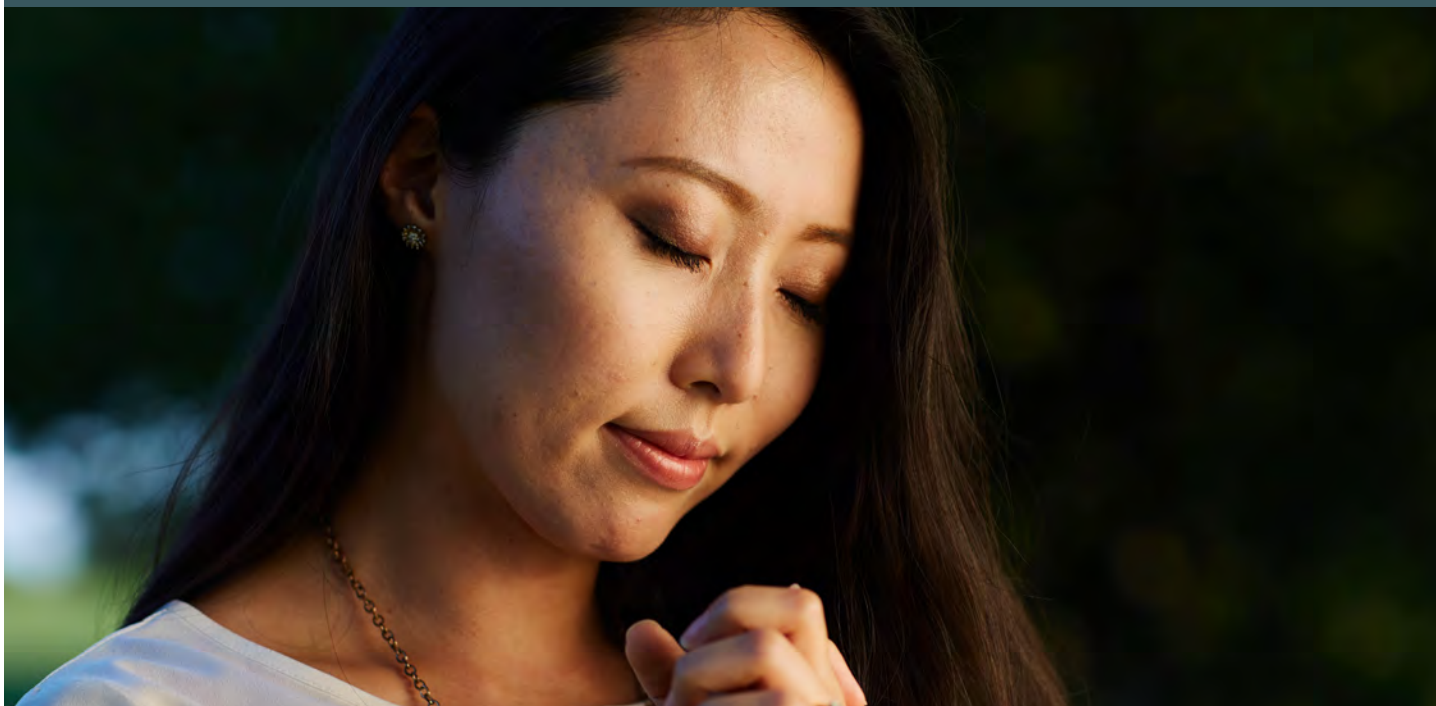
The Holy Spirit empowers us to proclaim the Gospel boldly despite persecution and suffering.

☐ **1 Peter 3:13–17**

We are called to lead lives marked by the Gospel and be prepared to proclaim it to those who see its work in our lives.

☐ **1 Thessalonians 2:1–12**

We should proclaim the Gospel with bold fearlessness but also gracefulness and gentleness.



## PRAYER & MEDITATION PROMPTS

- Recite the memory verse and pray for the person you selected in Week 2. As you do this, ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom to speak the Gospel to them with boldness and wisdom.
- Spend one minute daily imagining yourself boldly speaking to this person about the Good News of Jesus. Consider each day how the passages you read, and the prompting of the Spirit, might change the way you picture this scene.

## CONNECTED TO: CHRIST

Peter's natural reaction to being filled with the Holy Spirit was to share the Gospel. As Spirit-filled followers of Jesus, we join in the call to respond to His promptings to share as well.

Read the following passages:

**1 Corinthians 15:13–19 | John 3:16 | Romans 10:9 | 2 Corinthians 5:20 | 1 John 4:9 | Ephesians 2:8–9**

This week, practice sharing the Gospel in your own words with a friend. Pray for God to help you see the opportunities around you to share with unbelievers.

# LIFE GROUP & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

## GETTING STARTED:

When you tell a story or explain an event, do you get straight to the point, or do you give all the background details to set the scene? Which do you find more helpful as a listener?

### QUESTION ONE:

In this week's passage, Peter references a LOT of Old Testament Scripture — or as he would have called it, The Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. Before reading the text, why do you think he frames his argument this way? Refresh your memory by reading Acts 2:5. What just took place?

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**Follow Up:** When you make an argument for the Deity of Christ, do you use Scripture, or do you defend with logic?

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### QUESTION TWO:

Read Acts 2:14–15. Who is Peter talking to? What is he trying to help them understand about the crazy event that just took place? Keep in mind that the crowd Peter is speaking to would have been made up of both men and women; it will help you understand the fulfillment of prophecy that Peter describes in the following verses.

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### QUESTION THREE:

Read Deuteronomy 18:15. Israel had long awaited a promised Messiah, or Anointed One, as their Savior. God told His people through Moses what this person would be like. Why did He tell them ahead of time? What did He say?

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**Follow Up:** Now read Acts 2:16–23. How can we know that Jesus is the Messiah?

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### QUESTION FOUR:

In Acts 2:22 we see Jesus is the Messiah by His miracles. In Acts 2:22–32 we find another proof of His status: the resurrection. What does Peter specifically say about the crucifixion in Acts 2:23? Note the words definite and foreknowledge in the ESV translation.

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**Follow Up:** Peter refers to two people groups, “you” (the Jews) and “lawless men” (Gentiles). Why does he implicate both? Read Romans 3:23.

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**Follow Up:** Read Acts 2:24. What is the great news? Read 1 Corinthians 15:13–19. Why is the resurrection important to the Christian faith?

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### QUESTION FIVE:

Read Acts 2:25–35. Peter continues to make his case for Jesus as the Christ (Messiah) and Lord (ruler or king). He uses Old Testament references the Jews would have been very familiar with as prophetic Scriptures about their Promised One. What does Peter say about David?

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**Follow Up:** He is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:29).

**Follow Up:** Now go back and read Acts 2:25–29, keeping in mind it was King David who wrote these lines. Who do you think this Psalm is about?

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**Follow Up:** Look at Acts 2:30–31. Who does Peter say that David was? What did God promise in this oath? See Acts 2:30–31 and 2 Samuel 7:15–16.

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**Follow Up:** Go back and re-read Acts 2:25–29. Can you make the Christ connection? What do you notice?

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### QUESTION SIX:

The Good News just keeps getting better! When we read Acts 2:34–35, we read that Christ not only rose from the dead, but He conquered the enemy of sin and death; being a footstool is a sign of subjugation, not elevated status! Why is this an important factor in our salvation?

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**QUESTION SEVEN:**

Read Acts 2:32–36. Peter summarizes the prophecies and brings them to his conclusion. Try this for yourself! In your own words, using any Scripture you’re familiar with, or the ones you’ve learned today, summarize what Peter explains to his audience. Make sure to hit the important elements: promise, death, burial, resurrection, and glorification.

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**QUESTION EIGHT:**

When the Gospel is proclaimed, people are changed; hearts are either softened toward the truth, or heart are hardened against it. How did Peter’s audience respond in Acts 2:37? What two commands did Peter give in Acts 2:38? If you have accepted Christ as your Savior but have not been baptized yet, make sure to reach out to our church staff; we would love to help you take this important step of faith!

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**Follow Up:** Looking at Acts 2:39, who is the promise for? Do you think this would have been expected, or a surprise?

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# APPLICATION

Peter was able to speak boldly to the Jews and other devout people listening because he knew the Word of God and was empowered by the Holy Spirit. On a scale of 1–5 (1 being very little, 5 being very well), how familiar are you with the Bible? Do you read it daily? Meditate on its instruction? Submit to what it says? Think back to Week One; we asked you, “On a scale of 1–5, how reliant are you on the power of the Holy Spirit?” As we’ve been studying Acts thus far, has it changed? Do you know how to discern His voice? Are you committed to being led by His authority?

We are not a static people! We are all called to grow in our Christlikeness. As the church, we are called to help one another grow. What changes will you commit to making to grow in these two areas so you can speak boldly and fearlessly about who Jesus is and what He has done? Who will you tell? Research shows when we write down our goals and share them, we are more likely to follow through!

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## KEY VERSE

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

## GETTING STARTED:

Last week, we learned that at Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the believers, and they began talking in different languages so that many people from different areas were able to understand them!

