

simply

ACTS

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how movements grow like wildfire

simplifying life  
re-prioritizing life  
cultivating a deeper walk with God

All Bible verses are taken from the New Living Translation unless otherwise indicated.

The following people contributed to this study guide.

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Please include the following reference information:

More studies available at  
[www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com](http://www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com)

# Simply ACTS

Updated April 4, 2020

## Outline

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How to use this Leader's Guide

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# The WORD Among Us

The [Simply Series](#) is a different kind of Bible study. It is not doctrine or life application. It is relational, which means there are no right or wrong answers to the questions in this facilitator's guide.

Relational Bible studies focus on building relationships with God and each other. They create a space for the WORD among us to wash over us, plant seeds in our lives, and change us by the transforming grace of the Holy Spirit.

Relational Bible studies give everyone, no matter what their perspective or depth of Bible knowledge, space to share and contribute to the dialogue as we journey together. They help us discover how our personal story intersects with the Bible story.

These guides are designed to facilitate real and authentic dialogue in such a way that secular and unchurched Truth seekers come away saying, "This is different! This is real."

People need the Everlasting Gospel. Simple Church is about creating a space for Truth seekers to journey together.

May God bless you as you simplify and re-prioritize your life, creating time to "spend" with Truth seekers from all walks of life.

# How to Use This Leader's Guide

This leader's guide assumes you have:

1. Read through the [www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com](http://www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com) web page.
2. Completed the online Simple Church training.

## Title

outline

Bible story reference will be listed here.

**Message of Hope:** Have this idea crystal clear in your mind. This is what you want people to remember for the rest of the week.

*Helpful Tip: These tips show up here and there.*

**The Basic 8:** These are covered in the [free online training](#).

1. Collection Box (explained in PhaseONE training videos)
2. Connection Card Envelopes
3. Business Cards
4. Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet
5. A variety of extra Bible translations.
6. Child Safety Poster
7. Blessing Board
8. Email link to online Simple Church Weekly Summary Form (When officially launched this is emailed to your Details Coordinator every Sunday.)

**Welcome:** We are glad everyone is here. We focus on three things: connecting with God, connecting with each other, and serving our world. In other words, this group does not exist for us.

Before we introduce ourselves, let's remember:

- This is a safe place to grow spiritually.
- We are a wide diversity of Truth seekers. We are glad all of you are here.
- You will notice we do not use a bunch of fancy religious language.
- We do not try to impress people with how much Bible quoting we can do. We are common people.
- Please be sensitive so everyone has an opportunity to share and contribute.
- Cell phones should be put on "vibrate," or turned off.

### Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

Visit [www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com](http://www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com) more study guides.



**Rotation Questions:** Rotate through the following three questions:

Week 1: How would you like to simplify your life?

Week 2: How would you like to re-prioritize your life?

Week 3: How would you like to cultivate a deeper relationship with God.

Week 4: How would you like to simplify your life?

Week 5: etc.

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

**The Quiz:** A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

For example:

1. What was his (pointing to the person) high-light for the week?
2. What was her name (pointing to the person)?
3. How did she want to simplify her life?

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

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*This is what page 2 of a typical leader's guide for a given week actually looks like.*

**Facilitator's Directions:**

1. *Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.*
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂ -----)
3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first):

**Bridge:** This transitions the group from the Kick-off Question into the Bible story.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Bible story reference will be listed here.  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible during our discussion.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

*Some helpful pointers for digging questions:*

- Remember: there are no "right answers" to relational Bible study questions. Help people contribute their perspective to the dialogue.



- You DO NOT have to "accomplish" all the questions listed. Use them as a resource from which to select during your discussion.
- Spend a maximum of 50% of your Bible study time on these questions.
- Affirm each answer, no matter what is said, by saying something like, "Excellent, someone else"; "Thanks for sharing, someone else"; "Good, someone else"; "How about the rest of you, what do you think".
- Did you catch the common denominator, "someone else"? You are always affirming and always inviting others to give input.
- If someone gets off-focus, simply say (after they have stopped talking), "What was the question? Let's read it again."

### **Sharing Questions (50% of your study time):**

*Some helpful pointers:*

- Spend a minimum of 50% of your time on these questions.
- These questions are designed to invite people to share portions of their life story as it interacts with the Bible study.
- At appropriate times affirm confidentiality and offer reassurance that this is a safe place to share and grow spiritually.

### **Group Prayer:**

1. We are blessed by being a part of this group, yet it exists for those who are not yet here.
2. Put an [Empty Chair](#) in the middle of your prayer circle. Pray for the people who are not yet here.
3. Close by saying the [Blessing Board](#) blessing together.

*At the end of prayer, ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate the questions for next week. Anyone can facilitate the questions. It does not have to be a CORE leader.*

### **Lunch:**

1. Keep it simple. Keep it easily reproducible.
2. Hostess (one of the CORE4) provides the beans.
3. During lunch have the [Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet](#) available.

# Two Promises – One Job

outline

Acts 1:1-11

**Message of Hope:** Jesus promises to come back, and while we wait, He promises to send the Holy Spirit to help us.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

## Breakfast

**Welcome:** We are so glad that you are here today.

### Setting the Context:

- We come from a variety of backgrounds and seek to create a safe place for Truth seekers to grow spiritually.
- You will notice that we try to avoid fancy religious language. We are common people.
- Let's encourage those who like to talk to give opportunity for everyone to participate.

## Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

**The Quiz:** A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

**Facilitator's Directions:**

1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂ -----)
3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When you hear the word “promise” what comes to your mind?

**Bridge:** Today's story contains two promises that have given hope, courage, and comfort to millions of people around the world. Both of these promises have also provided protection from some of Satan's most deceptive lies. So, let's read our story.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 1:1-11  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What do you see as some of the most important themes the author is introducing in the first five verses of Acts? Why do you think they are important?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verse 3 again. How do you think the disciples are able to know for sure that when Jesus appears to them it is not Satan deceiving them by pretending to be Jesus?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read verses 4-5 again. What do you think is the difference between being baptized with water and being baptized with the Holy Spirit?  
✂ -----
4. If you were to summarize Dr. Luke's primary reason for the Holy Spirit being given, how would you summarize it from this story?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, if you had been among the disciples when Jesus appeared to them during the forty days, what questions would have been at the top of your list to ask Him?  
✂ -----
- B. Which of these two promises, 1) the promise of the Holy Spirit being given or 2) the promise of Jesus' return, brings more hope, courage, and comfort to you at this time in your life? Why?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Jesus promises to come back, and while we wait, He promises to send the Holy Spirit to help us.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.
- Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Gearing to Go

outline

Acts 1:12-26

**Message of Hope:** God can use you, no matter what your background has been, to help mentor others spiritually.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

## Breakfast

**Welcome:** We are so glad that you are here today.

### Setting the Context:

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- You will notice that we try to avoid fancy religious language. We are common people.
- Let's encourage those who like to talk to give opportunity for everyone to participate.

## Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

**The Quiz:** A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

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5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): How long does it take you or your family to get out the door once you have decided to go somewhere?

**Bridge:** Today's story is kind of a sad story, yet it provides some wisdom on how we can patiently wait for God's leading by praying together and working together. Our story is called *Gearing to Go*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 1:12-26  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

✂ -----

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Let's pause and read verse 14 again. What footnotes or cross references does your Bible have regarding who these women might be?  
✂-----
2. In a male-controlled culture, Dr. Luke, both in his gospel called the book of *Luke* and here in the book of *Acts*, intentionally highlights women and their participation in the early church. Why do you think he goes against the tide in doing this?  
✂ -----
3. Someone read verses 20-21 again. Peter is quoting from the Old Testament. Let's find these verses and read them from Psalms.  
✂ -----
4. Let's pause and read verses 23 and 26 again. Both are part of the selection process. How do you think these two steps complement each other?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, how do you go about making important decisions?  
✂ -----
- B. Who is someone God has used to mentor your spiritual growth?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God can use you, no matter what your background, to mentor others spiritually.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- o Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.
- Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# The Gift

outline

Acts 2:1-13

**Message of Hope:** The Holy Spirit is given to all who believe: male, female, child, and adult.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

## Breakfast

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3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

**The Quiz:** A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

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**Facilitator's Directions:**

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5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (*60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle*): What is one, two, or a few words you know in another language? Let's go around the circle and if you know a word, say it and tell us what language it comes from.

**Bridge:** Anyone who has tried to learn a second language knows how hard it can be. Today's story showcases some people who become fluent in another language in a matter of seconds. But more important than the "how" is the "Who." So, let's read the story called *The Gift*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 2:1-13  
(*Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.*)

✂ -----

**Digging Questions** (*50% of your study time*):

1. Why do you think God used these symbols?  
✂ -----
2. In the first few verses of our story, Luke uses words like *all, each of them, everyone*. What do you think Luke is trying to communicate with this emphasis?  
✂ -----
3. This story is the original gift of speaking in tongues. What do you see this story teaching us about the original purpose and reasons for speaking in tongues?  
✂ -----
4. Let's read a verse from two weeks ago, Acts 1:8. How do you think the apostles felt when they realized that, in today's story, Jesus was including all the believers in the gospel commission?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (*50% of your study time*):

- A. On a personal note, has anyone ever heard about or personally experienced this *original* type of speaking in tongues like we see in today's story?  
✂ -----
- B. Speaking in tongues is only one of the gifts of the Spirit. What are some of the other ways you see God using those in this circle to be a blessing to others?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **The Holy Spirit is given to all who believe: male, female, child, and adult.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# The Promise, part 1

outline

Acts 2:14-41

**Message of Hope:** Anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord and follows Him, will be saved.

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4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (*60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle*): What are you usually doing at nine o'clock in the morning?

**Bridge:** Today's story is a sermon presented by Peter where he clarifies three topics that were misunderstood. 1) The topic of drunkenness. 2) The topic of how salvation happens in a person's life, and 3) the topic of death. The miracle part of this story is the last verse, where it says that three thousand people believed, were baptized, and added to the church. So, let's dig into our story which is called *The Promise, part 1*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 2:14-41  
(*Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.*)

✂ -----

**Digging Questions** (*50% of your study time*):

1. Peter starts his presentation by showing that it was impossible for people to be drunk. To quickly review what happened in last week's story, why does Peter start with this unlikely topic?  
✂ -----
2. Someone read verse 17 and verse 21 again. What do you think these two verses teach us about our relationship with God?  
✂ -----
3. Dr. Luke summarizes this topic of salvation in verses 37-39. Let's pause and read them again. How would you explain this amazing promise so that a 5-year-old boy would understand it?  
✂ -----
4. If a modern-day Peter was to preach a similar message how do you think most people would respond today?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (*50% of your study time*):

- A. On a personal note, how do you respond when people accuse you?  
✂ -----
- B. If you had been part of the crowd that listened to Peter, how do you think you might have responded?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord and follows Him will be saved.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# The Promise, part 2

outline

Acts 2:14-41

**Message of Hope:** Accepting Jesus as boss of our life and the source of eternal life is our only hope.

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## Breakfast

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### Setting the Context:

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- Let's encourage those who like to talk to give opportunity for everyone to participate.

## Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

**The Quiz:** A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

**Facilitator's Directions:**

1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂ -----)
3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): Who is the best boss you have ever worked for?

**Bridge:** Today's story has two parts. Last week we focused on the first part and today we will focus on the second part. Peter clarifies some often confusing and misunderstood beliefs. Some of the misunderstood beliefs still exist today, so let's read this story with new eyeglasses.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Using the same verses we read last week, let's read the story again, Acts 2:14-41.

(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

✂ -----

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. In verses 25-31 Peter quotes King David in the book of Psalms. What do you think Peter is trying to clarify for his listeners?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verses 32-46 again. This is often considered the punchline of Peter's sermon. What do you see as some of the key points Peter is emphasizing in this summary?  
✂ -----
3. What do you think it means for Jesus to be both Lord and Messiah in a person's life?  
✂ -----
4. Let's pause and read verse 31-32 in all the different translations. Peter is talking about death. What do you think Peter believes happens when a person dies?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, who was a person that God used to convict you of your need for Christ?  
✂ -----
- B. Our story ends with Peter's message of truth piercing their hearts and bringing conviction. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. What is an area that you sense God is piercing your heart, bringing new truth to light, or a new conviction to your heart?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Accepting Jesus as boss of our life and the source of eternal life is our only hope.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

# The Birth of the Church

outline

Acts 2:40-47

**Message of Hope:** God's template for His Church is simple and easily reproduced by common people.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

## Breakfast

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## Check-In:

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2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

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**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

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2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂ -----)
3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When is your birthday?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about one of the most unique births that has ever happened. True to any birth, a lot is packed into a small package. Today's story is a small package with only seven verses, but there is a lot to unpack and explore about this new birth that changed the world. So, let's dig in and see how much we can unpack in a short amount of time.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 2:40-47  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

✂ -----

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. In verse 42, why do you think Dr. Luke focuses on these four things?  
✂ -----
2. Before writing Acts, Dr. Luke wrote the Gospel of Luke. As these 3,000 people (12,000 including women and children) head home, there is one headline that had happened in Jerusalem that they were talking about. Why do you think this headline was so significant? (see Luke 23:45)  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and reread verses 41 and 47 in the different translations we have. What similarities and differences do you see?  
✂ -----
4. What do you think made New Testament house churches so easy for common people to reproduce when they arrived back home?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what part of this story would be challenging for you?  
✂ -----
- B. What is the closest you have come to experiencing this kind of fellowship?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God's template for His church is simple and easily reproduced by common people.** How can this group pray for you this week?

# A Big Bang

outline

Acts 3:1-11

**Message of Hope:** Not all miracles are a big bang. God also works in the quiet.

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5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What do you typically do when someone asks you for money?

**Bridge:** Today's story starts off with someone asking for money. But it turns into a big bang and gets everyone's attention. But as we will discover, not all miracles are a big bang. So, let's read our story.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 3:1-11  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

✂ -----

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What are all the different glimpses of faith that are alive and active in this story?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read the last two verses again. If miracles were more common back then than now, why do you think the people are so amazed and respond the way they do?  
✂ -----
3. Miracles are wonderful, but what do you see as some of the risks that God takes in performing miracles?  
✂ -----
4. Do you think all miracles are from God? How can we tell the difference? (After some discussion read Acts 2:22 and Matthew 7:22-23)  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what are some of the quiet miracles you have seen God do in your life?  
✂ -----
- B. If you were to sit by the Temple gate, what would you hope to be healed of?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Not all miracles are a big bang. God also works in the quiet.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Times of Refreshing

outline

Acts 3:12-26

**Message of Hope:** God promises a time of refreshing when we turn from sin and follow truth.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is something that refreshes you?

**Bridge:** Today's story cuts right to the point. People often claim ignorance for all kinds of things. In today's story, Peter even gives people the benefit of the doubt and assumes they were ignorant. But then he educates them and calls them to repent of their sin, accept new truth, and live life differently. Today's story is called *Times of Refreshing*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 3:12-26  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

✂ -----

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. After people's attention had been captured by the miracle, what verses do you think highlight the new truths that Peter is speaking about?  
✂ -----
2. Verse 17 is an interesting verse. Let's pause and read it again. At what point in this story do you think "ignorance" becomes "responsibility"?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read verses 20-23 again. Why does God use prophets to lead people and why do people typically reject what they say?  
✂ -----
4. Peter gives his listeners a conditional promise in verse 19-20. Let's pause and read these verses again. What is the promise and what are the conditions?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what area of your life do you long for refreshing?  
✂ -----
- B. What is one way you have been convicted of something that was wrong?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God promises a time of refreshing when we turn from sin and follow truth.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.
- Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Ordinary People

outline

Acts 4:1-1-22

**Message of Hope:** God uses ordinary lay people to build His church.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): In one or two words, what is something that deeply disturbs you or amazes you?

**Bridge:** In today's story church leaders are both disturbed and amazed. As we read our story, let's pay close attention to what is so disturbing and what is so amazing. Who knows, maybe we will also find ourselves disturbed and amazed by the same thing.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 4:1-22  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

✂ -----

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Going back to the first three verses of our story, what do you think is the specific reason that Peter and John are arrested and put in jail?  
✂ -----
2. Today's story is the second time Peter brings up the topic of death in his sermon. Let's pause and read verse 2 again, and let's also read 2:31-34. What is so disturbing about Peter and John's teaching about death?  
✂ -----
3. In verses 7-12 again, Peter responds to their question. What do you think is so powerful and convicting about Peter's response?  
✂ -----
4. Let's pause and read verses 18-21 one more time. Why do you think Peter and John are so convicted that it is more important to obey God than human leaders?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, have you ever been threatened by someone for believing and obeying God's Word?  
✂ -----
- B. If you had been one of the church leaders who believed what Peter and John were teaching, what do you think you would have done?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God uses ordinary lay people to build His church.** How can this group pray for you this week?



**Group Prayer:**

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Interdependent

outline

Acts 4:23-31

**Message of Hope:** We need each other.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is one way you are dependent upon others?

**Bridge:** Today's story gives us a picture of the benefits of being connected with a body of believers who are seeking Truth—Truth with a capital T. Everyone starts out in life dependent upon others. Western values encourage people to become “independent.” But God's values call us to become “interdependent”—to work together, which is hard work and refines our characters for Heaven.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 4:23-31  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

✂ -----

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. This story is actually a prayer. Who is praying and what do you think is the purpose for this prayer?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verse 28 in several translations. If this was the only verse we had in the Bible, it could sound like people are robots. How do you make sense of this?  
✂ -----
3. This time of prayer does not end with the traditional, “In Jesus' name, Amen.” What do you think this teaches us about prayer?  
✂ -----
4. Someone read verse 31 again. This seems like a “second Pentecost.” If they had already been filled with the Holy Spirit, why would it be happening again?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, who is someone you know who is filled with the Holy Spirit?  
✂ -----
- B. When you go through a time of spiritual testing, how do you seek strength, courage, and support?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **We need each other.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# United

outline

Acts 4:32-37

**Message of Hope:** Only God can unite people in extraordinary ways.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): Is it harder for you to give a gift or receive a gift?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about giving and receiving, but even more than that, it is about being united. This can be harder than it sounds because at the core of being united is being surrendered. And independent-minded people sometimes struggle with this. So, let's allow this story to challenge us as we explore the implications of being united.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 4:32-37  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

✂ -----

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What do you think it means to be united in both heart and in mind? What does it *not* mean?  
✂ -----
2. Depending on your translation, verse 33 talks about God's "great grace" and "great blessing that was upon them." What do you think was unique about this great blessing?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read 34-35 again. How can a group determine if a "need" is a real need?  
✂ -----
4. If we could ask Luke to talk about the role of leadership, what do you think he would say to us today?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, when is a time you have seen or experienced this kind of unity happening in today's world?  
✂ -----
- B. If you wanted to be part of this kind of fellowship, how would you live life differently?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Only God can unite people in extraordinary ways.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Honesty

outline

Acts 5:1-11

**Message of Hope:** Honesty will ultimately win.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When you think of squeaky-clean honesty, what comes to mind?

**Bridge:** Today's story gets right to the point and identifies what the real issues are about honesty. So, let read our story.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 5:1-11  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

✂ -----

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. How do you think lying and deceit are the same or different?  
✂ -----
2. What do you think Ananias and Sapphira were trying to gain by their deceitfulness?  
✂ -----
3. How do you see this story relating to the five verses that precede it?  
✂ -----
4. Why do you think death was the consequence for Ananias and Sapphira, but not for everyone who lies or is deceitful?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, without listing any names, how do you respond to a person who is deceitful and slippery?  
✂ -----
- B. In all honesty (no pun intended), what could you do to take your honesty to a higher level?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Honesty will untimely win.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Healings

outline

Acts 5:12-16

**Message of Hope:** Healings (mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical) are part of God's restoration plan for Heaven.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When you hear the word *healing* what comes to mind?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about multiple healings. In today's world healings are sometimes seen as an ultimate trump card, without considering or evaluating the rest of the fruit in the healer's life. Today's story will help us explore a bigger picture surrounding healings.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 5:12-16  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Why do you think it was only the apostles who were performing signs and wonders?  
✂ -----
2. In today's world, why do you think healings have become a kind of trump card that gives the healer instant authority?  
✂ -----
3. What do you think should be important information when evaluating the life and context surrounding a "healer"?  
✂ -----
4. How do you think one could identify counterfeit healers?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, going beyond physical healings, when have you experienced mental, emotional, or spiritual healing?  
✂ -----
- B. Heaven will be the ultimate, final, and last healing. What kind of healing do you look forward to?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Healings (mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical) are part of God's ultimate restoration plan for Heaven.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Rescued

outline

Acts 5:17-25

**Message of Hope:** God is in control when we see it and when we don't.

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3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When is a time you were locked in or locked out?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about an amazing and miraculous rescue of some people who were locked in. But we will also explore the times when it seems that God does not step in and rescue his people.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 5:17-25  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What do you think are the different things that can cause a person to become jealous?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verse 20 in the different translations we have here. Even though this story does not tell us, what do you think the phrase “message of life” (NLT), “this new life” (NIV), or “words of this life” (NKJV) means?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read 23-24 again. If you had been part of the high council and seen all these events unfold, what would you have been thinking about this embarrassing turn of events?  
✂ -----
4. There are times when God does not seem to rescue His people. How do you make sense of this?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what are some modern-day turn of events that you have heard of or seen first hand?  
✂ -----
- B. Where have you seen God turn the events and intervene in your life?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God is in control when we see it and when we don't.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# A Last Heart Call

outline

Acts 5:26-42

**Message of Hope:** The Holy Spirit is working in your life.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When it is time for dinner, how does your family give the “it's time for dinner” call?

