

acts



The book of Acts forms the background for the missional movement which takes place in the New Testament. In this study we will examine the first 9 chapters to identify God's desire to see the greatest message spread throughout the world.

The book of Acts is a narrative of missionary expansion which commences with a small group of Jesus' disciples in Jerusalem and extends across significant ethnic, religious and geographical boundaries to end in Rome where Paul preaches the gospel of the risen Christ to Jew and Gentile alike.

During the period of 40 days before His ascension Jesus appeared to his disciples and showed them He was alive.

It was at this point the disciples ask Jesus, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom of Israel?" Jesus' response to the disciples' question comes in two parts. First, He doesn't deny an expectation of the kingdom of God, but corrects any suggestion that it will come immediately. In the second part of his answer, Jesus assures his disciples that the Holy Spirit will come upon them, and that they will be His witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. In the gospels the disciples are looking forward to Jesus' work of redemption, however, in the book of Acts the disciples are looking forward to Jesus' work of mission "to the ends of the earth" which is never reached in the book of Acts. The mission goal is never completed. It remains open...

Our hope as you read Acts you will better see Jesus' work of mission and how God is inviting you to participate.

Below is an outline of our schedule for fall 2007:

“Discovering Our Church”

August, 29 2007	Welcome
September 5, 2007	Acts 1:1-11 “Cultivating a life for Jesus”
September 12, 2007	Acts 2:1-13 “Cultivating a church for Jesus”
September 19, 2007	Acts 2:37-47 “Cultivating an initiative for Jesus”

“Defining Our Church”

September 26, 2007	Acts 3:1-10 “Risky Commitment”
October 3, 2007	Acts 4:32-37 “Authentic Community”
October 10, 2007	Acts 5:1-11 “Focused Mission”
October 17, 2007	Acts 6:1-15 “Transformed Lives”

“Delivering the Message of Our Church”

October 24, 2007	Acts 7:54-8:3 “Prayer”
October 31, 2007	Acts 8:13-25 “Redeeming Culture”
November 7, 2007	Acts 8:26-40 “Contextualize the Gospel”
November 14, 2007	Acts 9:1-16 “Redeeming People”

HOLIDAY

November 21, 2007	
November 28, 2007	Acts 9:19-31 “Responding to the Gospel”
December 5, 2007	405 Celebration

Purpose Statement for HCBCUT:

We are a missional community of Christ-followers who are committed to connecting people with the life transforming power of Jesus Christ.

Values for HCBCUT:

Risky Commitment: Matt. 14:29

Our greatest adventure is to know the surpassing value and power of Jesus Christ in which we respond with surrender to Jesus, bold prayer, and extravagant worship.

Authentic Community: John 13-34-35

Our greatest commandment is to love people as Jesus loves people by living in authentic community that values other cultures, invests in relationships, serves sacrificially, and demonstrates unity.

Focused Mission: Matt. 28:19

Our greatest commission is to passionately proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ as the treasure and hope for all people by living relevant lives, living incarnationally, and leaving the 99 to pursue the 1.

Transformed Lives: 1 Thess. 2:8

Our greatest pursuit is to see our lives, our minds and our hearts transformed into the image of Jesus Christ by His grace, indwelling power, God's word, answered prayer, and the body of the local church.

Acts 1:1-11 “Cultivating a life for Jesus”

Hook:

Our church exists to be a missional community of Christ-followers who are committed to connected people with the life transforming power of Jesus Christ. We are convinced in order for this to be a reality we have to have a deep affection for Jesus Christ, individually and collectively. As you prepare to read through Acts ask God to help you examine your heart and where you are. What is missing? What is distracting you?

Book:

Read through Acts 1:1-11. Jesus has resurrected from the grave and ascended into heaven. He leaves the disciples. It is in these first few verses that we see the prayerful and passionate first steps of the local church. Take a few minutes to write 1-2 sentences about what stands out to you in this passage.

Look:

1. What do we know about Luke in scripture?

2. What do we know about the life of Jesus at this point in scripture?

3. What do we know about the disciples at this point in scripture? What do we know about Peter? What do we know about Judas? What has been their track record up to this point?

4. How were the 120 (1:15) going to be able to take the gospel to the “outer most ends of the earth”? How were predominantly Jewish people going to reach Samaritans? How were the lowly going to reach the elite?