Before this, the Holy Spirit had been active and working, but only to a few select people, at specific times, and temporarily. But now, when we believe in Jesus and are part of God's family, the Holy Spirit dwells in us forever. The same power the disciples experienced from the Holy Spirit is available to us!

## BIG IDEAS

### 1. PETER'S SERMON

Read Acts 2:22–24 out loud.

**QUESTION:** What did Peter tell the crowd of people about Jesus in Acts 2:22–24a?

**ANSWER:** Jesus, a man who did mighty \_\_\_\_\_ (*works*) and \_\_\_\_\_ (*wonders*) and signs that God did through Him as many of you saw and many of you heard about—this Jesus died and God \_\_\_\_\_ (*raised*) Him up.

Read Acts 2:32 out loud.

This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are \_\_\_\_\_. (witnesses)

Read Acts 2:33 out loud.

Jesus sits at the right hand of God and has sent the Holy Spirit as He promised that you yourselves are \_\_\_\_\_ (seeing) and \_\_\_\_\_. (hearing)

Peter preached to the crowd and told them about Jesus: that though He died, He was raised up by God and is alive. His proof was the many witnesses to this and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised He would send the Holy Spirit when He returned to the Father. Jesus could not send the Holy Spirit if He was dead. Since the Holy Spirit is now here, then Jesus is alive!

When the crowd heard this, they believed and 3,000 people became believers. These were disciples who made disciples!



## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT / CONNECTED TO CHRIST

Jesus wants us to remember that when we stay connected to Him, like branches on a vine, we are then able to receive, and then share, God's love and forgiveness (John 15:1–8).

How do we stay connected to Christ? Staying connected to Christ means:

1. Believing that He is God's Son (1 John 4:15),
2. Receiving Him as Savior and Lord (John 1:12),
3. Doing what God says (1 John 3:24),
4. Continuing to believe the Gospel (1 John 2:24), and
5. Relating in love to the community of believers, Christ's body (John 15:12).

In John 15:6, we see Jesus talk about the branch being removed because it is not truly connected to the vine. Sometimes, we can look like we are connected to Christ. We know how to talk and act, but in our hearts, we have never made the choice to be His. When we are connected with Jesus, we are made alive and are able to bear fruit! We're talking about the fruit of the Spirit—things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Can we produce any fruit on our own? No way! The branches must be connected to the vine before they can produce fruit; we must stay connected to Jesus to produce the good fruit that God expects of us.



# YOUTH

## MAIN IDEA

*We can speak  
fearlessly, boldly, and  
with confidence in  
what Jesus has done.*



Peter gave a sermon to the crowds in Jerusalem, using Scripture from the Old Testament to make a case to the Jews as to why Jesus is the Messiah.

### QUESTION ONE:

Read Acts 2:14–41. Peter uses a Holy Spirit-led speech, that utilizes evidence, to try to win over the crowds. What evidence does Peter give as to why Jesus is the Messiah? Who does Peter quote?

### QUESTION TWO:

How does the crowd respond to Peter in Acts 2:37–38? What does Peter tell them to do? When did you first turn towards Jesus and what made you do so?

### QUESTION THREE:

Acts 2:39 says “the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone the Lord our God calls to himself.” Who is your life is “far off” from God and someone that you could witness to?

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## BIBLE READING

The Bible is more than just a chain of events strung together one-by-one; it is a collection of intricately interwoven stories that work together to show us new truths about God. To gain a deeper understanding of Acts 2:14–41, spend a little time throughout your week reading these additional passages:

☐ **Luke 13:10–17 | Luke 18:31–34**

Jesus spoke fearlessly, boldly, and with confidence about the work He was doing.

☐ **1 Timothy 1:6–14**

The Holy Spirit empowers us to proclaim the Gospel boldly despite persecution and suffering.

☐ **1 Thessalonians 2:1–12**

We should proclaim the Gospel with bold fearlessness but also gracefulness and gentleness.

## PRAYER

Think of three people you know that don't follow Jesus. Ask God to draw them into a relationship with Him, that they would see their need for Him, recognize Him as Lord of all, and surrender their lives to Him. Ask God to give you opportunities and boldness to share with them about who Jesus is and why He matters in your life.

## ACTION STEP

Remember the stories we shared with each other last week about the Spirit's work in our lives? Now go and share that story of hope with someone new! Better yet, consider posting this testimony on a social media platform to praise God publicly and inspire others to seek out the joy and hope that you have found. It could be a small paragraph as a photo caption, a quick sentence on an Instagram story photo, or even a whole video of you telling your story. Share your faith **BOLDLY**! Our job as believers is this: live like Jesus and make disciples. Push yourself to lean into this call this week even when it's scary!

NOTES:

Dotted lines for note-taking.



**MAIN IDEA**

*Through ordinary means, God grows and advances His kingdom.*

**MEMORY VERSES**

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42*

*But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:19–20*

What makes a church a church? What is it that you expect when you commit yourself to a local gathering of God's people? If you've spent time within a church, you are more than likely familiar with this week's passage. It is one often cited and discussed when it comes to describing what a healthy local church congregation should look like. The early Church was committed to the Scriptures as evident in their study, committed to each other as evident in their fellowship, committed to worship as evident in their prayer & praise, and committed to the mission of God as evident in the fact that God added to their numbers day-by-day. This passage teaches us that if a church is to be Spirit-filled, all of these things must be present. With commitment to these simple actions, the early Church thrived. While we may be tempted at times to search for something new or different, may we never neglect these fundamental commitments to see our church community thrive.

☐ **Acts 2:42–47**

Through ordinary means, God grows and advances His kingdom.

☐ **Acts 17:10–12 | Psalm 1**

As we study God's Word and put it into practice, we are empowered to trust Him more and experience His blessings.

☐ **Ephesians 4:25–5:1 | Ephesians 5:15–21 | Hebrews 10:19–25**

Fellowship is an essential part of our spiritual formation as we learn to love one another, forgive one another, and encourage one another into Christlikeness.

☐ **Ephesians 5:15–21 | Colossians 3:16 | Hebrews 12:28–29**

Corporate worship is our right response to the trinitarian God, as we respond to the Father in the power and leading of the Spirit, and in the name of Jesus Christ the Son.

☐ **Psalm 96:1–13**

When we worship corporately, we remind one another of the truths of the gospel as we praise and thank God for His love, faithfulness, holiness, and justice.

☐ **Deuteronomy 6:4–9 | Matthew 28:18–20**

God's people have been given a mission to proclaim His word at all times and to make disciples who know, love, and obey Him.

☐ **1 Corinthians 12:27–13:13**

The greatest mark of God's power working through us is not the performing of miracles but love for God and others.





## PRAYER & MEDITATION PROMPTS

- Read Psalm 1. Picture the poetic images of the psalm and the emotions they evoke. Ask God to give you that kind of an experience of joy, fulfillment, and prosperity in your time studying and meditating on His Word.
- Review our new memory verses. Spend a few minutes imagining what a community like that described would really be like. Think about how you would feel if you were there. Picture the impact it would make on Clark County if we lived that way in our own congregations. Pray that by God's empowerment, this would become our reality here at Summit View!

## CONNECTED TO: COMMUNITY

Acts 2:42-47 illustrates such a beautiful depiction of community! This week, pick a partner (or work with your Life Group) and take the initiative to further your own community. Make plans to host a dinner, brunch, or a game night; have everyone invite a friend from outside your normal friend group—try to pick someone your co-host(s) doesn't know! Practice the kind of radical hospitality demonstrated by the early Church.

# LIFE GROUP & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

## GETTING STARTED:

### QUESTION ONE:

When describing the church as the “dearest place on earth” Charles Spurgeon said this,

*“Give yourself to the Church. You that are members of the Church have not found it perfect and I hope that you feel almost glad that you have not. If I had never joined a Church till I had found one that was perfect, I would never have joined one at all! And the moment I did join it, if I had found one, I should have spoiled it, for it would not have been a perfect Church after I had become a member of it.”*

Why is it so important to remember a church cannot be perfect when filled with imperfect people? How does this adjust your expectations?

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### QUESTION TWO:

Read Acts 2:42–47 in its entirety—all six beautiful verses! Summarize what you read, focusing on who participated. How does this challenge you?

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### QUESTION THREE:

Looking specifically at Acts 2:41, we read people received (believed) the Word and did something; what did they do? Are you familiar with what baptism is? Why do you think it's featured so prominently here?

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**Follow Up:** You may know baptism is an outward sign of an inward commitment to Christ, but do you realize that baptism is a sign of the New Covenant? This sign replaced circumcision, a symbol only for Jewish men (meaning all Jewish women were reliant on a male relative for their right standing). Baptism is a sign that identifies us with Christ; both men and women can participate in it! How does this truth help you understand the importance of baptism for all believers?

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### QUESTION FOUR:

Look now at Acts 2:42. What were the followers devoted to?

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**Follow Up:** Which are you more inclined toward? Devotion to learning, or devotion to community? Why is balance between these imperative? What does it take to do this well?

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**QUESTION FIVE:**

Acts 2:43 tells us that many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. Have you ever wondered why? Read 2 Corinthians 12:12 and Hebrews 2:3–4. Christ also performed many signs and wonders so people would believe in His authority (see Matthew 9:6; Mark 2:10; Luke 5:24). By whose power do the apostles perform the signs and wonders? Why is this important?

