

**Discussion Questions for Week 1 :“The Vision of the Church”**  
**A Study of the Book of Acts**

**Lead in:** What is one of the most memorable vision statement you have ever heard?

Please read **Acts 1:1-5** then please discuss the following questions:

- Where did Luke get his information to write Acts?
- How long did Jesus appear to the apostles after his resurrection?
- During that period of time what is it that Jesus talks to the disciples about?
- Why do you think Jesus talks to them about the Kingdom of God and not the church?
  - Did Jesus speak a great deal about the Kingdom of God? Can you remember anything he taught about the Kingdom?
  - During his ministry, Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God a great deal through parables. In these parables he taught his listeners that the Kingdom of God would start very small however it will become very large (see Matthew 13:31-32)
- What *command* does Jesus give his disciples?

Please read verses Acts 1: 6-8. Then Acts 2:1-4 and discuss the following:

- What *vision* does Jesus give his disciples in this passage? (Remember most of the disciples hadn't been more than 30 miles from their home).
- What does Jesus call His followers to be after He leaves? What did it mean for them to be “witnesses” of Jesus?
- Why was it important that Jesus' disciples waited in Jerusalem?
- What does this indicate about the role of the Holy Spirit in the mission of God through his people?
- Jesus never meant for us to live for Him in our own power. Why do we keep trying to?
- How do our lives reflect a dependence upon the Holy Spirit?
- What would our small groups and church look like if they unified around God's purpose for them?
- What kinds of ideas do we often consider to be our life's purpose? Do we have more than one? How can the different roles that we play in life every day often distract us from the primary purpose that God has given us?

**Acts Week 2 Study Guide**  
**Week of October 13, 2019**

**Lead in:** Share a time when something unexpected happened that turned out to be a significant event in your life.

Have someone read Acts 2:1-13 then discuss the following questions:

- Describe the effects of the Spirit's coming. ·
- How did His presence affect the work of Christ's followers?

Peter gets up and preaches in Acts 2:14. Have someone read Acts 2:22-24;32-36 then answer the following questions:

- Who or what is the primary theme of Peter's message?
- What does his message reveal about Jesus?

Read Acts 2:37-40. Then discuss the following questions:

- Why did these people need forgiveness?
- Why did they need to believe in Christ? ·
- What happened to them if they did not come to salvation by God's grace through faith in Christ?
- Does the eternal state of someone concern us? Why or why not?
- What would our LifeGroups and church look like if we acted like the eternal state of every person in the world mattered?

**Acts-Week 3 Study Guide**  
**The week of October 20, 2019**

**Icebreaker:** Share about an experience when you were a part of a small group of folks that made an impact on your life.

Have someone read Acts 2:43-47. Then discuss the following questions:

- Of all the characteristics of early group of believers that are mentioned in these verses which surprised you and why?
- Where did the first believers in Jesus meet? What was the significance of each location to the early church?
- What were some of “supernatural” ways that God’s Spirit was operating in the early church?
- How did the early believers view God and each other?
- What impact did the early church have upon their “neighborhood”?
- Do you believe what happened in the early church is unique to it or that we should expect to see similar characteristics in our church today?
- What impact does CPC have upon our neighborhoods?

If there is time have someone read Acts 4:32-37, then discuss to the following questions:

- If you were a journalist at this time what would be the headline you would come up for this description of the early believers?

**Acts-Week 4 Study Guide**  
**Week of October 27, 2019**

**Icebreaker:** What was an occasion when you experience or witnessed a physical healing?

Please have someone read Acts 3:1-11, then discuss the following questions:

- What do you think the life of the lame man in this story was like on a day-to-day basis?
- Why did Peter and John tell the lame man to look at them?
- What can you determine about the lame man's understanding of his ability to suddenly be able to walk based on his response?
- Imagine the scene as it is described in verses 9-11. How does Peter respond to the gathering of the crowd around the three of them?

Please have a someone read Acts 3:12-24 then answer the following questions:

- Who or what did Peter say was responsible for performing the miracle that enabled the lame man to walk?
- In the message that Peter gave to the crowd (verses 12-24) what does he reveal about Jesus?
- What was something that you learned about Jesus from what Peter said to the crowd?
- How many people came to put their faith in Jesus because of what they saw and heard that afternoon? Do you think they believed because of the miracle or the message that Peter delivered?
- When was a divine opportunity that the Lord gave you to share with others about him?

**Acts-Week 5 Study Guide**  
**Week of November 3, 2019**

**Lead In:** Share a habit or tradition your family of origin had that was special to you.

Have someone read Acts 4:1-12 out loud. Then discuss the following questions:

- How did Peter and John respond as they faced opposition?
- What was the Sanhedrin's charge against them?
- How did Peter show his complete reliance on Christ and the Holy Spirit in his address?
- Describe a time when you encountered opposition to God's truth. How did you handle that opposition?
- Would you have liked to handle the opposition differently? If so, in what way?
- In light of the truth that recalling God's mercy births boldness in our lives, take a few minutes to share some ways in which you are especially aware of God's mercy in your life.