1. What words / thoughts come to mind when you apply 1:8 personally? How are you going to be able to take the gospel to the “outer most ends of the earth”?

2. How does this relate to our mission as a church? How are we going to take the gospel to the ends of this campus?

3. When I examine my spiritual life am I living a life of power? How would it shape our spiritual lives if we experienced this power on a daily basis?

Took: *“Homework to be done throughout the week”*

Who are the major characters in this passage?

What are the main events that are taking place?

Why are these events significant?

What commands are listed in this passage?

What promises are listed in this passage?

Read John 17 throughout the week and examine Jesus' prayer to the Father. How does John 17 apply to Acts?

Directional Verse: In Acts 1:8 Jesus tells us that we will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us. Why is the local church in need of power? What do you think God had in mind?

Acts 2:1-13 “Cultivating a church for Jesus”

Hook:

What would the local church look like if it was whole-heartedly focused on Jesus Christ? What if it wasn't arguing about styles of worship, color of paint, or money, and instead was a place where Christ followers were gathered and unleashed? What difference would it make on a campus? What difference would it make in our spiritual lives?

Book:

Read through Acts 2:1-13. At this point Jesus has resurrected from the grave. Ascended to the Father. Sent the Holy Spirit to empower the church, and the local church is being established. What are your feelings toward the local church today? What stops the local church from experiencing the type of power we see in Acts 2? Write your thoughts below:

Look:

1. What words come to mind when you think about “Pentecost”?

2. What do you think it would have been like to be there?

3. Why do you think Luke uses words “like a wind” and “like a fire” to describe the coming of the Holy Spirit?

4. What was it that amazed or bewildered the people so much about this experience? How is this connected to Acts 1:8? Why is this significant?

5. What does this teach us about the local church that is being established?

1. What observations can you make in verses 9-11 about the types of people who experience the Holy Spirit?

2. What are some personal examples of how you have experienced the Holy Spirit?

3. Do you perceive the church today having the same kind of power that is described in verses 1-13?

Took: “Homework to be done throughout the week”

Read John 7:37-39. At what point does the Holy Spirit come into a person’s life?

Read John 16:5-15. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer?

Read Galatians 5:16-26. What does it mean to live by the Spirit?

Take some time this week and ask God to cultivate in you a heart for His local church. Begin to ask God to give you a tangible way in which you can play a vital role in His church. In the space below, write down a few of the ways you can play a tangible role in the local church:

Directional Verse: In Acts 2:12 the passage tells us that some were “amazed and perplexed.” What stops our culture from being amazed and perplexed today?

Acts 2:37-47 “Cultivating an initiative for Jesus”

Hook:

We can often be involved in a healthy, growing church and have a deep affection for Jesus; however, it doesn't result in a response. It is somehow able to be a segmented area of our life that we often flow in and out of. Why is that? What's missing? Before you continue take a moment to ask God to prepare your heart for this time. Ask Him to reveal to you what is stopping you from responding to Him.

Book:

Read through Acts 2:37-47. At this point the beginning of the local church is starting to take root and the disciples are beginning to declare God's message of redemption. Take a moment to read over the passage and below write down some of the words that stand out to you:

Look:

1. What does it mean to be devoted to something?

2. What types of things are people devoted to today?

3. Give your group a brief (1-2 minute) overview of the message presented in Acts 2. Have someone read Acts 2:37-41. In this passage how do the people respond to the message? Why?

4. In verse 38 Peter is calling the people to “repent”. Why is this necessary? What role does Jesus play in their repentance? Would that message be any different for today?

5. Have someone read Acts 2:42. What is going on in this passage? Why are these things important? What are their modern day equivalents?

1. Have someone read Acts 2:43-47. In verse 43, Luke tells us that “everyone kept feeling a sense of awe”. How can we capture that feeling today? Or was that just a unique time in church history? Are there any characteristics that are captured in this passage that we don’t see today?

2. In the first 2 chapters of Acts it is obvious that God is doing something extraordinary. How has it changed over the last 2,000 years?

Took: “Homework to be done throughout the week”

In Acts 2:37-47 what specific things did the people do?

What were the results of those actions?

When you examine your life what do you find that you are devoted to?

What does it mean to “repent”?

How can you apply this passage to your life?

Directional Verse: In Acts 2:37 the passage tells us that some were “pierced to the heart.” Do you find the truth of scripture to be this powerful in your personal life?