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**QUESTION SIX:**

As we grow in our knowledge of God through His Word, our hearts should change in two ways:

- 1. Vertically—our hearts change toward God. We see our needs met in Christ Jesus, and we give thanks in humility.
- 2. Horizontally—our attitude toward people changes. When our needs are met in Christ, we become generous with our resources and our time.

**Follow Up:** Has the knowledge of God changed your heart in these ways? Do you find one easier than the other (God or people)?

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**QUESTION SEVEN:**

When looking at Acts 2:44–45, we see how the Holy Spirit empowers believers to live lives of radical generosity. How does meeting someone’s physical needs reveal your faith? Look at James 2:14–17 for help.

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**Follow Up:** How does radical generosity point to the Gospel?  
Read Philippians 2:1–8 if you want to go a little deeper.

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**Follow Up:** Have you ever been on the giving or receiving end of radical generosity? How did the meeting, either the giving or receiving, of a physical need point you to Christ?

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**QUESTION EIGHT:**

Slowly read through Acts 2:46–47. What was being done? Notice how they were doing it. Why does our heart’s attitude matter?

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Consider the following:

- Day by day attending the temple together with glad and generous hearts
- Breaking bread in their homes with glad and generous hearts
- Receiving their food with glad and generous hearts
- Praising God with glad and generous hearts

Does this describe your heart’s posture? This attitude is possible through the Holy Spirit. When we live Spirit-filled lives, others take notice! Look at the end of Acts 2:47. What happens as a result of the new believers’ faithfulness?

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**ACTION STEP**

We’ve looked at all the elements present for a healthy, Spirit-filled church. We’ve examined the ones we tend to prioritize, and the ones we tend to neglect. Sometimes these are simply a result of our natural or Spirit-empowered giftings, but we must be sure to keep them balanced! Do you know your spiritual gifts and how to use them in the Church?

If you haven’t taken a spiritual gifts inventory test, we encourage you to do so! Use the following link to take the free test, and then ask a few people who know you well what they think.

[www.spiritualgiftstest.com/user-registration](http://www.spiritualgiftstest.com/user-registration) (Access code: E61D3B)

This may help you continue to grow and exercise your giftings in the church.

It can be easy (and tempting) to focus on the shortcomings of your church family, without committing to be part of the solution. We see in this passage that both spiritual and physical needs are important to God. Where do you see a need? This could be your opportunity to step in and serve! Will you commit to praying about this need and asking the Holy Spirit how you can help fill it?



# SV KIDS



## KEY VERSE

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42*

## GETTING STARTED:

What does the word “church” make you think about? Do you think of a place? Do you think of certain people?

We learned last week how Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit came true! Believers in Jesus were filled with and had the power of the Holy Spirit. Today we will learn about what it looks like to have a community or family of believers all working together and being led by the Holy Spirit.



## BIG IDEAS

### 1. COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

Read Acts 2:42–47 aloud.

**QUESTION:** What are some things that the Church did together?

**ANSWER:** Teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer

**QUESTION:** How did the church take care of one another?

**ANSWER:** shared with one another, gave to those in need

**QUESTION:** How often did the community of believers gather together?

**ANSWER:** Every day

The family of believers in Jesus, after having received the Holy Spirit, were now putting their faith into action. They worshiped God together, took care of one another, and they even saw miracles happen. They were disciples who made more disciples!

Other people liked what they saw. The community life of believers was so appealing that others wanted to be a part of it. The Bible says that “the Lord added to their number daily those who were saved” (Acts 2:47). A Spirit-filled church is a growing church.





## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Now what do you think about when you hear the word “church”? A church isn’t a building, it is a family. When we say the word “family,” we don’t imagine an empty house. We think about people. I think about all of us together! The same should be true when we think about church. It isn’t an empty building, or even a building full of people. The church, our church, is the people. They are our family.

## CONNECTED TO: COMMUNITY

How can we live out what was read in Acts 2:42–47 in our own homes? As a family you have already spent time studying Scripture. Spend some time also worshiping, praying, and having communion together.

# YOUTH

## **MAIN IDEA**

*Through ordinary means, God grows and advances His kingdom.*



Read Acts 2:42–47. This section of Scripture is a beautiful picture of what it looks like when a group of people make Jesus everything they are about.

### **QUESTION ONE:**

What were the people devoted to in Acts 2:42? What does it look like when you are fully devoted to Jesus and other people at church? What does it look like when you are less devoted to Jesus and other people?

### **QUESTION TWO:**

This group of people were bound together by Jesus. Why do you think having Jesus in common with someone makes it so that we can have “all things in common”?

### **QUESTION THREE:**

Acts 2:45 shows how selfless each person was to support one another. Do you think that this type of selflessness is inviting to people that don’t know Jesus? How can you show this selflessness with your family, small group, or in a Sunday service?

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## BIBLE READING

The Bible is more than just a chain of events strung together one-by-one; it is a collection of intricately interwoven stories that work together to show us new truths about God. To gain a deeper understanding of Acts 2:42–47, spend a little time throughout your week reading these additional passages:

☐ **Acts 2:42–47**

Through ordinary means, God grows and advances His kingdom.

☐ **Acts 17:10–12 | Psalm 1**

As we study God's word and put it into practice, we are empowered to trust Him more and experience His blessing.

☐ **Ephesians 4:25–5:1 | Ephesians 5:15–21 Hebrews 10:19–25**

Fellowship is an essential part of our spiritual formation as we learn to love one another, forgive one another, and encourage one another into Christlikeness.

☐ **Ephesians 5:15–21 | Colossians 3:16 Hebrews 12:28–29**

Corporate worship is our right response to the trinitarian God, as we respond to the Father in the power and leading of the Spirit, and in the name of Jesus Christ the Son.

☐ **Deuteronomy 6:4–9 | Matthew 28:18–20**

God's people have been given a mission to proclaim His word at all times and to make disciples who know, love, and obey Him.

## PRAYER

Pray that God will help you to recognize the needs of others in your church and community: people who need help, friends who need encouragement, peers who need to be welcomed and included. Ask God to help you care for them with love and generosity.

## ACTION STEP

Has this been a hard week? A great week? A 'meh' week? Ponder and pray accordingly about who you could reach out to this week. Then, follow through! Reach out and connect with someone who may need a friend, or maybe, reach out to someone who might be an encouragement and friend to you. Don't be afraid to lean on your community this week. Push aside your fears of vulnerability and pride and allow those you trust to hold your burdens as you do with theirs.

Don't have people to call your community? Pick one person who could be a good friend or encouragement to you (or you to them) this week and invite them out to lunch or coffee. Share about your life, ask about theirs. Find one way to be an encouragement to them afterwards and get the ball rolling; community is much more likely to be found when you are doing your part to invest in it.



**MAIN IDEA**

*Faith in Jesus Christ brings power to our lives and ministry.*

**MEMORY VERSES**

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42*

*But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:19-20*

When Jesus departed from His disciples, He told them that they would be His witnesses to the world around them. Thus far we've primarily seen the Church gather and do this work within the comfort of their own community. As we turn to Acts 3, we see the Church and its leaders begin to move out into the world with healing power. As Peter and John were going about their business, they had an opportunity to step in and meet the great need of a man who had become a regular fixture in the town square. As they saw him for who he was and served his greatest needs, they used this opportunity to communicate the saving work of Jesus Christ once again. Acts 3 teaches us that our ministries are to be ministries of word and deed. Word in Gospel proclamation, deed in serving those around us by meeting tangible needs.

## BIBLE READING

☐ **Acts 3:1–26**

Faith in Jesus Christ brings power to our lives and ministry.

☐ **Luke 4:16–19 | 4:38–44, 7:22**

Jesus' ministry is one of word and deed—the proclamation of the Gospel, and the gift of healing and deliverance.

☐ **Luke 5:17–26**

Jesus ministered in word and deed by declaring the Good News of forgiveness of sins and healing others.

☐ **Luke 10:1–20**

Jesus sent His disciples out to minister in word and deed—to declare the Good News and to meet the needs of those around them.

☐ **Luke 24:44–49 | Acts 1:8**

Jesus sent His disciples out to continue His ministry.

☐ **James 1:22–27, James 2:14–20**

Our faith in Jesus must be lived out through real, intentional action to provide for the needs of those around us.

☐ **Acts 3:1–26**

Through faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit has empowered us to lead lives and ministries like that of Jesus.

## PRAYER & MEDITATION PROMPTS

- Think about the community around us and consider Jesus' words in Luke 4:18-19. Imagine what this might look like in Clark County. Pray that God would make this a reality.
- As you think about the person you've been praying for, and the conversations with them you've been envisioning, spend time this week considering if there is a way that this person needs God to work in his or her life by meeting a tangible need. If it is something within your power to meet, do so.



## CONNECTED TO: OUTREACH

In this week's text we see God's heart for reaching others through the meeting of tangible needs. While miraculous physical healings aren't as common in today's western culture, we all have people in our lives with physical needs we can help meet.