Please have someone read Acts 4:13-22 then discuss the following questions:

- How did Peter and John rest in God's sovereign power when they were before the Sanhedrin?
- How did the Sanhedrin react to their "ordinariness"?
- How would you describe Peter and John's response to their threats in verses 19-20?
- Why is it significant that the man was over 40 years old (v. 22)? What would that mean to the witnesses in his community who watched him suffer for so long?
- Have you ever thought that you didn't have the right personality or education to be a bold witness?
- Close your time together by dividing into groups of two or three to pray. Direct each group to pray for one another and ask God to increase their boldness in sharing the gospel by the power of His Spirit. (Before praying, group members might want to share specific names of people they want to come to Christ or in specific circumstances in which they want to ask for wisdom and boldness to witness.)

**Acts-Week 6 Study Guide**  
**Week of November 10, 2019**

**Lead in:** Share of time when you did something wrong as a kid and thought you got away with it only to be busted by a parent?

Have someone read Acts 5:1-11 then discuss the following:

- Why do you think Luke included this story of deceit and death in the book of Acts?
- What light does this shed on the interior life of the first Spirit-filled community?
- What is the nature of Ananias & Sapphira's sin? <sup>1</sup>
- Who according to Peter, was behind this sin and who was this sin committed against?
- Is Satan still at work in the local church today? If so what are some examples?
- What does this story teach us about the sacredness of the human conscience before God? (See Acts 24:16) Could this also be what John meant by "walking in the Light." (1 John 1:5-10)
- What does this story teach us about the necessity of church discipline?
- What part of this story has significance to you? Why?
- Can you think of additional examples when someone's lack of integrity impacted others in a local church?

---

• <sup>1</sup>the word that Luke uses in the Greek for what is translated in verse 3 "...keep back" part of the proceeds from the land, literally means to "misappropriate". Many scholars understand the issue that the Peter's complaint was not that they lacked honesty (bringing only a part of the sale price) but they lacked integrity (bringing only a part while pretending to bring the whole).

**Acts-Week 7 Study Guide**  
**Week of November 17, 2019**

**Lead in:** Share a time in your life when you had so many things to do that important needs in your life or your family's life went unmet.

Please have someone read **Acts 6:1-7** then please discuss the following questions:

- If you were to summarize what happens in this passage in a headline, what would it be?
- What is the of the problem that the early church if experiencing? What is the cause?
- What makes these two groups different?<sup>1</sup> Was it just a cultural problem?
- What was the proposed solution?
- What were the results of the deacons performing their ministry?
- What are some significant needs that exist at CPC? What can we learn from this passage about some possible solutions?

---

<sup>1</sup> Hellenistic Jews came from various countries, and had settled in Palestine and spoke Greek, while the Hebrews were natives of Palestine and spoke Aramaic. But the distinction goes beyond origin and language to culture. In the case of the Hellenists they not only spoke Greek but thought and behaved like Greeks, while the Hebrews spoke Aramaic but we're deeply immersed in Hebrew culture. So the most accurate labels should be "Grecian Jews" and "Hebraic Jews".

**Acts-Week 8 Study Guide**  
**Week of November 24, 2019**

**Lead in:** Share about a time when something tragic occurred that with time brought about positive results.

Have someone read **Acts 6:8-15** then discuss the following:

- What did Stephen do or say that caused to appear and speak before the high priest and the council?
- What do you think it means that Stephen's "...face was like the face of an angel." (verse 15)?
- As you skim the content of Stephen's defense (Acts 7:1-49) how would you summarize what he said to the council? Why do you think he chose to give a general overview of the history of their ancestors?

Have someone read **Acts 7:51-8:1** then discuss the following:

- What did Stephen say that caused his hearers to become so enraged?
- What about Stephen's death reminds you of Jesus' death?
- What impact did Stephen's death have upon the church?
- What individual is a witness of Stephen's death? What does he have in common with Stephen? How is he different?
- What in this account of Stephen was most significant to you? Why?

**The couple of thoughts about this passage.** What interests many people most about Stephen is that he was the first Christian martyr. Luke's main concern lies elsewhere, however. He emphasizes the vital role Stephen played in the development of the worldwide Christian mission through both his teaching and his death.

Stephen's teaching, misunderstood as "blasphemy" against the temple and the law, was that Jesus (as he himself had claimed) was the fulfillment of both. Already in the Old Testament God was tied to his people, wherever they were, not to buildings. So now Jesus is ready to accompany his people wherever they go. As we see from this point forward in the book of Acts.