Acts 3:1-10 “Risky Commitment”

Hook:

Take a moment to turn to the front of this guide to read over the purpose and values of our church. In this section we will discuss Risky Commitment and see how the local church has lived this out since its inception. Do you see the local church today living out risky commitment?

Book:

Up to this point we have seen the local church established and as chapter 3 begins we will see the local church begin to influence the culture around them with the transforming power of Jesus Christ. In the space below take a moment to write down some of the ways you have seen the local church display risky commitment in the past.

In the space below take a moment to write down some of the ways you have seen risky commitment displayed in your own life.

Look:

1. Have someone read Acts 3:1-5. What is happening in these verses? What is this man like?

2. Have someone read Acts 3:6-10. What is happening in these verses?

3. In verse 6 Peter calls the lame man to walk. Jesus had called Peter to walk on water and now Peter was calling a lame man to walk. Metaphorically we are walking past people on daily bases that are lame from their mother's womb (Ps. 51:55). Are we calling them to walk in newness of life? Do we believe in the power of Jesus to transform lives? What has to change for us to stop and interact?

4. The lame man had been lame for more than 40 years (4:22), however, the author tells us in verse 7 that immediately his feet and ankles were strengthened. The man leaps to stand up and begins to walk. Imagine the transformation. When is the last time you have seen or experienced this time of spiritual transformation?

1. Notice in verse 10 the people in the temple stop and realize what has taken place. Do you think our culture sees the gospel as something that transforms lives? Do you?

2. For us to experience transforming power we are not going to be able to walk past people on a daily basis. We are going to have to live differently. We are going to have to step out in faith and interact with people and expect God to heal the lame and redeem the sinner. What has to change in your spiritual life to be involved in risky commitment?

Took: “Homework to be done throughout the week”

Carefully read Acts 3:1-10. From the passage list all of the characteristics you can that describe the lame man.

From this passage list all of the characteristics you can that describe Peter and John.

What did the man want from Peter and John?

What did Peter and John have to offer the man?

How are you like this man?

In this passage we see Peter and John stop to interact with a lame man. They have gone from observing transforming power in chapter 2 to participating in transforming power in chapter 3. Take a moment to pray over what risky commitment looks like in your life. Who could you share these conclusions with? Take a moment to write down 2 names of people to share these conclusions with and ask them to hold you accountable in these areas.

Directional Verse: In the space below write out Isaiah 26:8. How does this verse shape your risky commitment?

Acts 4:32-37 “Authentic Community”

Hook:

Community is a popular word today. As you evaluate your spiritual life do you find that you are anchored in authentic community? Has there been a time in your life when you felt like you were experiencing authentic community? Take a moment to ask God to reveal to you what authentic community looks like as you read over the passage.

Book:

In chapter 4 the gospel has been proclaimed to the surrounding people and the culture is responding to inquire what they are teaching. Read 4:32-37 and write down some key words that jump out to you in the passage that might be describing authentic community.

Look:

1. Today we are going to be talking about community. What does the world think about community? Do any slogans come to mind? (Look out for number one., It's a small world, It takes a village.....)

2. How would you define community?

1. (Briefly summarize the events that took place in Acts 4:1-31 to place these verses in context)

2. Read Acts 4:32. What are your first thoughts? (Note: We are not looking for the “church” answer here we are asking what you really think) How does this verse make you feel?

3. What does it mean to be of one heart and one mind? Why is that significant in this passage?

4. Read Acts 4:33-37. Why do you think the message of the apostles had such power?

3. In our culture we place an emphasis on ownership of material things and this bleeds into our interpersonal lives. What would it look like if our personal lives became common property? What would it look like if our weakness became common property? What would it look like if our failures became common property?

4. What if our relationships became more authentic? What would need to change?

5. In verse 33 outsiders were looking into this authentic community and seeing people meeting other people's needs and it shocked them. The passage says it gave the apostles an opportunity to tell others of Jesus Christ. What type of influence would it have on UT if we experienced that type of community?

6. What if our greatest evangelistic strategy was our authentic community?

7. What kind of relationships do you have with others? Are they spurring you on to a deeper affection for Jesus Christ?

Took: “Homework to be done throughout the week”

Carefully read Acts 4:1-37 and outline what is happening.

From this passage what do we learn about Peter and John?

What do we learn about the way people engaged in community in the early church?