Consider who in your life could use an act of kindness and...

...make a meal, take it, and practice the ministry of presence.

...text or email someone a prayer of encouragement.

...help out with household chores for those recovering, elderly, or struggling.

Take the initiative to be the hands and feet of Jesus for those in your sphere of influence this week!



# LIFE GROUP & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

## GETTING STARTED:

In the Bible, we see miracles take place all the time. God is still in the business of doing miracles today. Can you think of any miracles you have witnessed?

### QUESTION ONE:

Read Acts 3:1–10. The man asked Peter and John for something physical and tangible in verse 3. What was it?

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**Follow Up:** Peter and John offered the man something far greater than his ask. What did they give him?

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**Follow Up:** As a believer, each of us has been gifted with the same Spirit as Peter and John. What do you have that you can give to others?

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### QUESTION TWO:

Can you think of a time when you wanted one thing from God, but He answered your prayers in a different, better, way than expected?

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### QUESTION THREE:

In the first part of the Book of Acts, we've seen events that take place with a large group of people. However, in Acts 3, the story revolves around one man. What principle could we learn from seeing these stories back-to-back?

### QUESTION FOUR:

Read Acts 3:11-16. Peter, aware of the crowd's tendency to misappropriate the source of healing, addresses them directly. What disclaimers does he give and to whom does he give credit?

**Follow Up:** How should this influence our approach to ministry?

### QUESTION FIVE:

After the miraculous healing of the lame beggar, we are presented with three different reactions.

- How does the recipient of the healing respond (verses 8 & 11)?
- How does the crowd respond (verses 9-11)?
- How do Peter and John respond to their reactions (verses 12-16)?

**Follow Up:** How do you think you would have responded?

**QUESTION SIX:**

Read Acts 3:17–26. Similar to what we saw in Acts 2, Peter seizes the moment of a captive audience to proclaim the Gospel, along with instructions for how they are to respond. In Acts 3:19 he calls the listeners to repent and turn back. Describe what this means in your own words.

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**Follow Up:** What is the result if one person does this?

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**QUESTION SEVEN:**

When presented with an opportunity to share our faith with others, what are some of the ways you describe who Jesus is and what He has done?

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**Follow Up:** Briefly look back through Acts 3:12–26 and notice the different names and titles Peter used to describe Jesus. What are some of them?

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**Follow Up:** What do these names tell you about how Peter views Jesus? Are any of them particularly challenging or comforting to you in your current season?

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**QUESTION EIGHT:**

When thinking about sharing the Gospel, we often try to think of the most “winsome” ways to do so. However, Peter didn’t soften his words here. He was very accusatory. What, if anything, does Peter’s Gospel presentation here teach us about what it looks like to engage with unbelievers around us?

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## APPLICATION

Acts 3 invites us to consider how we engage with those in the world around us who may not know about Jesus. Who are a few individuals in your life with tangible needs that you could meet? How will you go about serving them this week? Who are a few individuals in your life who don't know the miracle that God has done for them in Christ? How can you share that miracle with them this week?





## KEY VERSE

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8*



## GETTING STARTED:

Last week we learned about how the early Christian church community would gather every day in the temple courts and that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles did many miracles.

Today we are going to learn about a specific time two of the Apostles gathered at the temple courts and God did miracles through them by the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

## BIG IDEAS

### 1. SOMETHING BETTER

Read Acts 3:1-10 out loud.

**QUESTION:** What did the man who was crippled want?

**ANSWER:** Money

**QUESTION:** What did Peter give him instead?

**ANSWER:** Healing, ability to walk

**QUESTION:** What did the man do once he was able to walk?

**ANSWER:** Went into the temple, walking, jumping, and praising God

The man was unable to work because he couldn't walk or even stand. Instead, he sat outside the temple every day and begged for money. By the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter and John gave him something better than gold or silver. They not only gave him the ability to walk, but because he was healed, he could now enter the temple to worship.

### 2. GOSPEL OPPORTUNITY

The story continues with everyone in the area running up to the man, who was still with Peter and John. They all knew him as a beggar who couldn't walk and were so astonished because he was jumping around!

**QUESTION:** What do you think Peter did next?

**ANSWER:** Answers will vary

Peter didn't just continue with his day. Instead, he saw that he had a great opportunity to tell everyone gathered about Jesus! Read Acts 3:16 aloud.



### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Many years later, Peter wrote to the Christians spread all throughout the world. In that letter he told them to always be prepared to give an answer about Jesus (see 1 Peter 3:15). The Book of Acts shows us many times Peter gave an answer about Jesus. We already saw how he did it during Pentecost, we see it here when the man who was crippled was healed, and we will see it again later in our study of Acts.

**QUESTION:** What opportunities might we have to tell people about Jesus?

**ANSWER:** Will vary. Examples: praying for someone who is sick, comforting someone who is sad or lonely, telling a friend about something God has done for you or your family, etc.

- How would you explain the Gospel to someone?

## CONNECTED TO: OUTREACH

Peter and John met the greatest need of the man who was crippled. By doing this, he was able to receive the greatest gift of all: salvation through Jesus.

As a family, consider creating a few care kits to keep in your car to give to people you may see in need while driving around town. In a gallon size bag, place items such as wrapped snacks, socks, gloves, hygiene items, emergency blanket, etc. Don't forget to include the Gospel! There are free tracts you can print from online sources, or you can handwrite your own note.

# YOUTH

## MAIN IDEA

*Faith in Jesus Christ  
brings power to our  
lives and ministry.*



### QUESTION ONE:

Read Acts 3. What does Peter do for the lame beggar?

**Follow Up:** What do the crowds do in response to the miracle?  
How would you respond to seeing this miracle?

### QUESTION TWO:

Peter performed a miracle, and this created an opportunity for him to share about Jesus to the crowds. We don't have to perform miracles in order to have conversations about faith and Jesus. Have your actions ever led to a conversation about Jesus?

### QUESTION THREE:

What are some ways you could serve people in your community or neighborhood that could lead to an opportunity to share your faith in Jesus?

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## BIBLE READING

The Bible is more than just a chain of events strung together one-by-one; it is a collection of intricately interwoven stories that work together to show us new truths about God. To gain a deeper understanding of Acts 3, spend a little time throughout your week reading these additional passages:

☐ **Luke 4:16–19 | 4:38–44, 7:22**

Jesus' ministry is one of word and deed—the proclaiming of the Gospel, and the bringing of healing and deliverance.

☐ **Luke 5:17–26**

Jesus ministered in word and deed by declaring the good news of forgiveness of sins and healing others.

☐ **Luke 10:1–20**

Jesus sent His disciples out to minister in word and deed—declaring the good news and meeting the needs of those around them.

## PRAYER

Reflect on our memory verse, Acts 2:42.

Thank God for the privilege to be a part of His global, historical Church. Praise Him for the Truth that followers of Jesus have believed for thousands of years: That Jesus is God the Son who shows us God's love and gave Himself for our sake. Ask Him to help you love Him more and live for Him with all your life.

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## ACTION STEP

Search for one physical need that is prevalent in your circle (at school, in your friend group, at home, etc.) and find a way to help meet it. This could be offering to babysit for a couple who need a night off, bringing coffee to a teacher who is having a hard week, buying lunch for someone who needs it, or offering to mow the lawn of the elderly down the street. There are tons of things to do. Pick someone who you would like to see come to know the love and care of Christ personally and then be Christ's hands and feet for them. You can offer something specific or use this script as a jumping off point to see what you can do. Have fun!

*"Hi \_\_\_\_! This week my church talked about how Jesus cared deeply for the needs of those around Him. We have been encouraged to find one way to help those around us this week to show this same care to our communities! Is there anything that I could do for you this week to help out, or be an encouragement to you?"*



NOTES:

Dotted lines for note-taking.



**MAIN IDEA** *Walking with Jesus emboldens His followers.*

## MEMORY VERSES

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42*

*But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:19-20*

*It is quite possible (indeed, it is very normal) for Christians to be persecuted not for their faith, but for their discourtesy, insensitivity, and lack of warmth and respect in their dealings with others. Insensitive, harsh Christians will have persecution but not praise. Cowardly Christians will have praise but not persecution. Most Christians (whose walk with God is weak) actually get neither! But Christians who are closest to Jesus will get both. — Tim Keller*

When you think of boldness, who comes to mind? How does someone carry themselves or what is it that they say that leads you to believe that a person is, in fact, bold? What do you think enables those individuals to stand firm in the face of opposition? Acts 4 gives us an answer to these questions. After healing the man in Acts 3, Peter and John found themselves in trouble with the religious leaders of their day as they boldly, clearly, and faithfully communicated the Gospel. What set them apart? What was it that others noticed about them? Not their rhetoric or their presentation, but the fact that they had been with Jesus.

Walking closely with Jesus changed their lives. This proximity to Jesus impacted not only Peter and John, but every member of the early Church; we see this through their countercultural response to the situation playing out before them. The life-altering impact of walking with Jesus isn't reserved for those who walked with Him physically; it applies to us as well! So, how close to Jesus have you been walking? And, as a result, how bold are you to share your faith?

## BIBLE READING

☐ **Acts 4:1–31**

Walking with Jesus emboldens His followers.