**Bridge:** Today's story is a call. It is a last heart's call to accept present-day Truth, and to follow and obey God all the way. The church leadership, and each individual in Jerusalem had been given the best evidence and opportunity to accept truth, but most had rejected it. Today's story is the last heart's call given to them. Our story is found in Acts 5:26-42.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 5:26-42  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. In verse 29, why do you think obedience to God, even when it goes against popular traditions, is such a big issue?  
✂ -----
2. In verses 30-32, what do you think is motivating this kind of radical, sold-out obedience to God?  
✂ -----
3. Let's read verse 32 again. It would seem that those who do not obey also need the Holy Spirit. Why do you think this verse says it is given to those who obey?  
✂ -----
4. Two quick quiz question from previous stories - how many people have been added to their numbers and what had happened to the Temple curtain when Jesus died? Now, let's read verse 42. What insights does this verse give us about how the early church functioned?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, when was a time you had to choose between obeying God and obeying man?  
✂ -----
- B. What do you sense is your next step in obeying God?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **The Holy Spirit is working in your life.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**



- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Problem Solving

outline  
Acts 6:1-7

**Message of Hope:** If there is a will, there is a way.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is a problem that you have had to solve recently?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about problem-solving. We all face problems and the more that people work together, the more grace, kindness, forgiveness, and patience is needed as together we trend Heavenward. Today's story is about one of the first-recorded problems the early church encountered and how they solved the problem.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 6:1-7  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What do you think were the differences between the Greek-speaking believers and the Hebrew-speaking believers, besides the language they spoke?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verse one in the different translations we have here. How would you describe the core problem that has developed?  
✂ -----
3. How would you describe the key ingredients in how this problem was solved?  
✂ -----
4. What could be significant to the laying on of hands in this solution to a significant problem?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, in general, when you family faces a problem, how do they try to solve it together?  
✂ -----
- B. If there is a problem that we need to start talking about together and seek a God honoring solution, what would be the best way to begin the discussion?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **If there is a will, there is a way.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# True Lies

outline

Acts 6:8-15

**Message of Hope:** God can use Satan's lies for His glory.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When was a time someone lied about you?

**Bridge:** Today's story is a set-up. There is an arrest, false witnesses, and a hearing. We would expect it to be a done deal, but something happens that no one could have anticipated that wins the day. Our story is called *True Lies*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 6:8-15  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Read verse 9 in the different translations we have. What do we know, from footnotes or side notes, about the “Synagogue of Freed Slaves” and why do you think they were against Stephen?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verse 14 again. Even though the witnesses were bribed to lie, how was their witness true and how was it a lie?  
✂ -----
3. What are the different ways you see people lying today?  
✂ -----
4. Why do you think God uses Stephen's face to get people's attention?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what has God used to get your attention in life?  
✂ -----
- B. What lies might Satan be telling you to distract you from following truth?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God can use Satan's lies for His glory.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Deep Peace

outline

Acts 7:1-60

**Message of Hope:** Deep peace cannot be bought or sold. It must be received.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When you think of peace, what picture come to your mind?

**Bridge:** Today's story is long. It summarizes history and it gets people so angry that they kill someone. But notice the deep peace of the person being killed. How can this be? Let's read out story which is called *Deep Peace*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 7:1-60  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. At what point in this story do you think Stephen knows he will die?  
✂ -----
2. Why do you think Stephen takes so much time to summarize history?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read verses 54-60 again. What do you think gives people peace of mind when they go through difficult situations?  
✂ -----
4. Why do you think Stephen's accusers took off their coats and laid them at Saul's feet?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, who do you know that is a peaceful person, and where do you think their peace comes from?  
✂ -----
- B. When you long for peace, how do you practically go about finding it?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Deep peace cannot be bought or sold. It must be received.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

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- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Persecution Begins

outline  
Acts 8:1-4

**Message of Hope:** Even persecution cannot squelch the Good News about Jesus.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When was a time you relocated because you had to, not because you wanted to?

**Bridge:** Today's story is only four verses long. But it is packed with insights about the New Testament church. Some of these insights we may have not noticed before, but in any case, today's story is the tipping point, and persecution goes rampant.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 8:1-4  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Why do you think the stoning of Stephen is a trigger point that starts this wave of persecution?  
✂ -----
2. In verse one, what do you think keeps the apostles from being scattered while all the believers are scattered?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read verse 3 and 4 again. Why do you think Saul goes house-to-house instead of to the Synagogue or Temple to find and persecute believers?  
✂ -----
4. Why do you think Dr. Luke emphasizes that Saul drags out both men and women?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, when was a time you faced persecution for what you believed?  
✂ -----
- B. When was a time when you may have made things difficult for someone else who had convictions?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Even persecution cannot squelch the Good News about Jesus.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

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**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Magic & Miracles

outline

Acts 8:4-25

**Message of Hope:** God-honoring motives make a difference.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): Do you tend to be more internally motivated or externally motivated?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about motivations, magic, and miracles. It may not seem that they are related, but we may find there are some interesting relationships between them. Our story is found in Acts 8:4-25.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 8:4-25  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What do you think are the differences between magic and miracles?  
✂ -----
2. Why do you think people are so captivated by magic and miracles?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read verses 16 and 17 again. Why do you think laying on of hands was needed, in addition to being baptized, to receive the Holy Spirit?  
✂ -----
4. Read verses 18-23 again. How do you see politics getting mixed into Christianity today?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, how do you try to determine if something is magic or a real miracle?  
✂ -----
- B. If you saw or experienced a real miracle, how do you think you would live life differently?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God-honoring motives make a difference.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Searching

outline

Acts 8:26-40

**Message of Hope:** When we search for truth, God will show us truth.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What was one of the longest trips you went on?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about a long trip, but it is not a vacation or a business trip. It is a rather unusual solo trip that is surrounded with lots of supernatural activity. Today's story is called *Searching*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 8:26-40  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What do you think prompted this Ethiopian to go worship in Jerusalem?  
✂ -----
2. This story is sometimes used to support that people who learn about Jesus should immediately get baptized. What evidence do we find in this story that agrees or disagrees with this idea?  
✂ -----
3. What do you see as the “new truth” this Ethiopian is accepting and what makes it “new” to him? What “old” truth did he already know?  
✂ -----
4. In what different ways is this Ethiopian going against the cultural norms of his day?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what is one way you find yourself going against cultural norms as you follow new truth?  
✂ -----
- B. If someone like Philip could answer your pressing question about faith, what would your question be?  
✂ -----
- C. If anyone here would like to plan for baptism or be rebaptized, let me know and we will plan towards that. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **When we search for truth, God will show us truth.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.
- Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Persecution Checked

outline  
Acts 9:1-9

**Message of Hope:** God can change any situation and use it for His glory.

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**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

**The Quiz:** A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

**Facilitator's Directions:**

1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂ -----)
3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What was the destination of a trip that did not go as planned?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about a trip that does not go as planned, and it is about a high priest who participates in organized crime. Religious persecution is nothing new. It has been around for a long time, but in today's story God has a different plan.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 9:1-9  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Looking at the maps in your Bible, how far is Damascus from Jerusalem and how long do you think this trip takes on foot?  
✂ -----
2. It seems like a paradox for Saul to go to the high priest and get permission to kill the Lord's followers. How do you make sense and explain this?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read verses 3-6 again. In verse 5, why do you think Saul asks who someone is and then calls him by name?  
✂ -----
4. Why do you think the Lord sends Saul to the city to learn what he must do instead of just telling him?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, if you had been Saul, what would be going through your mind during your three days of blindness?  
✂ -----
- B. How have you seen God, gently or not so gently, adjust your path?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God can change any situation and use it for His glory.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.



**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# 180 Degrees

outline

Acts 9:10-19a

**Message of Hope:** No matter what your past has been, God offers you a new start.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

## Breakfast

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## Check-In:

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1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂ -----)
3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What do you think you would do if God asked you to visit your worst enemy?

**Bridge:** In today's story God asks someone to visit their worst enemy. The stakes are high. But notice the one hundred eighty degree turnaround this risky visit brings.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 9:10-19a  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What can we learn about Ananias from our footnotes or cross-references? Who is he, what is his background, etc.?  
✂ -----
2. What clues do we find in this story that tells us how Ananias knew that God's voice was indeed His voice?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read verse 17 again. Why do you think Ananias adds the part, "and be filled with the Holy Spirit" before he was baptized?  
✂ -----
4. As Saul is baptized, what "new truth" is he accepting and what makes it "new" to him?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, who is a person, like Ananias, that God might be using to adjust your spiritual path?  
✂ -----
- B. When was a time when you sensed God was speaking to you?  
✂ -----
- C. A closing note before we ask our last question: If anyone here would like to plan for baptism or be rebaptized, let us know and we will plan towards that. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **No matter what your past has been, God offers you a new start.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Bully Buddies

outline

Acts 9:19b-31

**Message of Hope:** If a bully's heart can still respond to God, then there is hope for anyone.

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3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): In a word or two, what makes a bully a bully?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about a bully who is on the warpath and then suddenly changes, like a one hundred eighty degree turnaround. People are completely confused. To make matters even worse, his previous bully buddies try to turn on him and to kill him.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 19b-30  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. While working for the Jews, why do you think Saul used force to manipulate people; and when working for Christ, Saul used preaching?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verse 22-25 again. What kind of proof do you think Saul might have used to show that Jesus was indeed the Messiah?  
✂ -----
3. In today's world when church traditions contradict the Bible, how is manipulation used to control people?  
✂ -----
4. What do you think motivated Barnabas to stand up for Saul?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, who is someone in your life that has defended you and stood up for you?  
✂ -----
- B. Like Saul, what is an area of life where your views have significantly changed?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **If a bully's heart can still respond to God, then there is hope for us.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- o Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- o Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Legacies

outline

Acts 9:32-43

**Message of Hope:** Today is the beginning of the rest of your life.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): In a word or two, what legacy do you hope to be remembered for?

