

Study Guide  
(Fall 2023)

THE BOOK OF  
**ACTS**

# Vision

One of our desires as a church is to encourage people to wrestle with Scripture and dive deeper into the sermon. This allows us to hear God's Word for ourselves and apply it to our lives. It also keeps us connected with others as we journey together through the book of Acts and discern where God is calling us.

## As you prepare to lead

As we mature as disciples, we want to grow deeper in allowing Scripture to form us.

Ask your group to read the text in advance but do not give them the questions. There is something powerful when we wrestle with the text and allow God's Spirit to speak through His Word.

As you prepare, spend time reading over the text yourself, praying for wisdom and noting the main focus of the text.

Your role as a leader isn't to have all the answers. It is to guide people to apply God's Word in their lives through Scripture. This is why we give you the main focus (in the title) and an application question each week.

# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Watch the 8-minute overview of the themes of the book of Acts [HERE](#). This video resource is available through our [rightnow MEDIA](#) subscription. Sign up to get your free access [HERE](#).

## FLOW FOR EACH WEEK



### Icebreaker

Either ask everyone to share one thing from their reflection time during the week or ask a warm-up question.



### Warm-Up Question

What stood out to you from the sermon?



### Intro to Studying the Scripture

Get people excited to study God's Word. Share with them the power of looking at Scripture ourselves and wrestling with the text.



### Text

Read out loud.



### Silent Study

5-10 minutes. Have people note their observations and questions.



### Share Together

Everyone shares their questions and observations. Tell people that we aren't going to answer the questions immediately but allow all the people in the group to share first.



### Common Questions

What are the common questions that come up? Begin to wrestle through those together.

Additional questions are provided in the weekly devotional guide. Feel free to add these into the questions the group can discuss.

Consider sending people into small groups to discuss further before coming back and sharing with the whole group.



### Application

Always push toward application of God's Word. We want people leaving not knowing more but knowing how this will change the way they live this week.

We highly recommend you lead using the inductive bible study method as it allows your group to wrestle with the text themselves. Check out a simple resource on how to lead Scripture focused inductive studies [HERE](#).

## RESOURCES



[The Bible Project overview of Acts \(part 1\)](#), [overview of Acts \(part 2\)](#)



[IVP New Testament Commentary Series](#)



[A commentary by David Guzik](#)

# The Gospel Keeps Moving

ACTS 8:26-40

Reread Acts 1:8 (the purpose of the book) and see how it connects with Acts 8 (v.1, 4-5) as we see the gospel moving out into Samaria.

There is an interplay between God preparing people (the Eunuch reading Isaiah) and human responsibility in sharing (Philip explaining the text). Why are both important in sharing Jesus with our friends, neighbors, co-workers and family? How have you seen that play out in your life?

Read the text the Eunuch was reading (all of Isaiah 53, specifically v7-8). How does this prophecy written hundreds of years before (referred to as the Suffering Servant) connect with the Gospel?

Throughout Acts, we see baptism right after conversion. Do you think we should baptize people immediately after they confess Jesus?

Read this [short summary](#) if you want to discuss this topic.

## APPLICATION

How well would you be able to share the Good News with someone if they approached you? Spend time sharing and praying for those close to you whom you desire to know Christ.

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# Radical Transformation

ACTS 9:1-18

Opening Question: What is the most memorable testimony you have heard?

Look at Acts 7:57-8:3.

How does Paul's (known as Saul) backstory help us better understand him?

What do you think about Paul's call in v15-16?

How does that calling prepare him for the life ahead of him?

After experiencing a radical transformation, Paul immediately begins to preach and defend Jesus. Have you seen this happen before? Should this be the norm for new Christians? *(this question is designed to spur discussion but there isn't necessarily a correct answer)*

Barnabas has already been introduced as the son of encouragement (see 4:36).

How crucial is Barnabas to the life and growth of the Apostle Paul? Why is this role crucial to the health of the church today?

## APPLICATION

As followers of Jesus, we are called to walk alongside (disciple) those who are growing in their faith. How have you been intentionally living out this call? Is there anything (person, place, ministry) God is putting on your heart? Discuss as a group and pray for one another.

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# A Gospel For All People

ACTS 11:1-18

It is easy to mistake our preferences (singing hymns, what clothes we wear on Sunday) as the only/best way to follow Christ. Can you give examples of when people make their preferences to be the only way to do church or follow Jesus?

Look back at Acts 10, specifically v44 onward. What is happening here?

In 11:4, why is it important for Peter to tell the whole story? What are the implications of his vision? Why would it have been seen as a threat to some Jewish believers?

Look over Deut 14:2-21. The Jewish people were not allowed to eat specific animals. How does this add to our understanding of why Peter tells the whole story?

What moment from Acts does v15 connect to (see 2:3-4)? What is its significance in regard to the purpose of this book (seen in Acts 1:8)?

Why is v18 a watershed moment for the church? (the church, which at this time is predominantly Jewish, begins to make greater distinctions between what is cultural and what is the gospel, making it easier for non-Jewish believers to walk in the way of Jesus)

## APPLICATION

What are some of our cultural preferences that need to be examined through the lens of the gospel? How will this change the way we operate as a church (i.e. a deeper understanding of the gospel and a greater welcome for others)?

Click [HERE](#) for a good way to approach preferences.

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