☐ **Luke 3:7–20**

The Holy Spirit empowered John to speak and act boldly as he proclaimed the Kingdom of God, despite its offense to those in power.

☐ **Luke 4:1–14**

The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus to boldly endure temptation and remain faithful to God through it.

☐ **Luke 4:16–30**

The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus to boldly proclaim the Gospel despite its offense to those around Him.

☐ **Luke 20:1–20**

The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus to boldly proclaim the Gospel despite its offense to those in positions of authority.

☐ **Luke 3:15–16 | Luke 24:44–49 | Luke 12:4–12**

Jesus promised to empower those who follow Him with the Holy Spirit to speak boldly despite opposition from those in positions of authority.

☐ **1 Timothy 1:6–14**

We have been given the Spirit to empower us to proclaim the Gospel boldly despite persecution and suffering.

## PRAYER & MEDITATION PROMPTS

- Many of us find ourselves afraid to share the Gospel because we fear other things or people more than we fear God. Take some time to ask God to reveal the things you fear more than you fear Him; as they come to mind, confess them to Him.
- Make a plan to share the Gospel sometime within the next week with the person you have been praying for throughout our study. Consider when and how you will have the conversation. Ask God to give you boldness and to help you fear Him more than anything else.



## CONNECTED TO: NATIONS

It can be easy in our modern western culture to feel disconnected from the persecution experienced by the Apostles. Yet there are fellow believers today experiencing harassment, imprisonment, torture, and even death all around the world because of their commitment to the Gospel.

One of our partner organizations, East West Ministries, operates in many of these places. Join us in praying with them for those suffering for Jesus and the work of the ministry in those places: [www.eastwest.org/join-us/pray](http://www.eastwest.org/join-us/pray)

# LIFE GROUP & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

## GETTING STARTED:

When you are misunderstood, what do you usually do to clear things up?

### QUESTION ONE:

Let's be honest, we've all been afraid to share our faith before. Can you think of a time where fear kept you from sharing your faith? What do you think was at the heart of your fear?

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### QUESTION TWO:

How is the power of the Holy Spirit related to bold proclamation? Read Acts 4:1-12. Why do you think it's important for us to know Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit as he addressed the council?

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**Follow Up:** Can you think of a time where you were led by the Spirit to speak up?

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### QUESTION THREE:

In Acts 4:12, Peter lays out the Gospel as clearly as possible, saying: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” What difference does this statement make to the message shared?

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**Follow Up:** Consider the millions of unreached and lost people living today; how should this belief affect our approach to evangelism and missions?

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**Follow Up:** Is there any wiggle room for other ways to be saved according to Acts 4:12? What about John 14:6 and 1 Timothy 2:3–6?

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**Follow Up:** How might this truth build up our confidence to share Jesus with those who don’t know Him as their Savior?

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**QUESTION FOUR:** In Acts 4:13, what characteristics did the religious establishment observe in Peter and John?

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**Follow Up:** What does this teach us about the importance of spending time with Jesus?

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**Follow Up:** “Spending time with Jesus” can seem like a hard idea to grasp. What are some tangible ways that you “spend time with Jesus”? What actions do you take? What resources do you use?

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**QUESTION FIVE:**

Read Acts 4:14–22. Peter and John were threatened by the authorities and told to refrain from talking about Jesus. How did they respond?

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**Follow Up:** How closely does that parallel your own desire to talk about Jesus?

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**QUESTION SIX:**

Read Acts 4:23–26. As the church gathered after Peter and John’s release, they praised God for His sovereignty over the situation, recognizing credit went to Him alone. Why is it important for us to recognize that God is sovereign in a crisis?

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**QUESTION SEVEN:**

Read Acts 4:27–31. In response to Peter and John’s interaction with the religious leaders of the day, the church prayed for two things. What were they?

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**Follow Up:** Why should we pray for boldness? What does boldness in evangelism look like for us today in our modern context?

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**Follow Up:** What are some lies we might buy into that would prevent us from sharing about Jesus with boldness?

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**Follow Up:** How can we actively pray for God to heal in ways that will glorify Jesus in today’s context?

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## APPLICATION

When the Church gathered to pray together, they experienced the presence of God. While we may not experience the shaking of the earth around us like the church did in Acts 4, we can count on God's power to be evident in our lives and in our church when we pray earnestly and sincerely, asking God for great things to happen. Consider taking time now to pray for the following:

- Pray for Summit View Church's weekly gatherings, life groups, youth groups, and kids' classrooms, that each time they meet, the Gospel would be proclaimed boldly.
- Pray for God to give you a boldness to share about Jesus with those in your sphere of influence.
- Pray for God to give you the opportunity to share the Gospel with at least one person each week.
- Pray for God to fill you with His Spirit as you seek these opportunities.
- Pray for God to do the miraculous as you step out in faith to share about Him, and as you respond to the needs and obstacles you encounter.





## KEY VERSE

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

## GETTING STARTED:

Peter and John came across a man outside the temple. The man was unable to work because he couldn't walk or even stand. Instead, he sat outside the temple every day and begged for money. By the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter and John gave him something better than gold or silver; they not only gave him the ability to walk, but because he was healed, he could now enter the temple to worship!

Peter and John met the greatest need of this man. He was able to receive the greatest gift of all—salvation through Jesus.

## BIG IDEAS

### 1. BY WHOSE NAME

Read Acts 4:1–10 out loud.

We will see this repeated idea in Acts: the name of the Lord Jesus.

**QUESTION:** Who was “greatly annoyed”?

**ANSWER:** The priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees

**QUESTION:** Why were they annoyed?

**ANSWER:** Peter and John were teaching and proclaiming that Jesus had risen from the dead.

They arrested Peter and John. The next day, Peter and John were brought before the Sanhedrin—the religious high council. They questioned Peter and John about the healing of the man who was crippled.

**QUESTION:** What was their first question?

**ANSWER:** By what power or by what name did you do this?

**QUESTION:** Peter answered boldly. What gave him the power to be so bold?

**ANSWER:** The Holy Spirit.

**QUESTION:** What was Peter's answer to how the man was healed?

**ANSWER:** By the name of Jesus.



## 2. THE “JESUS PROBLEM”

Read Acts 4:13–22 out loud.

This was the same council that condemned Jesus to die on the cross, which Peter boldly pointed out. Basically, Peter said, “This man was healed by the name of Jesus, who you crucified and whom God raised from the dead!” The council thought they were done with this “Jesus problem,” but now His followers were telling everyone that Jesus was alive!

**QUESTION:** How did the council perceive or see Peter and John?

**ANSWER:** As uneducated, common men.

The council was in a “tight spot”—they had a problem. A common man could not heal a man who was crippled. And the man was healed—he was standing right there for the council to see! But to admit he was healed was to admit that Jesus was alive! Not only did they harden their hearts to the fact that Jesus was alive, they also didn’t want this news to spread throughout the city.

**QUESTION:** What was the council’s solution to their problem?

**ANSWER:** They told Peter and John to not speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

**QUESTION:** What was Peter and John’s answer?

**ANSWER:** We can’t NOT speak of what we have seen and heard!

It’s important to note the first part of Peter and John’s answer, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God” What does that mean exactly? The Bible tells us that we are to obey those in authority, except when those in authority tell us to go against God’s Word. In this case, the council is telling Peter and John not to tell others about Jesus, which goes against many commands in the Bible to spread the Good News, including our key verse, Acts 1:8!

The council did not want the Gospel (the good news about Jesus) to spread, but that is exactly what happened! We will read in further chapters that in the days that followed “believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women” (Acts 5:14). When the council realized they could not threaten Peter and John, and that there was nothing by which to arrest them, they let Peter and John go.



### 3. PRAYER

Read Acts 4:23–24 and 4:29–31 out loud.

Remember in Act 1:14, the believers were “with one accord and devoted themselves to prayer”? We said that we would see a reference to prayer in almost every chapter of Acts. After Peter and John were released, they went to their friends and told them all that happened.

**QUESTION:** Then, what did they do?

**ANSWER:** Acts 4:24a: they lifted their voices together to God—they prayed.

**QUESTION:** How did they address God?

**ANSWER:** Sovereign Lord.

**QUESTION:** What did they pray for?

**ANSWER:** That they would speak about Jesus with boldness even if being threatened; that healings, signs, and wonders would be done by the name of Jesus.

**QUESTION:** What happened after they prayed?

**ANSWER:** The place where they were at was shaken, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to tell others about Jesus with boldness.

The believers prayed together. By calling God “Sovereign Lord” at the beginning of their prayer, they were saying that they understood God was in control of all things. First, they praised God. Then, notice that they did not ask for the religious council to lose their jobs or positions, but they prayed that God would help them continue to boldly tell others about Jesus regardless. They also asked for God’s power to heal the sick and show His glory. When the prayer ended, the place around them was shaken, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to talk about Jesus with boldness.

# YOUTH

## MAIN IDEA

*Walking with Jesus  
emboldens His  
followers.*



### QUESTION ONE:

Read Acts 4:1–22. This passage depicts a scene where the disciples receive backlash for speaking out about Jesus. Why do you think the religious leaders were worried and threatened by the disciples sharing about Jesus?