**Bridge:** Everyone builds a legacy in life. But typically, we don't think about the legacy we are leaving. Today's story will encourage us to ponder the legacy we are leaving and invite us to make adjustments. As the old saying goes, today is the first day of the rest of your life.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 9:32-43  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What do you think Dr. Luke is trying to emphasize when he includes these two healing stories back-to-back?  
✂ -----
2. What differences and what similarities do you see between these two stories?  
✂ -----
3. Why do you think Peter sends everyone out of the room before raising Dorcas from the dead?  
✂ -----
4. Notice how both these stories end. Let's pause and read verses 35 and 42 again. What would it take today for our whole town to "turn towards the Lord"?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, you may not be physically paralyzed like Aeneas was, but what keeps you mentally or emotionally paralyzed?  
✂ -----
- B. If you had been raised from the dead like Dorcas, what is one thing you would do to start living differently?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Today is the beginning of the rest of your life. Leave a God-honoring legacy.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**



# Track Record

outline

Acts 10:1-8

**Message of Hope:** It is no secret what God is looking for in His people.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): If you were to hire someone, what kind of track record would you look for?

**Bridge:** In today's story God has a very important job for someone to do. But before He chose someone for the job, He asked the same kind of questions we would ask, "Can I trust the person? What is his track record?" Often, we wonder if we can trust God, but God also wonders if He can trust us. So, let's explore this interesting story.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 10:1-8  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. The first two verses of this story are quite a track record. Why do you think Dr. Luke includes these details about Cornelius?  
✂ -----
2. What do you think makes a vision, a real vision? And how would one evaluate someone who claims to have had a vision?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read verse 4 again. Why would the angel talk about prayers and gifts to the poor before telling Cornelius to send some men to get Simon Peter?  
✂ -----
4. Based on this story, if you were God, what track record would you look for before giving someone an important job?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, how do you think you would respond if an angel appeared to you?  
✂ -----
- B. What is one quality that you see in the person sitting to your right?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **It is no secret what God is looking for in his people.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# New Truth

outline

Acts 10:9-33

**Message of Hope:** New truth is evidence that God is leading you, so obey quickly.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): If you were to live in another country, where would you choose?

**Bridge:** Sometimes we think we have to go overseas to experience another culture. Today's story is a cross-cultural story that literally changed the world. It involves a weird vision, radical obedience, and the risk of being misunderstood.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 10:9-33  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Why do you think Peter saw the same vision three times?  
✂ -----
2. Some people use this story to teach that we can eat both clean and unclean animals. But what do you think is the real meaning in this vision?  
✂ -----
3. This is new truth for Peter, and he obeys immediately by inviting these visitors to stay the night. What do you think might have happened if he did not obey immediately?  
✂ -----
4. What verses in this story give Peter the confidence to move forward even though people will probably criticize and misunderstand?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, if God were to teach you “new truth” that required immediate obedience, how do you think you would respond?  
✂ -----
- B. What new truth are you discovering at this time in your life?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **New truth is evidence that God is leading you, so obey quickly.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Two Amazing Promises

outline

Acts 10:34-43

**Message of Hope:** God's gift of salvation is available to all.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): Who is someone in life who has unconditionally accepted you?

**Bridge:** In today's world people are skeptical. Every promise seems to have a footnote. We assume there is small print that explains how we do not qualify. In this story we might be tempted to look for a footnote. But we will discover there is no footnote, no small print. We can take these amazing promises at face value.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 10:34-43  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. In our world who do you think the Gentiles would include?  
✂ -----
2. Let's read verses 34-35 in all the translations we have here today. Bridging over from last week's story, what is the "favoritism" that Peter is talking about here?  
✂ -----
3. Verse 35 is a landmark for the New Testament church. What does Peter say are the condition's for being accepted by God and why do you think God makes such a big deal about this?  
✂ -----
4. Sometimes people will say never use all-inclusive words like "never" and "always." But verse 35 and verse 43 use all-inclusive words. What are these words and how are they essential to the good news of the Gospel Peter has been talking about?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, when in life did you begin to comprehend that God loves and accepts you?  
✂ -----
- B. When in life did you begin to realize that God's gift of salvation is available to "everyone" in the world who will accept God?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God's gift of salvation is available to all.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- o Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.
- Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**



# A Second Pentecost

outline

Acts 10:43-48

**Message of Hope:** The Holy Spirit is working in everyone's life.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is another culture that you have had some experience with?

**Bridge:** Today's story goes cross-cultural. Salvation is offered to anyone; no matter who they are, what their ethnic background is, or what their past has been. This may seem too good to be true, but it is the way the Gospel works. And that is good news for you and me. Let's read our story in Acts 10:43-48.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 10:43-48  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Why do you think the Jewish believers were so amazed that the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles?  
✂ -----
2. Typically, a person is baptized and then the Holy Spirit comes on them. Why do you think this process is reversed in this story?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read verses 45-46 again. These verses are commonly used to show that being filled with the Holy Spirit equals speaking in tongues. In other words, if you don't speak in tongues, then you are not filled with the Holy Spirit. How do you think Paul would respond to this?  
✂ -----
4. How do you think the Holy Spirit works in people's lives even before they are aware of it?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what is one evidence of the Holy Spirit that you see in the person to your right? (I will go first.)  
✂ -----
- B. If you were to be baptized or have been baptized, where would you like it to happen or where did it happen?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **The Holy Spirit is working in everyone's life.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Equality

outline

Acts 11:1-18

**Message of Hope:** Everyone is equally important.

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2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂ -----)
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5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When you think of “blind spots” what comes to mind?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about a blind spot in the early church, and how God helped them see their blind spot and change their ways. What was the blind spot?—discrimination. As we explore this story, let's be sensitive and open to that possibility that each of us may have some form of discrimination still lurking in our hearts.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 11:1-18  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. When misunderstandings happen, why do you think human nature assumes the worst instead of the best?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verses 15-18 again. What do you think convinced these people to stop criticizing and to begin praising God for what He had done?  
✂ -----
3. What are some of the common and not so common ways people discriminate today?  
✂ -----
4. If at the cross of Christ all are equal, why do you think discrimination still exists today?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, how has discrimination affected your life?  
✂ -----
- B. When did you decide to do what was right even if someone might have criticized you?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Everyone is equally important.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Common People

outline

Acts 11:19-30

**Message of Hope:** God uses common people to reach people.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): If you had to flee, where do you think you would go?

**Bridge:** Today's story is a result of persecution. People are fleeing for their lives. But this story ends on a different note, and because of this story, the name "Christian" is born.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 11:19-30  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. How do you think people would respond today if a modern-day prophet stood up in our circle and made a serious prediction?  
✂ -----
2. What Biblical guidelines do we find in this story for discerning if a modern-day prophet is an authentic prophet or a fake one?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read verse 20 and 21 again. Why do you think Dr. Luke emphasized that God used laypeople to reach the Antioch Gentiles?  
✂ -----
4. Today, long-term pastors stay for years. In verse 26, what do you think motivated Barnabas and Saul to stay for only one year?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, who is someone you have helped lead spiritually?  
✂ -----
- B. Where do you sense God is inviting you to join Him in His missionary work?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God uses common people to reach people.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Answered Prayer

outline

Acts 12:1-19

**Message of Hope:** God answers fervent prayer.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When was the last time you had a dream that seemed real?

**Bridge:** Today's story is the reverse. It is about someone who has an experience that they think is only a dream. But they soon discover it is really happening. The best part is that it all happens because a group of people are praying.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 12:1-19  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Why do you think King Herod is trying to please the Jewish people?  
✂ -----
2. Why do you think it took Peter so long to realize that his experience was not a vision, but it was really happening to him?  
✂ -----
3. If this group was asking God to deliver Peter, why were they so surprised when it happened?  
✂ -----
4. We are not told where Peter goes, but do you have any idea where he might have gone?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, when was a time you sensed you were miraculously taken care of?  
✂ -----
- B. If you had been part of this prayer meeting, what would it have done for your spiritual life?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God answers fervent prayer.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Pride and Politics

outline

Acts 12:20-25

**Message of Hope:** God is bigger than we are.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When someone compliments you, how do you tend to respond?

**Bridge:** Today's story is a very short story wrapped in fear, pride, and politics. A lot happens in five verses. In some ways it is a sad story. But in other ways it calls us to live sincere lives.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 12:20-25  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Any indications in your footnotes or cross-references as to why Herod is angry with these people?  
✂ -----
2. Why do you think the angel of the Lord waited until now to strike Herod with sickness?  
✂ -----
3. It only takes three verses for Herod to die. What are the obvious and not so obvious factors that contribute to his death?  
✂ -----
4. What do you think are healthy ways to compliment people and respond to compliments?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, when someone is upset with you, how do you try to make peace with them?  
✂ -----
- B. How do you strive to live a life characterized by sincerity?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God is bigger than we are.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Supernatural Power Plays

outline

Acts 13:1-12

**Message of Hope:** Satan is more powerful than we are, but God is more powerful than Satan.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When was one of the first times you encountered the supernatural?

**Bridge:** Today's story compares and contrasts true and false prophets. Not only does this give us an indication that both exist, but that there are indicators that we can use to discern the difference. So, let's read our story which is called *Supernatural Power Plays*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 13:1-12  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What do you think brought these five men together to worship, fast, and pray?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verse 3 again. Why do you think laying on of hands is part of Paul and Barnabas's assignment?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read verses 11-12 again. Why do you think Paul uses physical blindness, and what might be the spiritual symbolism?  
✂ -----
4. What are some of the obvious and not so obvious differences we see in this story between true and false prophets?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, how do you try to discern the difference between true and false supernatural power players?  
✂ -----
- B. What do you see as a possible next spiritual step in your life?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Satan is more powerful than we are, but God is more powerful than Satan.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# All & Everyone

outline

Acts 13:13-43

**Message of Hope:** All who believe in God are declared right with God.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is one of the longest presentations, sermons, or speeches you have listened to?

**Bridge:** It takes thirty verses to tell today's story. There are a lot of details, but as we read it listen for the big picture—the punch line.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 13:13-43  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Two times, verses 16 and 26, Paul includes the God-fearing Gentiles in his presentation. Why do you think Paul does this two times?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verses 38-39 in all the different translations we have here. Why do you think Paul uses the words “everyone” and “all” in verse 39?  
✂ -----
3. What do you think it means to believe?  
✂ -----
4. What do you think it means for God to declare we are made right with Him?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, how do you make sense of the unfairness of the gospel?  
✂ -----
- B. How do you get your mind wrapped around the promise that when a person believes in God they are declared right with God?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **All who believe in God are declared right with God.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Bad Jealousy

outline

Acts 13:44-52

**Message of Hope:** God can bring good out of anything for His glory.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When you hear the word *jealously*, what comes to mind?