Acts 5:1-11 “Focused Mission”

Hook:

It is easy to be distracted today. There are so many things trying to get our attention from commercials, billboards, radio, IPOD, job, professors, and family that it is difficult to focus on anything. Can you imagine what it would feel like to have one central focus?

Book:

As Chapter 4 ends the local church is flourishing, however, as chapter 5 begins we see conflict coming to the surface. Read 5:1-11 and write down some key words that jump out to you on the page.

Look:

1. Ask for a volunteer to read Acts 5:1-11 aloud.

2. What is Peter’s response to Ananias?

3. You see at the end of chapter 4 Barnabas had donated a portion of money, however, in chapter 5 a couple lies to Peter, the community and the Holy Spirit. It was their land to keep or sell, the money was theirs to keep or sell, however, they are deceptive. If the issue isn't about the money, what is the issue?

4. Why is that issue significant to God? What was God trying to teach the church? Why?

5. Verses 1-11 almost seem embellished because it is so drastic, however, the local church is so important to God this kind of deception could not be tolerated. Why is the local church so important to God? (*Ephesians 3:10*)

6. How can our own sin distract the local church from its mission? What should be my role or attitude toward the local church?

Took: “Homework to be done throughout the week”

Read 1 Peter 1:13-22. List all of the commands in this passage.

Look carefully at the passage. What are the reasons given as to why we are to pursue holiness?

What effect would it have on the local church if every member took the call of holiness and obedience seriously?

How can you personally apply this passage?

Directional Verse: In the space below write out 1 Peter 3:15. How does this verse shape our understanding of focused mission?

Acts 6:1-15 “Transformed Lives”

Hook:

You know those stories you hear about how Jesus radically changed someone’s life and through Jesus they experienced healing, forgiveness, and mercy in radical ways? What if those stories didn’t just happen at conversion or at traumatic events, but were a continual occurrence in our spiritual lives? How would that shape how we read scripture, how we pray, or how we communicate the gospel? Take a moment to ask God to reveal Himself to you in a new and powerful way.

Book:

In chapter 6 the local church is experiencing persecution from within as well as without. However, in chapter 6, in the midst of this persecution it has caused the local church to become focused on Jesus and as a result they are experiencing radical transformation. Read 6:1-15 and write down some observations you have that describe transformed lives.

Look:

1. In the passage the apostles are focused on preaching the word of God? When we say we are focused on something what does that mean?

2. Why is living a focused life so hard? What obstacles stand in our way?

3. Have someone read aloud Acts 6:1-7. What was the problem?

4. From this passage what do you learn about the priorities of the twelve disciples?

5. How do their actions demonstrate a commitment to living a focused life?

6. What difference did a focused life make in their ministry?

7. What is the link between a focused mission and a transformed life?

8. As you reflect on your spiritual life are you experiencing a transformed life? What has contributed to that transformation?

9. What is hindering you from experiencing a more vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ?

Took: “Homework to be done throughout the week”

Read Acts 6:1-15. List the characteristics of Stephen’s life.

Why do you think Stephen was so bold?

Which of Stephen's qualities do you feel you most need?

What specific steps can you take this week to pursue those qualities?

Directional Verse: In the space below write out Galatians 2:20. How does this verse shape our understanding of transformed lives?

Acts 7:54-8:3 “Prayer”

Hook:

Prayer is one of those areas that we can tend to feel a little guilty about. When most of us think of our prayer life there aren't many who are thinking, “I really am praying too much!” As we begin to examine prayer in the book of Acts take a moment to pray and tell God your honest feelings and thoughts toward prayer. Do you feel too busy? Do you feel it doesn't matter? Is it hard to focus for more than 10 seconds in prayer? Tell God how you feel and ask Him to open your eyes and heart to a deeper understanding of prayer. Ask Him to reveal to you what is powerful about prayer. Ask Him to give you a fresh perspective toward prayer.

Book:

In chapter 7, we see a horrific event as Stephen is stoned for proclaiming the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Take a moment to read over Acts 7:54-8:3 and write down some key observations that stand out to you.

Look:

1. What has taken place in chapter 7 that has led to the stoning of Stephen?

2. What are some things that you pray for generally? Do they seem in line with what God is doing?

3. Do our prayers reflect our agenda or God's agenda? What would our prayers sound like if they reflected God's agenda?

4. What are some tangible steps we can take to experience a deeper prayer life?

Took: "Homework to be done throughout the week"

Read Stephen's speech in Acts 7:1-53. List all of the main characters. Beside each character list the promises God gave them.