**Follow Up:** What do the religious leaders tell Peter and John to do?

### QUESTION TWO:

Read Acts 4:23–31. What do Peter, John, and the rest of the followers of Jesus pray for in response to the religious leaders?

**Follow Up:** Reflect on the type of faith and trust that the disciples have in Jesus.

### QUESTION THREE:

Have you ever experienced resistance in your relationships or from people in your life because of your faith in Jesus? How did you handle it?

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## BIBLE READING

The Bible is more than just a chain of events strung together one-by-one; it is a collection of intricately interwoven stories that work together to show us new truths about God. To gain a deeper understanding of Acts 4:1-31, spend a little time throughout your week reading these additional passages:

☐ **Luke 3:7-20**

The Holy Spirit empowered John to speak and act boldly as he proclaimed the Kingdom of God, despite its offense to those in positions of authority.

☐ **Luke 4:1-14**

The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus to boldly endure temptation and remain faithful to God through it.

☐ **1 Timothy 1:6-14**

We have been given the Spirit to empower us to proclaim the Gospel boldly despite persecution and suffering.

## PRAYER

Ask God for boldness to faithfully follow Him, especially when others don't approve of your beliefs. Pray that we would listen to what Jesus says about us and care most about His voice in our lives. Pray for God's perspective on those who don't believe in Jesus and those who might oppose Christians, recognizing that our struggle is not against people but against spiritual forces of evil. Ask God to help us love those who disagree with us and to draw them to Him.

## ACTION STEP

As you pray for boldness, believe and act on this answered prayer by sharing three Godly encouragements with three strangers this week. This could be as simple as verbally thanking God for the beautiful weather when talking to the coffee barista or putting a note with a Bible verse on someone's car, or as bold as sparking up a conversation about Jesus in the grocery store or in the school hallway. You'd be surprised how many cool stories come from things as simple as this!

NOTES:

Dotted lines for note-taking.





## MAIN IDEA

*The Church requires generosity and honesty with one another and with God.*

## MEMORY VERSES

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42*

*But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:19–20*

At Summit View Church, our mission is to equip and empower the body of Christ to lead and impact every sphere of life with Gospel-Centered Living. This means that regardless the topic or area of life, our hope would be that we approach it through the lens of the Gospel. This includes our time, talents, treasures—all our resources. Throughout Scripture, we see that possessions function as a symbol of responsiveness to God, helping to reveal what's beneath the surface. In Acts 4:32–5:11 we are presented with two divergent scenes, two encounters displaying opposing approaches to the Christian life. One example depicts believers who sought unity and exhibited grace and great care and generosity towards one another. The other, not so much. Instead, it depicts a threat to the unity God had been cultivating in His community by members who lacked integrity and sought to gain standing under false pretenses. God took action, and takes action today, to protect and preserve His Church.

## BIBLE READING

☐ **Acts 4:32–5:11**

The Church requires generosity and honesty with one another and with God.

☐ **Luke 18:18–30**

Jesus declares that His people are to lead lives that are marked by radical generosity.

☐ **Luke 19:1–10 | James 2:14–17**

Jesus' work of salvation in our lives results in us leading lives marked by radical generosity.

☐ **2 Corinthians 9:1–15**

We are called to give generously out of gratitude to God and with joy, not out of obligation or compulsion.

☐ **Ephesians 4:15–32**

We are called to use our words to speak truth, build others up, and forgive one another.

☐ **1 Timothy 3:1–7 & 6:3–10**

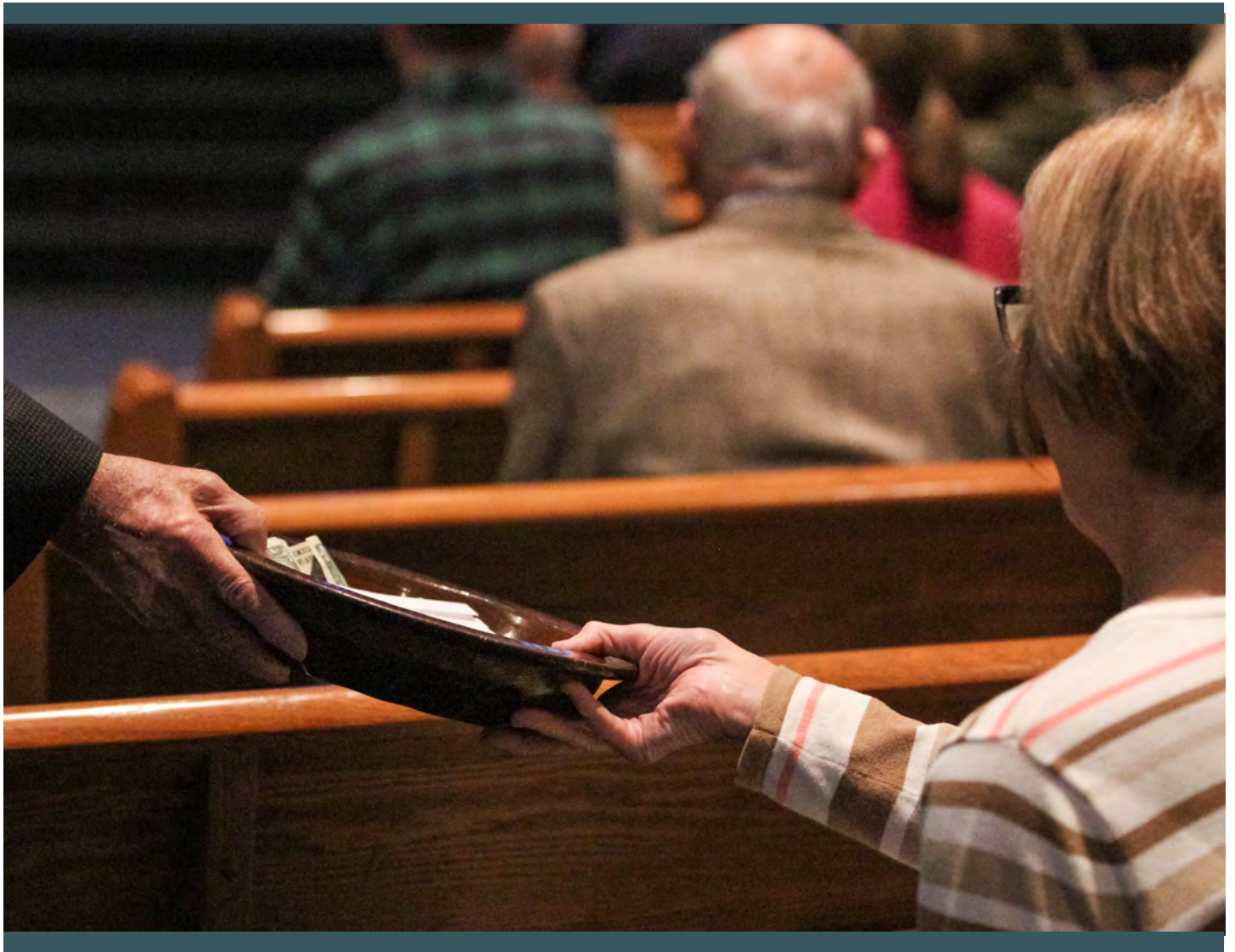
Leaders in the Church must not be lovers of money or see Godliness as a means of gain but should demonstrate contentment with what God has given them.

☐ **1 Timothy 6:3–19**

We are called to be content with what God has given us, not trusting in wealth, but seeing our finances as God's good gift that is to be enjoyed and used generously for the advancement of His Kingdom.

## PRAYER & MEDITATION PROMPTS

- Think about what God has given you. Thank Him for those things. Ask Him to grow you in contentment with what He has given and trust in His provision.
- Read Acts 4:32–35. Imagine what it would look like for our congregations to take that kind of care of one another!



## CONNECTED TO: COMMUNITY

In the same way that the early church prioritized each other's needs above the accumulation of personal wealth, we're called to hold our finances loosely, remembering it all belongs to God anyway.

How might God want you to use your financial surplus for His glory? Here at Summit View, we have the opportunity to give Beyond the Tithe to a fund set aside specifically for meeting the tangible needs of those in our church family. Prayerfully consider how God might be prompting you to give.

Don't have a financial surplus? Consider selling unwanted items or hosting a community yard sale! Don't miss out on the blessing of getting to be used by God to meet the tangible needs of those in your church family.

**[www.summitview.net/giving](http://www.summitview.net/giving)**

# LIFE GROUP & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

## GETTING STARTED:

Teenagers have an uncanny ability to pretend to be someone else in the hopes of impressing others. If we're honest, that temptation never really goes away. Can you think of a time where you tried to pretend to be something or someone you're not to make a good impression?

### QUESTION ONE:

Read Acts 4:32–37. Describe in your own words what was happening. Where do you think this selflessness came from?

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**Follow Up:** What was the result of their generosity?

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### QUESTION TWO:

In what ways have you seen others practice generosity in your congregation? Describe the impact of such giving.

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**Follow Up:** What are some ways this week you could practice generosity with someone within the Church? With someone within your life group?