**Bridge:** Jealousy can be both good and bad. The motives that drive jealousy are very different. Today's story is driven by jealousy, the bad kind of jealousy. But even so, this story becomes the tipping point and has given hope to millions of people around the world.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 13:44-52  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Why do you think this event becomes the tipping point for Paul and Barnabas in taking the gospel to the Gentiles?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verse 47 again. This verse seems to say that God *is* going to reach the Gentiles by working *through* the Jews. Why do you think Paul and Barnabas wipe the dust off their feet, instead of pressing together in unity with the Jews to reach the Gentiles?  
✂ -----
3. In verse 50, what do you think is the benefit to the Jews when they stir up the influential religious women to support their cause?  
✂ -----
4. After Paul and Barnabas leave the city, how do you think the Gentile believers fared, given all that had happened?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, today's story was largely driven by the bad kind of jealousy. How do you combat jealousy when it arises within your own heart?  
✂ -----
- B. Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly. When is a time that you spoke up boldly about something you felt strongly?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God can bring good out of anything for His glory.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Unbelievable Grace

outline

Acts 14:1-7

**Message of Hope:** The grace we accept becomes the grace we speak and do.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is something that is hard for you to believe?

**Bridge:** Today's story may unveil our deepest picture of God. Do we trust His grace? Trust is the surest sign that we are learning to live in His presence instead of sweating in our fear. The grace we breathe becomes the grace we speak and do. Today's story is called *Unbelievable Grace*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 14:1-7  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Great numbers of both Jews and Greeks become believers. What do you think was so good about God's grace that people were starving for it?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verse 3 again. How do you know if signs and wonders automatically mean that someone's message is true today?  
✂ -----
3. How do people tend to disbelieve God's message today?  
✂ -----
4. How does our picture of God impact our trust and fear?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, how would you summarize God's amazing grace so a three-year-old could understand it?  
✂ -----
- B. How are you tempted to disbelieve God's amazing grace?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **The grace we accept becomes the grace we speak and do.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Wild Missionaries

outline

Acts 14:8-20

**Message of Hope:** God created you and wired you. He likes you and can use you the way you are.

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5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When you hear the word *wild* what comes to mind?

**Bridge:** Today's story is a bit wild. It appears that people do things rashly, which causes a domino effect of other rash actions. Yet, this story raises some good questions about God, how He works, and how He uses us in His process. Our story is called *Wild Missionaries*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 14:8-20  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What role do you think Paul's personality plays in this story?  
✂ -----
2. How do you think God uses different personalities in His work?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and reread verse 9. How do you think Paul knew this man had faith to be healed just by looking at him?  
✂ -----
4. Let's pause and reread verses 16-18 again. If all a person had was rain, food, and joy (no Bible, Christian or missionary friend), how could that be enough evidence for knowing God?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what has been some of the more convincing evidence to you that God is real.  
✂ -----
- B. God creates everyone unique and special. Let's go around our circle and share one thing about the person to your left where you see God using their unique personality? (I will go first.)  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God created you and wired you. He likes you and can use you the way you are.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Full Circle

outline

Acts 14:21-28

**Message of Hope:** God is walking with you.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

## Breakfast

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## Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

**The Quiz:** A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

**Facilitator's Directions:**

1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂ -----)
3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When is a time you ended up where you had started?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about coming full circle. When we come full circle, we are back where we started, but with more wisdom and life experience. Coming full circle can represent a variety of things—a job completed, moving to a new location, the birth of a child or grandchild, or the beginning of a new adventure. Our story is found in Acts 14:21-28

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 14:21-28  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. This story begins by saying that Paul and Barnabas had made many disciples. What do you think “making disciples” actually involves and does not involve?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verse 22 again. It seems that everyone suffers hardships. What do you think is different about these hardships Dr. Luke is talking about?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read verse 23 in the different Bible translations we have. What are elders, and why do you think Paul and Barnabas appoint them?  
✂ -----
4. Verse 27 talks about “doors of faith.” How do you think Paul and Barnabas recognize this “door of faith” that God opened?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what is a life circle that you are starting or finishing?  
✂ -----
- B. Where do you see God opening doors of faith in your life?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God is walking with you.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**



# No Distinction

outline

Acts 15:1-21

**Message of Hope:** We are all saved the same way—with undeserved grace.

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**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

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3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When you hear the words *debate* and *controversy*, what comes to mind?

**Bridge:** Today's story is full of debate and controversy. But the outcome is good. It clarifies that God does not show favorites or make distinctions between us. In other words, at the foot of the cross we are all equal.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 15:1-21  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. With lots of other Mosaic laws to choose from, why do you think circumcision became the crux of this debate?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verses 19-21 again. Using our Bible's footnotes, where in the Old Testament do we find these four requirements existing before the Mosaic laws.  
✂ -----
3. Why do you think these four requirements were also highlighted and applied to New Testament Gentiles?  
✂ -----
4. Let's pause and read verses 8-11 again. Peter makes it clear; we are saved by undeserved grace. What kinds of subtle and not so subtle counterfeits for God's grace exists today?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what harmful and helpful yokes you have experienced?  
✂ -----
- B. When in life did you begin to realize that God accepts you and saves you by underserved grace?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **We are saved by God's underserved grace.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Believers' Authority

outline

Acts 15:22-35

**Message of Hope:** To discredit authority is to discredit yourself.

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2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂ -----)
3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
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5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When was the last time you received a hand-written letter, and who sent it to you?

**Bridge:** Today's story contains a hand-written letter which comes from the New Testament church authorities. To set the stage we need to ask ourselves, who is the church? It is the people, the believers. So, in our study questions, the word "church" will be replaced with the word "believers." Today's story is called *Believers Authority*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 15:22-35  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. At this point in the New Testament church, what do you think made an apostle an apostle, and what made an elder an elder?  
✂ -----
2. Why do you think the believers in Jerusalem are considered the final authority?  
✂ -----
3. What is the purpose of believers' authority and how do you think it should be used?  
✂ -----
4. How would you describe what a healthy posture towards believers' authority looks like?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, if you had been one of the believers reading this letter, how do you think you would have responded?  
✂ -----
- B. In your circles of life, what are some different roles of authority you carry?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **To discredit authority it to discredit yourself.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Dealing with Disagreements

outline

Acts 15:36-41

**Message of Hope:** God can use us, even when we disagree.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

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**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When you hear the word *disagreement*, what comes to your mind?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about a very strong disagreement between two church leaders. As we read the story notice what happened and how the church dealt with this disagreement.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 15:36-41  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Why do you think Barnabas was so insistent about taking John Mark with them?  
✂ -----
2. Why do you think Paul was so determined that John Mark should not come with them?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read verses 39-50 again. What kind of strong-willed disagreement was this and what do you think we can learn from these kinds of disagreements?  
✂ -----
4. What do you think the local believer thought about all that had happened?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, if you had been John Mark, how would you have felt about what happened?  
✂ -----
- B. Next time you face a disagreement, what is one thing you hope to do differently?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God can use us, even when we disagree.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Sabbath

outline

Acts 16:1-15

**Message of Hope:** Sabbath is an extra special day for fellowship with God and others.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When you are tired and spent, how do you recharge?

**Bridge:** Today's world is full of stress, pressure, failures, hurt, disappointment, and struggles. Today's story highlights a practice that was established in the Garden of Eden. It is one of the best ways to get away from the city and find a quiet place to rest, fellowship, recharge, and be together.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 16;1-15  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. If Timothy is already so well thought of, what do you think is gained by Paul wanting Timothy to be circumcised?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verses 9-10 again. Although this story does not tell us, what principles do you think Paul might have used to determine if his dream was really from God?  
✂ -----
3. Reread verses 13-15. It has been about thirty years since Jesus was crucified, and New Testament Christians are still keeping Sabbath. So why would Paul highlight what was already the norm among Christians?

**Digging Deeper:** This documentary traces the history of the Sabbath. Hosted by award-winning actor Hal Holbrook, the series features more than fifty historians, theologians and other experts. Backed up with careful documentation, *The Seventh Day* is an authoritative presentation of the controversy over Saturday and Sunday as Christian days of worship. <https://www.youtube.com/user/SeventhDaySeries>

- ✂ -----
4. Why do you think Lydia said, "If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord, come and stay in my home"?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, when you spend time alone with God, where do you like to go?  
✂ -----
- B. If, for some reason, you could not be here today, where would you like to go for fellowship, worship, and restoration?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----



D. Remember: **Sabbath is an extra special day for fellowship with God and others.** How can this group pray for you this week?

# Set Free

outline

Acts 16:16-34

**Message of Hope:** Jesus wants to heal and set us free.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): If you were thrown into jail, what do you think you would do with your time?

**Bridge:** Today's story is a very unusual jail scene. People are singing and praying; there is a massive earthquake that disables the security systems; the prisoners do not try to escape; and people are baptized.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 16:16-34  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Let's reread verses 16-17. How do you think a demon-possessed person has the ability to speak truth about God and how to be saved?  
✂ -----
2. Why do you think Paul allows this “good testimony” to continue for several days before commanding the demon to come out?  
✂ -----
3. Let's read verses 27-28 again. How on earth do you think Paul convinced all the prisoners to stay and not escape?  
✂ -----
4. In verses 31-34 what Bible basics do you think Paul included in preparing them for baptism?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, if you had been one of the other prisoners, what would have been one of the most compelling reasons for following Jesus and being baptized?  
✂ -----
- B. If you were to be healed or set free today—physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually—how would you like to be healed?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Jesus wants to heal and set us free.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Ordinary

outline

Acts 16:35-40

**Message of Hope:** God uses ordinary things to accomplish His work.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): Where were you born?

**Bridge:** In today's story, where you are born is very important and one's citizenship come's with certain rights and protections. But Paul does not use their citizenship for personal gain.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 16:35-40  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Why do you think Paul waited until after they were beaten before revealing that they were Roman citizens?  
✂ -----
2. If you had been one of the city officials who believed in what Paul and Silas were doing, how do you think you would have tried to influence the other city officials?  
✂ -----
3. In verse 39, why do you think the city leaders begged them to leave the city?  
✂ -----
4. Let's pause and read verse 40 again. Lydia has recently been baptized. Why do you think Paul and Silas go to her home instead of a long-time believer's home?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what is one way that God could use your home to help and bless others?  
✂ -----
- B. What is one way that God has used you to bless and help others.  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God uses ordinary things to accomplish his work.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# War Stories

outline

Acts 17:1-15

**Message of Hope:** Christ will win this war we are fighting in.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is one thing you think could push our country into a major war?