How do these characters demonstrate risky commitment?

Specifically what areas of your life is God asking you to take steps of risky commitment?

How does prayer influence those steps?

Practically how can you take these steps?

Directional Verse: In the space below write out Colossians 4:2-4. How does this verse shape our understanding of prayer?

Acts 8:13-25 “Redeeming Culture”

Hook:

Jesus calls us to be in the world but not be of the world. So how does that happen? How are Christians supposed to respond to culture? What movies are okay? What music is okay? What places are okay? How do we know what is okay and what is so far over the line that the line looks like a dot? Take a moment to examine what it means to be in the world and not of the world and write your thoughts below.

Book:

In chapter 7 we see a horrific event as Stephen was stoned for proclaiming the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In chapter 8 we see the gospel spread despite the result of persecution. God is moving through people to enter into cultures, express truth, and explore the claims of Jesus Christ and early on in the local church we are going to see the gospel go outside the building and into the culture. Take a moment to read over Acts 8:13-25 and write down some observations.

Look:

1. Take a moment to recap verses 4-13. What has taken place in verses 4-8 for there to be much rejoicing in the city?

2. In verse 9 we see a man who was participating in magic who observes Philip proclaiming Christ to the people and he desires it. Philip is entering into a culture that would likely not welcome him. Philip is exploring truth with a man who practices magic. Philip doesn't have any formal training other than what he has seen and proclaiming Christ to the people. Yet, in verse 13 Simon believes and is baptized. Do we see this type of gospel transformation on a regular basis? If not, why not? Do you see yourself as someone who enters culture and explores truth with others?

3. In verses 14-16 we see the apostles come down from Jerusalem to Samaria so that those who believed might receive the Holy Spirit. What do these verses mean?

- *Note:* The 12 apostles were, of course, the divinely appointed leaders of the newly birthed local church (Ch. 1). It was natural and proper, therefore, that they should send representative apostles to investigate the Samaritan's response to the gospel. This was especially important in view of the hostility that existed between the Hebrews and the Samaritans. It was important that they both had placed their faith in Jesus' work on the cross and been united in one faith.

4. Why do you think Simon wanted this power?

5. How did the disciples respond to him? Why?

6. When the gospel enters a culture it is going to get messy. Traditions are going to be challenged. Values are going to be challenged. In vs. 20 Peter rebukes Simon for trying to obtain the gift of God with money. How do we determine what we rebuke in our culture and what we receive?

Took: “Homework to be done throughout the week”

This week make a list of people you know who don't know Christ. Begin praying daily for those people.

What specific types of activates can you do with these people to build more of a relationship with them?

What hold you back from having spiritually conversations with these people?

What specific steps do you need to take this week to become more intentional about sharing your faith?

Directional Verse: In the space below write out 1 Corinthians 9:22. How does this verse shape our understanding of relating to our culture?

Acts 8:26-40 “Contextualize the Gospel”

Hook:

Contextualize simply means to take a word or an idea and place it in context. Sounds easy enough. However, when it comes to contextualizing the gospel it can get a little complicated. Some people will try so hard to contextualize that gospel that it is no longer the gospel. They change words, thoughts, and ideas so much that the truth of the gospel is no longer present. Some people will hold tightly to one particulate method that was effective at one time, however, might not be as effective today. Take a moment to pray for God to give you greater understanding of the gospel and then ask Him to give you insight into these deep truths so that it would be best understood today.

Book:

As chapter 8 begins the gospel penetrates the culture in such a way the people have to respond. In verse 26 we see Philip move from one gospel opportunity to the next. Take a moment to read over 8:26-40 and write down some key observations that stand out to you in the passage.

Look:

1. How easy is it for you to have spiritual conversations with people? (Or why is it so hard to have spiritual conversations with people?)

2. In this passage what does God tell Philip to do?

3. In verse 26 Philip has an encounter with an angel that calls him to “get up and go”. Jesus makes this same call on the disciples at the end of Matthew when He calls them to “Go”. Do you see this same call on the life of the believer? Is it different today than it was then? How do our jobs, school, and families relate to this?

4. In this story what do we know about the Ethiopian?

5. How does Philip use the normal course of events to start discussing spiritually things?

6. What is the significance of verse 35?

7. What can we learn from how Philip handled this conversation?

8. What are some observations we can make about people today that will give us insight into where they might be spiritually?