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**Follow Up:** Share ideas and develop a plan of action and accountability.

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**Follow Up:** Consider reading additional passages about generosity:  
2 Corinthians 8-9 | 1 Corinthians 16:1–2 | Matthew 6:19–24

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**QUESTION THREE:**

Consider everything that happened in Acts thus far in our reading—Pentecost, the coming of the Spirit, healings, life of the early Church, and the oppression of the Apostles. Why do you think Luke would include a story like the one found in Acts 5:1-11?

**QUESTION FOUR:**

What keeps people from being radically generous?

**Follow Up:** What keeps you from being radically generous?

**QUESTION FIVE:**

Within Scripture, names often have meanings, and some can prove to be ironic. In Acts 5:1-11, we are introduced to two such people: Ananias, meaning “the Lord is gracious,” and Sapphira, meaning “beautiful.” How do these two fail to live up to their names?

**Follow Up:** What was motivating them? What could their struggle have been?





**QUESTION SIX:**

What did Peter say in judgement on Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:3–5, 9?

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**Follow Up:** What do you think would have happened to the community if their deception went unchecked? What does this tell you about the character of God?

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**QUESTION SEVEN:**

Ananias & Sapphira were guilty of lying to God. Take time to read Psalm 139:1–6. How do these verses shed light on what happened to Ananias & Sapphira?

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**Follow Up:** How does this impact how you live your life and the times you may not be fully truthful with people or God?

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**QUESTION EIGHT:**

According to Luke, the writer of Acts, how did the Church respond to God’s judgement of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:5, 11?

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**Follow Up:** How may that response have shown itself in the daily lives of the early Church?

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**Follow Up:** How does the story of Ananias and Sapphira challenge you?

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## APPLICATION

As we consider the lessons we might learn from this story, we find two similarly worded, yet opposing questions: “How can this Church serve me?” and “How can I serve this Church?”. Take time to evaluate which question is more dominant in your mind and how that way of thinking might impact your level of involvement with Summit View and your life group.



## KEY VERSE

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8*



## GETTING STARTED:

In today's story, we will learn about a married couple who lied. They could have told the truth, but instead they lied and then suffered terrible consequences. What are some consequences you have faced because of a lie you told? What might have happened if you were honest?

## BIG IDEAS

### 1. A SPIRIT OF GIVING

Read Acts 4:32 out loud.

**QUESTION:** What does it mean to you to be “one heart and mind”?

**ANSWER:** Will vary.

**QUESTION:** God was doing big things in the Church. People lived generous lives and took care of the needs of others. How did they do this?

**ANSWER:** The believers were selling their possessions and giving the money to the disciples to distribute to the poor as needs arose.

### 2. BEING TRUTHFUL

God is a God of truth. He knows our thoughts and sees our hearts. Read Acts 5:1–11 aloud or read the story of Ananias and Sapphira from a Children's Story Bible.

**QUESTION:** Ananias and Sapphira chose to lie to Peter about the sale of their land. Why did this matter?

**ANSWER:** They lied to God, not just Peter. God wants us to be honest. The land belonged to Ananias and Sapphira; they could have sold it and then kept the money or only given some of it. Instead, they chose to lie about the price to make themselves look good. God wants us to be honest.





## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Ananias and Sapphira sinned by lying about the price of their land. They could have confessed their sins. It is important that we confess our sins.
- The Bible says that all have sinned. From the moment we are born, sin has invaded our hearts. We are held captive by our sin, with no ability to escape or save ourselves. We deserve to be left in our sins, destined to be forever separated from God.
- The good news is this: since God required that sin be punished, He sent Jesus. Jesus' death was the final payment for our sin. He died in our place so that we could be forgiven and made right with God. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, and those who trust in Him have forgiveness and eternal life.

## CONNECTED TO: COMMUNITY

When we read about the Church in Acts, we saw that they were community centered. They cared for the people around them by selling what they had and giving it to those in need. They weren't "me centered." They saw how important it was for the community to be healthy. They served God by serving others around them.

This is one aspect of a Jesus centered life. When we show the community love, we show them Jesus.

Discuss with your family how you could be connected to your community. Take some time as a family and talk about how you live generous lives currently, or how you could live more generously. Discuss why this would be important for you and your family.

# YOUTH

## MAIN IDEA

*The Church requires generosity and honesty with one another and with God*



We get another snapshot of what the early Church looked like. However, we also see what happens when selfishness and deceit enter the picture.

### QUESTION ONE:

Read Acts 4:32–37. What made the fellowship of these believers so unique?

### QUESTION TWO:

Read Acts 5:1–11 then compare what Ananias and Sapphira did with what happened in 4:32–37. In Acts 5:4, who did Ananias and Sapphira lie to?

**Follow Up:** In this instance, the punishment for lying was death. What does this tell you about the seriousness of sin? What does this tell you about the character of God?

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## BIBLE READING

The Bible is more than just a chain of events strung together one-by-one; it is a collection of intricately interwoven stories that work together to show us new truths about God. To gain a deeper understanding of Acts 4:32–5:11, spend a little time throughout your week reading these additional passages:

☐ **Luke 19:1–10 | James 2:14–17**

Jesus' work of salvation in our lives results in us leading lives marked by radical generosity.

☐ **1 Timothy 3:1–7 & 6:3–10**

Leaders in the Church must not be lovers of money or see Godliness as a means of gain but should demonstrate contentment with what God has given them.

☐ **1 Timothy 6:3–19**

We are called to be content with what God has given us, not trusting in wealth, but seeing our finances as God's good gift that is to be enjoyed and used generously for the advancement of His Kingdom.

## PRAYER

Reflect on ways you seek to do things to get attention or praise. Pray for God to grow in you a selfless attitude that seeks to genuinely care for others without looking for praise or attention for yourself.

## ACTION STEP

As you become aware of what sins or distractions might be getting in between you and God, prayerfully take one step towards moving that obstacle out of the way.

Example: I am tempted to sin when \_\_\_\_, therefore, I will \_\_\_\_.

Keep strong to this commitment all week, and then take the second step, and so on.

NOTES:

Dotted lines for note-taking.



## MAIN IDEA

*God's plan to reach the world cannot be stopped.*

## MEMORY VERSES

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42*

*But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:19-20*

As we study the early Church, it's easy to find ourselves only focused on the positives—the deep community, the selfless sharing of possessions, and hundreds of lives being saved by the good news of the Gospel. Much adulation is given to the positive traits of the early Church, and it is often held up as the golden example of how church ought to function today. Yet we must not omit the challenges they faced, that we might learn from both their victories and their failures.

The early Church faced issues of theological understanding—as revealed in the many New Testament letters of correction, internal and relational issues, as evident in last week's text, as well as external opposition, as described in this week's passage. Regardless of the difficulty or the struggle, whether internal or external, the disciples exhibited great joy and faithfulness to God, considering it an honor to suffer for Jesus' sake, clinging to the knowledge that God's mission cannot, and would not, be stopped.



## BIBLE READING

☐ **Acts 5:12–42**

God's plan to reach the world cannot be stopped.

☐ **Luke 24:13–27 | Luke 24:44–49 | Acts 17:1–4**

The attempts of the enemy to stop Jesus were used by God to accomplish His purposes.

☐ **Acts 4:25–26 | Psalm 2:1–12**

No plot or rebellion will stand against Jesus, whom God has established as His victorious King to rule over all things.

☐ **1 Timothy 2:1–13**

We endure suffering, knowing that the Gospel cannot be contained or thwarted and that Jesus rules and reigns over all.

☐ **Philippians 1:12–26**

God uses the enemy's attempts to stop the Gospel to further His Gospel instead throughout the world.

☐ **Philippians 1:27–2:11**

We are invited to share in the sufferings of Christ, as a sign of the work God has done in us and the victory He has won on our behalf.

☐ **1 Peter 2:21–25 | 1 Peter 4:12–19 | 1 Peter 5:6–11**

When we suffer for the Gospel, we can do so joyfully, remembering Jesus' suffering on our behalf and trusting that, just as God was faithful to Jesus, He will be faithful to us.

## PRAYER & MEDITATION PROMPTS

- Spend time meditating on the suffering of Jesus. Remember that it was through His suffering and death that God brought about His plan to bring life and restoration to all who believe in Him. Ask God to give you peace to trust Him through all things.
- Think about your time sharing the Gospel with your person. Talk to God about how it went. Take a moment to rest in the fact that whether you felt it went well or not, God's work was done, and His plan cannot be stopped.



## CONNECTED TO: OUTREACH

Despite beatings, threats, and imprisonment, nothing prevented the Apostles from sharing the Gospel with whoever would listen! What keeps you from sharing the Gospel with those around you?

For the next week, take walks around your neighborhood, praying for your neighbors and those who come and go. Look for opportunities to connect with your neighbors and invite them to our upcoming Easter services!

[www.summitview.net/easter](http://www.summitview.net/easter)

# LIFE GROUP & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

## GETTING STARTED:

Have you ever faced opposition in your life? Will you share the story? What was the outcome?