**Bridge:** Today's story is a war story. Shots are taken. There is a prolonged fight. Some are wounded. And some soldiers are taken prisoners of war while others escape. With this introduction, let's read the story.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 17:1-15  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. If this story had happened in our culture, what do you think the city authorities would do?  
✂ -----
2. Let's read verse 4 again. Why do you think the pagan Greek men and prominent women were very receptive to Paul's presentation while the Jews were closed minded?  
✂ -----
3. In today's spiritual war everyone is a soldier whether or not they like it. What are some of the most common reasons people give for fighting *with* Christ and for fighting *against* Christ?  
✂ -----
4. Let's read verse 11 again. What do you think makes a noble soldier noble?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what was a time you were “guilty by association” either for the good or for the bad?  
✂ -----
- B. What is the greatest proof for you that Jesus is who He claimed to be—the Messiah?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Christ will win the war we are fighting in.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Truth Seekers, Part 1

outline

Acts 17:10-15

**Message of Hope:** Truth seekers will find Truth.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

## Breakfast

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## Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

**The Quiz:** A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.



**Facilitator's Directions:**

1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂ -----)
3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is the longest distance you have run or walked at one time?

**Bridge:** In today's story Paul is on the run. But in one place, he finds people eager and very interested in what he has to share. Our story is called *Truth Seekers, part 1*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 17:10-15  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Using our Bible maps and notes, how far do you think it is from Thessalonica to Berea to Athens?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and reread verse 11 in our different translations. What do you think made the Bereans more noble and open-minded?  
✂ -----
3. In verse 12 why do you think it is emphasized that prominent and honorable Greeks became believers?  
✂ -----
4. Why do you think the Bereans only used the Scriptures to search for truth instead of other Greek documents?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, in today's world, how does Satan stir up trouble among Truth seekers?  
✂ -----
- B. If you were going to research a Bible topic, what would you like to explore?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Truth seekers will find Truth.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Truth Seekers, Part 2

outline

Acts 17:16-34

**Message of Hope:** Present-day Truth is usually new Truth.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

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2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

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3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is a new Biblical teaching you have recently heard about?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about new and rather strange teaching. It also explores the difference between authentic Truth seeking and intellectual entertainment. We will see some of both going on, but notice that both have very different outcomes. Our story is found in Acts 17:16-34.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 17:16-34  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. How would you characterize the difference between sincere Truth seeking and intellectual entertainment?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verses 22-27 again. What do you think we can learn about Paul's picture of God?  
✂ -----
3. Let's reread verses 31-34. God's judgment and what happens when a person dies seem to be hot topics. Based on this story, what do you think Paul believed about both of these topics?  
✂ -----
4. In verse 34, what do you think convinced Dionysius, Damaris, and the other new believers to become followers of Christ?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, verse 27 talks about “groping” our way toward God. When have you experienced “groping” for God?  
✂ -----
- B. What new Bible teaching are you exploring and/or incorporating into your life?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Present-day Truth is usually new Truth.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# House Churches are Born

outline  
Acts 18:1-8

**Message of Hope:** New Testament house churches are born.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

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3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What are some of your early jobs you did?

**Bridge:** A bit of history will be helpful. In the book of Acts, Paul goes on three missionary journeys. Today's story is nearing the end of his second missionary journey. But in today's story something unique happens. There is a drastic and significant change in Paul's focus and methodology. Let's keep an eye out for these two changes.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 18:1-8  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Why do you think Paul spent the last eighteen chapters of Acts trying to convince the Jews before deciding to focus on reaching Gentiles?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and read verses 7 and 8 again. Why do you think Paul leaves the synagogue and goes to a home instead of some other public place to share truth?  
✂ -----
3. Most likely it is in Justin's home that Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his household makes their decision for Christ and are baptized. As Paul watches all this take place, what strategic idea might he be thinking about?  
✂ -----
4. In our culture, what do you see as some of the advantages and disadvantages of meeting in homes instead of public places?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, how do you use your current job to engage in God's kingdom work?  
✂ -----
- B. What is one thing you highly value about meeting in this home?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **New Testament house churches are born.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.
- Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Do Not Be Afraid!

outline

Acts 18:9-22

**Message of Hope:** Surrendering fear frees your heart.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

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5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When afraid, what do you usually do?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about fear. Fear is like cancer—it destroys us from the inside out, and drains joy out of life. Over 365 times the Bible tells us, do not be afraid. Today's story explores fear, our fears, and how to overcome them.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 18:9-22  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. How do you think Paul knows that this is a vision from God as compared to a common dream?  
✂ -----
2. After a year and a half of work, what do you think prompts an uprising against Paul?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and read verse 17 again. Why do you think both the Jews and Greeks beat the synagogue leader?  
✂ -----
4. Paul shaves his head to signify the end of a vow according to Jewish customs. What do you think this vow was, and why is Paul following a Jewish custom if he is sent to the Gentiles?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, when faced with fear, what has been helpful in surrendering your fear and being set free?  
✂ -----
- B. When was a time you “spoke out”?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Surrendering fear frees your heart.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Emotional Quotient

outline

Acts 18:23-28

**Message of Hope:** We need each other to grow.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): You may have heard the term *IQ*, which refers to Intellectual Quotient. But when you hear the phrase *EQ*, or Emotional Quotient, what do you think it refers to?

**Bridge:** Today's story could have turned out really bad. But instead it turns out really good. Typically, the success of our relationships with friends and family are a result of the emotional strengths or weaknesses we bring to the relationship. As we read this story notice the emotional strengths people display. Notice what they do and what they don't do.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 18:23-28  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What additional information might your Bible's side notes or footnotes tell us about Apollos?  
✂ -----
2. If Apollos was teaching accurately, then why do you think Priscilla and Aquila needed to explain things “more accurately”?  
✂ -----
3. Let's read verses 26 again. What emotional strengths do you see being practiced by Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos?  
✂ -----
4. Why do you think Priscilla and Aquila wanted Apollos to understand the difference between John's baptism and being baptized into Christ?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what is an area of your Spiritual growth that someone else has helped you learn “more accurately”?  
✂ -----
- B. What did make or what would make baptism meaningful for you?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **We need each other to grow.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

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- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Power Plays

outline

Acts 19:1-22

**Message of Hope:** Truth seekers will find the Truth.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

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**Kick-off Question (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle):** In once sentence, what is a difference between magic and miracles?

**Bridge:** Today's story talks about handkerchiefs healing people, evil spirits being cast out, people speaking in tongues and prophesying. It almost sounds too weird to be true. But before we draw any conclusions, let's read this story and investigate what is going on.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 19:1-22  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions (50% of your study time):**

1. It seems the people of Ephesus are different. Why do you think the people of Ephesus are more open to new truth?  
✂ -----
2. Verse 5 is the twenty-seventh time Acts refers to people being baptized. Why do you think this is the first time that laying on of hands, speaking in tongues, and prophesying is mentioned in connection to being baptized?  
✂ -----
3. Let's reread verse 9 again. Last time Paul left the synagogue he went to a house next door. Why do you think this time he goes to the lecture hall?  
✂ -----
4. In verse 19 Dr. Luke talks about sorcery. What is sorcery and what are the different forms it takes today?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions (50% of your study time):**

- A. How do you assess whether your own heart is openhearted or closed hearted to spiritual things?  
✂ -----
- B. Like the people of Ephesus, when was a time you learned a new truth and made a significant change in your life?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Truth seekers will find the Truth.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Dealing with Fear

outline

Acts 19:23-41

**Message of Hope:** Fear is real, and fear can be turned into faith.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): Growing up, what was one thing you were afraid of?

**Bridge:** Fear is a real emotion that we all face at different times in our lives. Today's story is about fear. Notice how a business leader uses religious fear and a city mayor uses political fear to get people to do what they want them to do. Our story is called *Dealing with Fear*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 19:23-41  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What additional information does our Bible's footnotes and side notes tell us about Artemis?  
✂ -----
2. Assuming Paul knows that Gaius and Aristarchus are in the amphitheater, what do you think drives Paul to get inside?  
✂ -----
3. What do you think are some modern-day Artemis' that our culture tries to guard against?  
✂ -----
4. What fears do you see both Demetrius and the city mayor using to get the crowd to do what they want?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, growing up, how did your family typically deal with fear?  
✂ -----
- B. When facing fear, what helps you deal with it in a healthy way?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Fear is real, and fear can be turned into faith.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Shifting Perspective

outline

Acts 20:1-12

**Message of Hope:** We may have to shift our perspective to understand the Bible.

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**What do you see?**

**By shifting perspective you might see an old woman or a young woman.**

**Facilitator's Directions:**

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): Give everyone a copy of the picture and 60 seconds to look at it. When you first looked at the picture, what did you see?

**Bridge:** Today's story shifts our perspective. Like the picture, your perspective determines what you will see. It is likely that you will see something in today's story that you have never seen before. We are going to look at this story from two different perspectives, a modern Christian perspective and a Biblical perspective. As with any change of perspective we will have to dig deeper to see it. So, let's roll up our sleeves and dig deeper into this story.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 20:1-12  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. How do you think Paul's raising this boy from the dead changed the local community?  
✂ -----
2. From your perspective, do you think this is a Saturday night meeting or a Sunday meeting?  
Why?

**Extra - New English Bible** "On Saturday evening we gathered together for the fellowship meal. Paul spoke to the people and kept on speaking until midnight, since he was going to leave the next day" (verse 7).

✂ -----

3. Let's pause and carefully reread verse 7 and 11 again. From your perspective, when do you think "the dawn of the first day" happens according to the Bible?

**Extra** – In most modern cultures the day begins as midnight.

**Extra** – In the Bible, the new day begins at sunset. "And the evening (dark part) and the morning (light part) were the first day" See Genesis 1:3, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31.

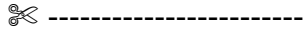
✂ -----

4. After preaching all night, what verse in our story helps us understand what Paul actually does on Sunday?

✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. If you had been the one raised from the dead, what is one thing you would do differently?  
✂ -----
- B. What is a Biblical perspective you see God changing in your life?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?



D. Remember: **We may have to shift our perspective to understand the Bible.** How can this group pray for you this week?

# Repent and Turn

outline

Acts 20:13-21

**Message of Hope:** Repenting from sin and turning to God is our only hope.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

## Breakfast

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3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

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**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

**The Quiz:** A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

**Facilitator's Directions:**

1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂ -----)
3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle):** In a sentence or two, what is something you really like telling others about?