9. How does Philip respond to the Spirit in verse 30? What does Philip hear? What does Philip ask him? What is significant about Philip's interaction at this point?

10. In verse 35 Philip proclaims Jesus by answering the questions the man was asking. What kind of questions are people asking today? How does the gospel answer them?

Took: “Homework to be done throughout the week”

Read Acts 8:26-40 and list the characteristics of Phillips life.

How is Phillips style of evangelism similar to yours? How is it different?

Right now what is your greatest barrier to sharing your faith?

How can you get past that barrier?

What are some specific ways in which you can participate in contextualizing the gospel?

Who are some people you could partner with to focus on a specific area on campus?

Directional Verse: In the space below write out Acts 17:22-23. How does this verse shape our contextualizing the gospel?

Acts 9:1-16 “Redeeming People”

Hook:

Most of us come to church, go to small group, and experience mediocrity in our spiritual life. However, scripture seems to describe the new life as vibrant, intimate, and personal and it seems like there is a disconnection. Take a moment to ask God to give you a better understanding of what He is doing in creation and how you can be involved in that. Ask Him to show how your purpose aligns with His eternal purpose.

Book:

In chapter 9 we see the conversion of one of the most controversial people in scripture. Take a moment to read over Acts 9:1-16 and write down some of the key observations that stand out to you.

Look:

1. As chapter 9 begins how does it describe Saul’s attitude at this point? What do we know from scripture that will give us more background on Saul? What if your only exposure to Paul was what we have discussed in Acts? What would he be like today?

2. What do you think Saul was thinking in verse 5 when he is answered, "I am Jesus"?

3. In verse 5 God tells Saul to go into the city and there you will be told what to do. Why do you think God does this?

4. If you were Ananias what would you be thinking?

5. How does God respond to Ananias?

6. What was your conversion like compared to Saul's?

7. In verse 15 Jesus tells Ananias that Saul is a “chosen instrument of mine.” Do you see yourself as a chosen instrument? Why?

8. This week how can you practically apply these verses?

Took: “Homework to be done throughout the week”

Read Acts 9:1-16 and list the characteristics of Ananias. What is this man like?

How is this similar to how God responded to Philip in Acts 8?

What can we learn from Paul’s conversion and begin applying to our lives today?

Where is your Straight Street- the place where it is difficult to obey the Lord?

What do you feel like the Lord is calling you to do and haven't done yet? What makes this place so difficult for you?

Directional Verse: In the space below write out Ephesians 2:4-7. How does this verse shape our understanding of how God redeems lives?

Acts 9:19-31 “Responding to the Gospel”

Hook:

When there are so many things for us to get done. Graduate college, get married, excel in our profession, have kids, raise kids, invest in retirement, and vacations it is easy to not sense any urgency for the gospel. Take a moment to ask God to help you see what He sees. To show you what He is doing in a personal way and to see, in tangible ways, why the gospel is an eternal message.

Book:

In chapter 9 we see the conversion of one of the most controversial people in scripture and we also see not only Saul’s eternal soul redeemed for God’s glory but we also see Saul’s eternal story about to begin. Take a moment to read over Acts 9:19-31 and write down any key observations.

Look:

1. Have someone read Acts 9:19-22. What is happening in these verses?

2. In verse 19 we see Saul immediately begin to proclaim Jesus. Generally in our culture today, before someone proclaims Jesus, we want them to read some books, go through some classes, and get training before they proclaim Jesus. Is this good? What are the strengths of this model? What are the weaknesses of this model?

3. Have someone read Acts 9:22-31. How do the Jews respond to Saul?

4. How do the disciples respond? Why?

5. From this passage what do we learn about Barnabas?

6. Saul had at one time an overwhelming sense of responsibility and urgency to extinguish Christianity from the face of the earth. It is this same sense of responsibility that carries over to his attitude toward the gospel. People were afraid of him, the disciples were afraid, and others plotted to kill him, yet he proclaimed Jesus. What stops us from responding that way today? Have we not met the same Jesus?

Took: “Homework to be done throughout the week”

Read Acts 9:19-31 and list all of the characteristics of Saul and Barnabas.

Which of these characteristics do you want to see more of in your life?

Directional Verse: In the space below write out Matthew 28:19. How does this verse shape how we should respond to the gospel?

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