### QUESTION ONE:

Read Acts 5:12–16. The passage begins this week depicting a crowd that held the Apostles in “high esteem” yet did not join them; what do you think they were afraid of?

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**Follow Up:** Has there ever been a time in your life you wanted to be a part of something, but held back out of fear of what might happen?

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**Follow Up:** Despite the timidity shown by the people, how effective was the ministry of the Apostles?

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### QUESTION TWO:

Read Acts 5:17–28. What motivated the religious leaders to stop the disciples? Was it simply that they didn’t like them or was something else at play?

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**Follow Up:** Why would the high priest be concerned that he and the council were being blamed for the death of Jesus?

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**QUESTION THREE:**

Imagine yourself in a similar situation as the Apostles, arrested for preaching the Gospel, and then released. How likely would you be to go right back out and preach again?

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**Follow Up:** What emboldened the Apostles to keep preaching?

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**Follow Up:** What does it mean to “speak the words of Life” to people?

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**QUESTION FOUR:**

Read Acts 5:29–32. In this passage we see a clear example of when civil disobedience is acceptable. What made it ok?

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**QUESTION FIVE:**

Read Acts 5:33–42. In this passage, Gamaliel comments that the religious leaders were fighting against God and not humans. How accurate was this assessment?

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**QUESTION SIX:**

This text provides us with an opportunity to consider how we view our own witnessing experiences and opportunities. A common misconception among American Christians is that if we are in the center of God’s will, and being led by the Holy Spirit, we won’t have trouble or hardship, but rather everything we do will prosper. Have you ever found yourself thinking along those lines?

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**QUESTION SEVEN:**

At the end of the chapter, Luke tells us that the Apostles were rejoicing because they were considered “worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.” In your own words, what does this mean? Why would this be an honor?

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**Follow Up:** Do you think you would have responded in the same way?

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**QUESTION EIGHT:**

How does the knowledge that nothing can stop God’s plan for redeeming and restoring the world, impact the way you view your life, circumstances, and what God may call you to next?

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## APPLICATION

Derek Thomas in his commentary on the book of Acts writes:

*“We think of these Apostles as ‘heroes.’ And perhaps they are! We are awed by their boldness and tenacity. Yet they were only the first in a long line of bold Christians throughout the centuries. Do you not want to be among them?”*

The Apostles could not help but speak about the grace of God that they had seen and experienced firsthand. It was not simply their calling, but a calling given to us all to share the Good News of Jesus; has that calling gripped you? In Luke 8:39, Jesus instructed a man newly freed from demon possession to “Return to your home and declare how much God has done for you.” In response, he went and proclaimed God to his entire city! This week, who is one person you can tell about what God has done for you?



## KEY VERSE

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

## GETTING STARTED:

Have you ever gotten in trouble for doing the right thing? What happened? Would you still have chosen to do the right thing if you'd known beforehand that there would be negative consequences?

Remember when Peter and John were arrested for healing the man who was crippled? They were brought before the religious high council. The council did not want the Gospel (the good news about Jesus) to spread. They commanded Peter and John NOT to tell others about Jesus.

**QUESTION:** What was Peter and John's answer?

**ANSWER:** We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard!

## BIG IDEAS

### 1. MANY SIGNS & WONDERS

Read Acts 5:12-16 out loud.

**QUESTION:** What was being done regularly by the hands of the Apostles?

**ANSWER:** Many signs and wonders.

**QUESTION:** What three things happened?

**ANSWER:**

1. More came to believe in Jesus
2. More came to be healed
3. They were all healed.

The Apostles were given power to perform miracles! It proved to the people that what they were saying was true. Many more people became believers.

## 2. ARRESTED & FREED

Read Acts 5:17-21a out loud.

**QUESTION:** The religious council had the Apostles arrested and put into prison. What happened that night?

**ANSWER:** An angel opened the prison doors and let them out.

**QUESTION:** What were their instructions?

**ANSWER:** The angel told them to go to the temple and tell people about Jesus.

The Apostles told everyone the Good News about Jesus. The religious high council had the Apostles put in jail. During the night, God sent an angel to the prison to free the Apostles. The next morning, they were back in the temple teaching!

Read Acts 5:21b-29 out loud.

**QUESTION:** What did Peter and the Apostles say when they were reminded that they were commanded to not teach about Jesus anymore?

**ANSWER:** We must obey God rather than men.

Read Acts 5:33-35 out loud.

**QUESTION:** How did the council react to Peter and the Apostles' answer?

**ANSWER:** They were very mad and wanted to kill them.

**QUESTION:** Who stood up and what did he say?

**ANSWER:** Gamaliel, a Pharisee held in honor by the people. He had the believers taken outside. He suggested to the council that they be very careful with what they decided to do with the believers.

When God sets a plan in motion, man can do nothing to stop Him! A Pharisee named Gamaliel knew this, he warned the other men in the council to be careful with the believers because if they were following God's plan, they would be successful, no matter how many times they got thrown in jail.

Read Acts 5:38-42 out loud.

**QUESTION:** Before the council let the believers go, what did they command them to do?

**ANSWER:** To not speak in the name of Jesus; to not tell others about Jesus.

**QUESTION:** Were the believers distressed? How did they feel?

**ANSWER:** No! They rejoiced





**QUESTION:** What did they do?

**ANSWER:** Every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not stop teaching and preaching about Jesus!

When Jesus was still on earth, He told His followers to expect harassment and suffering (see Matthew 5:10-12). When the believers left the council, they rejoiced! Why? They knew how Jesus had suffered and they were glad they were able to be persecuted like Jesus. The threats and beatings did not stop the believers from telling others about Jesus.



### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- When we are bold in our faith and share the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection, things happen! Sometimes, people believe the Good News and are saved! Other times, they might laugh at us or call us names. The Apostles knew that Jesus was real, and they wanted to share that with everyone, no matter what! They were committed to teaching everyone about Jesus, even if that meant they spent time in jail.

**QUESTION:** Do you think it was easy for the Apostles to share the Good News, even after being put in jail?

**ANSWER:** Will vary

**QUESTION:** Why do you think they were so committed to the mission that they were called to?

**ANSWER:** Will vary





## CONNECTED TO: OUTREACH

The Apostles continued to teach the Gospel—the Good News—despite all the bad things that kept happening to them. They knew that it was important to tell others that Jesus died and rose again, and they chose to obey God by sharing that news, ignoring the bad things that people might do to them as a result.

When we are committed to outreach, we are saying that we know that it's important to tell others about Jesus, no matter the cost. We want all people all over the world to come to know Jesus and to experience His saving grace. Who are you going to tell about Jesus?

# YOUTH

## MAIN IDEA

*God's plan to reach the world cannot be stopped.*



The Apostles performed another miracle and this time the Sadducees (Jewish religious leaders) came after the Apostles. The Apostles were just humans, but they were led by the Lord, and it seemed there was nothing that could slow them down.

There are two stories within this section of Scripture. The miraculous signs done by the Apostles and the arrest of the Apostles.

### QUESTION ONE:

Read Acts 5:12-17. Describe how these events brought more people to know Jesus. Follow up: Why do you think the Sadducees were jealous in Acts 5:17?

### QUESTION TWO:

Read Acts 5:17–42. A pharisee named Gamaliel reasoned with the others on the council about why they should leave the Apostles alone instead of punishing them for going against their authority.

According to Acts 5:33–39, what was Gamaliel's reason for leaving the Apostles alone?

### QUESTION THREE:

In Acts 5:41, the disciples rejoiced that they suffered for the sake of the Gospel. What would you think if you were in the same position?

**Follow Up:** Have you ever faced suffering because of your faith in Jesus?

**Follow Up:** Even though the Apostles faced obstacles, the Lord cannot be stopped. How are you encouraged by this passage?

**Follow Up:** Does knowing that the Lord cannot be stopped change the way you will face challenges or opposition to Jesus in the future?

## BIBLE READING

The Bible is more than just a chain of events strung together one-by-one; it is a collection of intricately interwoven stories that work together to show us new truths about God. To gain a deeper understanding of Acts 5:12–42, spend a little time throughout your week reading these additional passages:

☐ **Acts 4:25–26 | Psalm 2:1–12**

No plot or rebellion will stand against Jesus, whom God has established as His victorious king to rule over all things.

☐ **1 Timothy 2:1–13**

We endure suffering, knowing that the Gospel cannot be contained or thwarted and that Jesus rules and reigns over all.

☐ **1 Peter 2:21–25 | 1 Peter 4:12–19 | 1 Peter 5:6–11**

When we suffer for the Gospel, we can do so joyfully, remembering Jesus' suffering on our behalf and trusting that, just as God was faithful to Jesus, He will be faithful to us.

## PRAYER

Pray that God would continue to advance His Kingdom throughout the world, that people in our community, all around our country, and every corner of the globe would come to know, love, and follow Jesus. Ask God to show you how He wants you to be a part of His mission for the whole world, and to give you a willing heart to obey.

## ACTION STEP

If persecution, shame, embarrassment, social anxiety, etc. didn't exist, what would you do for the sake of spreading the Gospel? Pick one thing and do it.



NOTES:

Dotted lines for note-taking.





NOTES:

Dotted lines for note-taking.



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