**Bridge:** In today's story we will discover what Paul really loved to share with others. It is the heart of his message and a summary of everything he boldly proclaimed. But be forewarned, in today's culture it is unpopular to talk about sin, not to mention repenting from our sin or exploring God's definition of sin. Today's story is not trying to win a popularity context. Paul has one message, and he boldly shares it with us.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 20:13-21  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions (50% of your study time):**

1. What is Pentecost and why do you think Paul was so focused on being in Jerusalem for Pentecost?  
✂ -----
2. Let's read verse 20 again. If Paul lived in our time, what present truth and what false teachings do you think he would boldly teach people today?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and reread verse 21 in the different translations we have in our circle. If Paul told us to "repent of our sin," how do you think God's defines sin?  
✂ -----
4. What do you think, "repenting from sin, turning to God, and having faith in our Lord Jesus" looks like in everyday life?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions (50% of your study time):**

- A. On a personal note, in a real, practical way, how do you repent from sin and turn to God?  
✂ -----
- B. Let's be honest with ourselves, if Paul opened the Bible and boldly taught unpopular truth, how receptive do you think you would be?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Repenting from sin and turning to God is our only hope.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**



# Last Words & Warnings

outline

Acts 20:22-38

**Message of Hope:** God has prepared you for a special work to do.

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5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): If you were saying goodbye to some friends for the last time, what might you say to them?

**Bridge:** Today's story is a bit sad because it contains some last words and warning. But often last words compel one to get right to the point in what is shared. Paul is saying goodbye, and he gets right to the point as he shares some last words and warning with Truth seekers.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 20:22-38  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. How do you think a person can be in tune with the Holy Spirit and accurately discern what He is saying? Do you think this would go against what was written in the Bible?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and reread verse 24 in the different translations we have. If we could ask Paul to explain what self-worth is and what self-worth is not, what do you think he would say?  
✂ -----
3. The New Living Translation translates verse 26 in a very interesting way. "I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone suffers eternal death, it's not my fault . . . ." What do you think Paul means when he refers to "eternal death"?  
✂ -----
4. How do you think a person can determine what is truth and what is "distorted truth"?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, how do you use the Bible to test the Holy Spirit's promptings?  
✂ -----
- B. At this point in your life, if you were to try to discern what kinds of work God has been preparing you for, what do you think it might be?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God has prepared you for a special work to do.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Predictions & Prophets

outline

Acts 21:1-17

**Message of Hope:** God also speaks through His prophets.

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5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When you hear the word *prophet* or *prophecy* what comes to your mind?

**Bridge:** In today's story Paul travels toward Jerusalem. We find him meeting with different people and groups of believers along the way. As Paul encounters prophets and prophecies, this story raises questions about prophets and their predictions which will make for some excellent discussion about the Holy Spirit's gift of prophecy.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 21:1-17  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What do you think the gift of prophecy is, and why do you think it seems more prevalent in the early church than it is today?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and reread verse 4 in the different translations in our circle. Why do you think Paul does not obey this message?  
✂ -----
3. Do you think the gift of prophecy is a self-proclaimed gift by those who think they have received it, or do you think the gift is recognized and affirmed by a local body of believers?  
✂ -----
4. Assuming the Holy Spirit has a working relationship with believers individually, why does He need prophets?

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what are some ways God has tried to get your attention and give you direction and guidance?  
✂ -----
- B. If there were to be a modern-day prophet, how would you try to test or confirm this gift was really from the Holy Spirit?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God also speaks through His prophets.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- o Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.

- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.
- Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Church Authority

outline

Acts 21:17-25

**Message of Hope:** Though unpopular at times, church authority is part of God's New Testament plan.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When you hear the word *authority* what comes to your mind?

**Bridge:** We live in a world where homeschooling, home remedies, and home churching are on the rise. The reasons given are as varied as the responders. Today's story may be unpopular as it challenges some of the popular opinions of our day. It invites us to reconsider a Biblical perspective of what authority is and what our posture towards authority should look like.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 21:18-25  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Where does the information in verse 25 first appear in Acts, and why do you think the Gentiles were asked to abstain from these four things?  
✂ -----
2. Let's read verse 20 in the different translations in our circle. How do you see the message of the Gospel and the believing Jews who also follow the law of Moses fitting together?  
✂ -----
3. Let's reread verses 23-24. Why you think Paul submits to the Jerusalem church authority when he is no longer bound by the law of Moses?  
✂ -----
4. What do you think this story teaches us about our attitude towards New Testament church organization?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, in sharing the Gospel, to what extent do you become like the people and to what extent do you remain different?  
✂ -----
- B. In a world where anti-authority is popular, how do you incorporate New Testament church authority into your life?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Though unpopular at times, church authority is part of God's New Testament plan.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**



**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Peace in the Storm

outline

Acts 21:26-40

**Message of Hope:** Only God can give peace in the storm.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is the worst storm you have experienced?

**Bridge:** In today's story a storm rages. People are angry, and a riot leads the way. Yet among the raging storm, Paul is calm, focused, and uses the storm as an opportunity. How does he do this? Why does he stay calm? Let's read our story which is called *Peace in the Storm*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 21:26-40  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What are the facts, misunderstandings, and assumptions you see that contribute to this storm?  
✂ -----
2. Why do you think Paul is able to stay calm when the crowd tries to kill him?  
✂ -----
3. What do you think motivates Paul to ask if he can speak to the crowd?  
✂ -----
4. In our culture, what religious facts, misunderstandings and assumptions do you think could bring about a similar mob mentality?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, if you had been Paul, what do you think you would have done the same and done differently?  
✂ -----
- B. How do you see yourself standing for Biblical truth in a storm?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Only God can give peace while in the storm.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Extremes

outline

Acts 22:1-29

**Message of Hope:** God has a plan for your life and invites you to follow.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When you hear the word *extreme sports*, what comes to your mind?

**Bridge:** Today's story fits the description of *extreme* even though it has nothing to with sports. And our story shows the extreme length God goes to to get our attention while He invites us to follow His plan for our life—all without forcing us like robots.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 22:1-29  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Why do you think the Lord sent Paul to Jerusalem, if in verse 18 the Lord knew they would not accept Paul's testimony about Him?  
✂ -----
2. Why do you think the Lord went to an extreme extent to get Paul's attention and turn his life around?  
✂ -----
3. Where do you see freedom of choice in this story?  
✂ -----
4. Verse 22 seems to be the turning point for the crowd. What do you think caused the change?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what is something the person sitting to your right is passionate about? (You start, and then go around the circle.)  
✂ -----
- B. What is an area in your life where you sense God is encouraging you to turn around?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God has a plan for your life and invites you to follow.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**



# Death & Resurrection

outline

Acts 22:30 – 23:11

**Message of Hope:** Jesus's death and resurrection is our only hope.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When you hear the word *hope*, what comes to your mind?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about hope—something we all look for. In our story Paul identifies the anchor, the foundation, the cornerstone for our hope. Satan also knows how important this teaching is and has been deceiving people ever since he spun the first lie to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. So, let's dig in, read our story, and explore the implications of this truth.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 22:30 – 23:11  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. In verse one, why do you think Paul's opening comment is so offensive?  
✂ -----
2. What do you think motivated Ananias to order someone to slap Paul for saying this?  
✂ -----
3. How would you summarize the key points of Paul's witness in Jerusalem that he will also be sharing in Rome?  
✂ -----
4. Let's read verse 6 in the different Bible translations we have in our circle. Why do you think Paul's message about the resurrection of the dead is so important?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, if you had lived in Paul's day, which denomination would you have been more likely to be part of, the Pharisees or the Sadducees? Why?  
✂ -----
- B. If someone were to ask you, why are death and resurrection such a big deal, how do you think you would respond?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Jesus's death and resurrection is our only hope.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.



**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Trials

outline

Acts 23:11- 24:27

**Message of Hope:** Even in our own trials, God uses us to help other people grow spiritually.

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): In one sentence or less, when was your last encounter with a police officer or a person in authority?

**Bridge:** Today's story finds Paul standing before a judge who is playing politics. But more than politics, this judge is personally searching for truth. In the midst of Paul's own trials and hardships, notice what Paul does with the judge.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 23:11- 24:27  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Looking at the maps and footnotes in our Bibles, how far do you think is to Caesarea?  
✂ -----
2. In court, Ananias's story and Paul's story are similar and yet different. What do you see as the real issues in this trial, and what verses do you see highlighting these issues?  
✂ -----
3. Verse 24:21 echoes 23:6. Why do you think Paul again brings up the fact that he believes in the resurrection of the dead?  
**Extra:** 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 and 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 are both written by Paul and explain more thoroughly his teaching about the resurrection of the dead.  
✂ -----
4. Let's read verses 24:20-25. When Paul has a private conversation with Felix and his wife, why do you think he focuses on righteousness, self-control, and the coming day of judgment?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, if you could have a private conversation with Paul, which of these four topics would you like to better understand: resurrection of the dead, righteousness, self-control, or the coming day of judgment, and why did you choose the one you did?  
✂ -----
- B. When was a time you felt you were on "trial" for what you believed?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Even in our own trials, God uses us to help other people grow spiritually.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Stand for Right

outline

Acts 25:1-22

**Message of Hope:** It is always the right time to stand for right.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

## Breakfast

**Welcome:** We are so glad that you are here today.

### Setting the Context:

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- Let's encourage those who like to talk to give opportunity for everyone to participate.

## Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

**The Quiz:** A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

**Facilitator's Directions:**

1. Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂ -----)
3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is the largest puzzle you have helped put together?

**Bridge:** Today's story is like putting together a puzzle. Except this puzzle involves real people who are on trial for their beliefs. Others are telling lies, and the judge is playing politics.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 25:1-22  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. In verse 11 Paul appeals to Caesar. If he could have appealed at any time, why do you think he decided this was the time, instead of waiting until later?  
✂ -----
2. What additional notes might your side notes or footnotes tell us about King Agrippa?  
✂ -----
3. Let's read verse 19 in our different translations. If Jesus did not really die on the cross, how do you think this would have changed the plan of Salvation?  
✂ -----
4. Why do you think King Agrippa wanted to hear Paul himself?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what principles do you use to sort through popular spiritual fads?  
✂ -----
- B. In your spiritual walk, what is something that has tried to ambush you along the way?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **It is always the right time to stand for right.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# God's Table

outline

Acts 25:23 – 26:18

**Message of Hope:** God has a place for you at His table.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

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2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

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**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

**The Quiz:** A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

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2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂ -----)
3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): When was the last time a friend invited you to come and eat at their home?

**Bridge:** It is exciting to be invited to someone's home and to sit and eat at their table. It makes us feel loved, valued, and cared about, knowing they have prepared for us and want to be with us. Whenever we receive an invitation it is up to us to get back with our friend and let them know if we are accepting their invitation. Today's story is about accepting an invitation.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 25:23 – 26:18  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. For the last two weeks Paul has said he is on trial because he believed in the resurrection of the dead (see Acts 23:6 and 24:21). Why do you think Paul claims a different reason in Acts 26:6?  
✂ -----
2. Verses 15-18 summarizes Paul's message, so let's read it again. How would you describe the actual steps a person takes to turn from the power of Satan to the power of God?  
✂ -----
3. Somehow this turning process includes receiving forgiveness for my sins and being given a place at God's table. How would you explain these two things to a ten-year-old child so they are able to grasp it?  
✂ -----
4. The last phrase of Acts 26:18 says "who are set apart by faith in me." What do you think Paul means when he says "set apart by faith"?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what is one way that God has opened your eyes to see the difference between darkness and light?  
✂ -----
- B. How has or how is God inviting to you to His table?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God has a place for you at His table.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.



- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.
- Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Almost

outline

Acts 26:15-32

**Message of Hope:** Choices make choices for you.

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## Check-In:

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3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

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**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

**The Quiz:** A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

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3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is something you almost did? Looking back, what do you wish you had done?

**Bridge:** Hindsight is usually 20/20. In today's story a person has a choice to make, but instead sits on the fence. We will never know what might have happened or how the story would have been different. But we do know that in our personal lives, choices make choices for us. In other words, not making a choice is actually making a choice, which in turn automatically makes other choices for us.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 26:15-32  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What do you think is most convincing in showing that Paul did not deserve death or imprisonment?  
✂ -----
2. Let's read verse 18 and verse 20 in our different translations. Verse 18 says we are "set apart by faith in Jesus." What do you think "doing good works" in verse 20 has to do with my faith in Jesus?  
✂ -----
3. In verse 28, why do you think Agrippa did not want to make a choice?  
✂ -----
4. In today's world, what do you think hinders people from making choices?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what is a recent choice you made and are glad you had the courage to make?  
✂ -----
- B. When facing a difficult choice, what helps you boldly move forward?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Choices make choices for you.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- o Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- o Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Warning Signs

outline

Acts 27:1-12

**Message of Hope:** God is sailing with you through the storms of life.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

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**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

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5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is one of your favorite water activities?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about sailing. As we will soon read, there are troubled waters ahead, and those in charge of the ship ignore the warning signs and want to push forward with their own ideas.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 27:1-12  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. In verse 3, what do you think motivates Julius to single Paul out and show him special kindness?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and reread verse 10 and 11 in the different Bibles in our circle. Why do you think Paul, a prisoner on board, believes he has any influence as to where they stay for the winter?  
✂ -----
3. Today, if God was to send someone like Paul to tell us there was trouble ahead, what are the different ways you think people would respond?  
✂ -----
4. What are some current ways you see God trying to communicate what lies ahead?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, when was a time that you experienced some difficult sailing in life?  
✂ -----
- B. Where do you think God may be providing a safe harbor ahead in your life?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God is sailing with you through the storms of life.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Small Choices

outline

Acts 27:13-20

**Message of Hope:** Choice make choices for us, both good and bad.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is one of the strongest storms you have seen or heard about?

**Bridge:** In today's story a storm is brewing. Notice how one small choice sets in motion a host of difficulties that could have been avoided. Our choices have a way of making choices for us. With every choice there are other choices that circumstances automatically make for us. One small choice, that seems insignificant, can set in motion a journey of pain or a journey of blessings. Our story is called *Small Choices*.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 27:13-20  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Verse 16 talks about bringing the lifeboat on board. Why do you think they would add additional weight to the ship, only to lighten their load later on?  
✂ -----
2. Let's read verse 19 in our different Bibles. What do you think could have been included in the ship's tackle and gear that they threw overboard?  
✂ -----
3. When a person is at the end, with no hope of being rescued, what do you think goes through their mind?  
✂ -----
4. What do you think are some of the small choices that contributed to this crisis?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, what is a small choice you made that has set in place a series of ongoing blessing?  
✂ -----
- B. When all hope is gone, and you feel like giving up, what do you do?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Choices make choices for us, both good and bad.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.



- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.
- Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Storms of Life

outline

Acts 27:21-44

**Message of Hope:** Sometimes God saves us from the storm; sometimes He sustains us through the storm.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

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**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is the longest, non-stop thunderstorm you have been in?

**Bridge:** Today's story takes place at sea during a fourteen-day storm. At the point of crisis, God's supernatural evidence is undeniable by those who were there. In our lives we also face major storms where God shows up, but often at the last minute when all human possibilities have been exhausted.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 27:27-44  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. What do you think protects Paul from the temptation of becoming a “humble” big shot?  
✂ -----
2. Why do you think God promises that no one will lose their lives in the ship wreck?  
✂ -----
3. Let's pause and reread verse 23 in the different Bibles we have. Why do you think Paul can say with confidence that he knows he belongs to God?  
✂ -----
4. Why do you think the soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners even though Paul, who was also a prisoner, had saved their lives?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, when was a time that you sensed your life was miraculously saved?  
✂ -----
- B. When has a ship in your life run aground?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Sometimes God saves us from the storm; sometimes He sustains us through the storm.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Asking for Healing

outline

Acts 28:1-10

**Message of Hope:** Jesus came to bring healing to our lives.

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**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

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**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): What is the worst sting or bite you have received?

**Bridge:** Today's story is about a snake bite and some miraculous healings. Even though these are the last miraculous healings recorded in the book of Acts, notice that there are two different styles of healing, which raises some excellent questions that help us explore healing in today's world.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 28:1-10  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. Verse 1 says, "Once we were safe on the shore." Who do you think "we" is referring to?  
✂ -----
2. If it was cold and rainy, why do you think the local people built a fire on the shore instead of inviting them to a shelter out of the rain?  
✂ -----
3. There are two healings recorded in this story. What difference and what similarities do you notice between them?  
✂ -----
4. Do you think that in today's world people are more interested in physical healing, mental healing, emotional healing, or spiritual healing? Why?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

A. On a personal note, where are you seeking healing in your life?

**Note:** As people share what they are seeking healing for, take time for two people to pray for each request that God may hear and answer their request for healing.

✂ -----

B. Remember: **Jesus came to bring healing to our lives.**

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**

# Finishing Well

outline

Acts 28:11-16

**Message of Hope:** God provides encouragement when you need it.

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5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle): If you were to take a vacation, what would you like to do?

**Bridge:** In today's story Paul takes a week off. But it is not really what we might consider a vacation. We are not told exactly what he did during this week, but given his context of being a prisoner on his way to Rome to stand before the judge, he is likely gathering strength to stand for truth even though it may not be popular.

**Read the Bible Story from two different translations:** Acts 28:11-16  
(Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.)

**Digging Questions** (50% of your study time):

1. If Paul is a prisoner, why do you think the entire ship would stop for a week so Paul could spend time with the believers?  
✂ -----
2. Let's pause and reread verse 15 again. Using your footnotes or side notes in your Bible, what was the "Forum" and the "Three Taverns" and why do you think Luke mentions them?  
✂ -----
3. Verse 14 ends with, "And so we came to Rome." What do you think is going through Paul's mind now that he has arrived in Rome?  
✂ -----
4. The last part of verse 16 may seem insignificant. What do you see in this verse that would give it special meaning for Paul as he arrives in Rome?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (50% of your study time):

- A. On a personal note, when was a time God sent extra special encouragement to you during a time when you were standing for truth?  
✂ -----
- B. If you were Paul, arriving in Rome with an unknown future, how would you make sure you stayed faithful when pressured to compromise truth?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **God provides encouragement when you need it.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**



# Unpopular Truth

outline

Acts 28:17-31

**Message of Hope:** Truth is not a popularity contest.

**The Basic 8 Simple Church Tools:** Collection Box, Connection Card Envelopes, Business Cards, Taco Salad Sign-up Sheet, A variety of extra Bible translations, Child Safety Poster, Blessing Board, Summary Form (which is emailed to the Details Coordinator every Sunday).

## Breakfast

**Welcome:** We are so glad that you are here today.

### Setting the Context:

- We come from a variety of backgrounds and seek to create a safe place for Truth seekers to grow spiritually.
- You will notice that we try to avoid fancy religious language. We are common people.
- Let's encourage those who like to talk to give opportunity for everyone to participate.

## Check-In:

1. What is your first name?
2. What is a high-light or a low-light (a headline) from your week?
3. [*Insert rotation question for the week.*]

At the end of check-in ask the person who facilitated to choose another adult to facilitate check-in next week. Anyone can facilitate check-in. It does not have to be a CORE leader.

**Children's Check-In Questions:** How did you help Mommy or Daddy this week? (Or they can answer the adult questions.)

**The Quiz:** A child asks three questions. They randomly choose from the check-in questions people just answered. Ask everyone to raise their hands and the child picks someone to answer the questions.

At the end of the quiz ask the child who facilitated to choose another child to facilitate the quiz next week.

**Facilitator's Directions:**

1. *Talk as little as possible, encourage others to share, and avoid a monologue.*
2. Cut on the dotted lines. Distribute questions around the circle. (✂ -----)
3. Keep this top part and the bottom part (question D) of this page.
4. Reassure people they do not have to answer the questions, just read it for us.
5. At the end, choose someone to facilitate the questions for next week.

**Kick-off Question** (*60 second answers, facilitator goes first, go around the circle*): Who were the first people you met when you moved to your current location?

**Bridge:** In today's story Paul moves into town. Instead of waiting to meet people, he goes to church leaders and introduces himself. This is a risky choice because in the past it has been church leaders who have caused problems. But Paul is operating on principles that seem to defy logic. Why does he do this? What is he trying to do? Let's read our story which is called *Unpopular Truth*.

**Digging Questions translations:** Acts 28:17-31

(*Encourage people to stick to this story instead of jumping all over the Bible.*)

**Digging Questions** (*50% of your study time*):

1. If it was the Jewish leaders who had originally charged Paul, why do you think he calls them together when he arrives in Rome?  
✂ -----
2. Let's read verses 21 and 22 in our different Bible translations. How do you think it is possible for Paul to arrive in Rome with nobody knowing who he is, and yet they do know that Christianity is denounced everywhere?  
✂ -----
3. What clues do you find in your Bible's reference notes or your own memory as to what Scriptures Paul might have used to persuade them of Jesus?  
✂ -----
4. Let's reread Paul's final heart call in verses 26 and 27. What makes this a final heart appeal as compared to a revengeful "so there, I told you so"?  
✂ -----

**Sharing Questions** (*50% of your study time*):

- A. On a personal note, if Bible truth became unpopular today, how do you think you would respond?  
✂ -----
- B. What blind spot do you sense God is trying to reveal to you?  
✂ -----
- C. What is an invitation, a promise, a command, or a warning that you needed to hear today?  
✂ -----
- D. Remember: **Truth is not a popularity contest.** How can this group pray for you this week?

**Group Prayer:**

- Put **Empty Chairs** in the middle of your circle. Pray for people who will be invited.
- Close by saying the **Blessing Board** blessing together.

**Lunch: Taco Salad sign-up list.**