



ACTS CHAPTERS 1 & 2 (FACILITATOR)

Acts Background Information

- The book of Acts details the movements of the people of God including how the church grows, how the church moves, and how the Holy Spirit leads the charge of it all. The book is both descriptive and prescriptive. It describes how the first century church functioned and operated. Not everything that we find in the book of Acts is to be done by the church today nor would it be feasible to do everything we see in the book of Acts in the church today.

However, the book of Acts is also prescriptive in that it has both relevance and applicability for who the church was designed to be today and what the church is supposed to be about today.

It is important to understand and encourage your life group members to read through the book of Acts during the course of the week outside of the actual life group times. There is so much depth and richness in this book that you will miss out on if you're banking on the life group time ONLY to be convicted and transformed by the things that are in this book. As you and your life group members journey through this book, take time to consistently reflect and meditate upon what it means and looks like for JESUS' CHURCH to be on mission for the kingdom of God and for JESUS' CHURCH to be led by the Holy Spirit. Consider your role on a daily basis as a member of JESUS' CHURCH. What does it look like for you personally to be on mission for Jesus in every single context that God has given you?

Discussion Starter

- What takes up most of your time on a daily basis? What takes up most of your time on a weekly basis?

Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

Read the Story (Acts 1:1-26 & Acts 2:1-47)

- Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.



Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Acts 1:1-26

- According to Acts 1:4-5, why were the disciples ordered to stay in Jerusalem and what does this have to do with you and me as disciples of Jesus Christ in 2020?
 - The disciples were ordered to wait in Jerusalem to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and this wasn't going to be some mystical/magical experience. It was going to be an experience (that takes place in Acts chapter 2) in which the Holy Spirit would be made available to live within all of humanity forever. For you and me today just like the disciples in Acts 1, the Holy Spirit was always intended to be the driving force behind the church and how it moved and functioned. Men and women of God were always intended to be the instruments and the witnesses to the work of the Holy Spirit, not the driving force of the church themselves.
- Acts 1:8 details the power, purpose, and plan for the disciples of Jesus during that time. Acts 1:8 is the mission statement/theme verse for the entire book of Acts because it defines the power with which the church should live on mission, it defines the purpose of the church, and it defines the plan that God has for His church. With these things in mind, consider some of the following questions.
 - With what power do you live on a daily basis? Is it your own or is it the Holy Spirit's? How do you know?
 - What would you say is the purpose of the church? How do you know?
 - How do you live out the purpose of the church in your daily life with other brothers and sisters in Christ?



- These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- Acts 1:8 also details how the plan for the church is going to unfold in terms of the message of God being spread. In that time, we would be considered the ends of the earth. Notice all of the places that were mentioned but especially Samaria. Samaria was the place where “half breeds” lived. The Jews went out of their way to not associate with the Samaritans. The Samaritans were considered outsiders and people who were less than on every level. With these things in mind, how would you answer the following questions?
 - How are the Holy Spirit and message of God transforming how you view and build relationships with your brothers and sisters in Christ?
 - How are the Holy Spirit and message of God transforming how you view and build relationships with people who don’t believe and value the same things as you?
 - How are the Holy Spirit and message of God transforming how you view and build relationships with people who wound and mistreat you?
 - How are the Holy Spirit and message of God transforming how you view and build relationships with people who are marginalized in our society?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Acts 2:1-47

- What do you think it means to meet someone where they are at? Do you believe this is important to do? Why or why not?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Why is the timing of when Peter stands and speaks up significant in Acts 2:14?



- Peter didn't speak up at a church gathering or outreach event. Pentecost was after the barley harvest and before the wheat harvest. In between these times, there was a festival (Pentecost) to celebrate. So, the setting wasn't some religious gathering where God was being worshipped. It was a party, a celebration. Peter through God and the Holy Spirit's power was meeting people exactly where they were at in sharing God's message with them.
- Notice what Peter says in Acts 2:36. Why is what he says significant?
 - What Peter says in Acts 2:36 is significant for many reasons but here are a few.
 - While Peter was meeting people where they were at, he didn't shy away from telling them the truth. Loving people, meeting people where they are at, and telling them the truth aren't opposed to each other. They are all a part of loving like Jesus loves.
 - While there may have been some people who were physically present at the crucifixion of Jesus, there were also many present on the Day of Pentecost who weren't physically present at the death of Jesus and yet Peter says that ALL present on the Day of Pentecost crucified Jesus. Stated another way, ALL GROUND IS LEVEL AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS AND ALL OF US ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF JESUS.
 - Peter says that Jesus is both Lord and Christ. In other words, Jesus isn't just the One who saves us from our sins, but He is also the One to whom we owe absolutely everything. He is the One that owns all of who we are. He is our Lord, Our Master.
 - How would your life look different if Jesus owned every aspect of who you are?
 - How can you encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ to allow Jesus to own every part of who they are?



- These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- God, who meets us where we are at and tells us the truth also invites us to a story that is much bigger and better than anything we could ever imagine. BUT it does call for our response and a response that says that we are ALL IN!!! This is what's happening in Acts 2:37-41.
 - How are you currently and daily responding to God inviting you to His story?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- When you read Acts 2:42-47, how do you think the world around the church at that time viewed the church? Do you think the world around you views you in similar ways as a part of God's church? Why or why not?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.



- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Acts 3-4)



ACTS CHAPTERS 1 & 2 (STUDENT)

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- The book of Acts details the movements of the people of God including how the church grows, how the church moves, and how the Holy Spirit leads the charge of it all. The book is both descriptive and prescriptive. It describes how the first century church functioned and operated. Not everything that we find in the book of Acts is to be done by the church today nor would it be feasible to do everything we see in the book of Acts in the church today.

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Discussion Starter

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Acts 2:1-47

- What do you think it means to meet someone where they are at? Do you believe this is important to do? Why or why not?
- Why is the timing of when Peter stands and speaks up significant in Acts 2:14?
- Notice what Peter says in Acts 2:36. Why is what he says significant?
 - What Peter says in Acts 2:36 is significant for many reasons but here are a few.
 - How would your life look different if Jesus owned every aspect of who you are?
 - How can you encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ to allow Jesus to own every part of who they are?
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Final Application

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