

1. What clues do we find in Act 1:1 to help us identify the author of Acts?
2. The author makes it clear that Jesus gives further instructions to his chosen apostles through the Holy Spirit. Why is this point so important?
3. Why do you think Jesus spoke to his apostles about the “Kingdom of God” during the days following his resurrection?
4. Why was it so important that Jesus prove to the apostles he was alive?
5. What important command did Jesus give to his apostles in the opening few verses?
6. What contrast does Jesus make in Acts 1:5 and why is it so important?
7. We find some prophecies in the section titled The Ascension of Jesus. Identify them and discuss their importance.
8. Why did the apostles continue to ask Jesus if he would free Israel?
9. What vital truths about the baptism in the Holy Spirit do we find in Acts 1:8?
10. What role does Jesus describe the Holy Spirit playing in our lives?
11. Jesus has just ascended into heaven; please identify a few of the apostles’ next actions.
12. Why was it important for the apostles to replace Judas Iscariot with another apostle?

Acts Chapter 2 Discussion Questions

Joanne Guertsky

1. What is the significance of the “sound like the roaring of a mighty windstorm” and “what looked like flames or tongues of fire” (Acts 2:2-3)? Did these appear again in Acts when people were baptized in the Holy Spirit? (For example, compare Acts 2:2-3 with Acts 10:44-46)
2. What ability did the Holy Spirit give the believers when they were filled with the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:4) Did this happen again in Acts? (e.g., see Acts 10:44-46)
3. How did Peter respond when the believers were ridiculed? (Acts 2:13-40) How does that compare with Peter’s response in Matthew 10:69-74? What made the difference?
4. What were the main points of Peter’s message to the crowd? (Acts 2:14-40) What can we learn from the way he spoke to the people?
5. What books did Peter quote from? (e.g., Acts 2:17-21, 25-28, 34-35). Is the Old Testament relevant today? (Should we study the Old Testament?) Why or why not?
6. What was the first thing Peter told the people to do? Why?
7. Peter had denied Jesus three times, yet the Lord used him to speak to the crowd on the day of Pentecost. What happened between Peter’s denial and Pentecost? What does that tell us today?
8. Joel predicted that God would pour out His Spirit (Joel 2:28-32). What were the signs that Joel predicted would be evidence of that pouring out? Do those signs occur today?
9. Who is eligible to receive the pouring out of, or Baptism in the Holy Spirit? How can we know?
10. Can everyone be saved? (See also Joel 2:32 and Romans 10:13-15)
11. What did the believers devote themselves to? How can we follow their example?
12. How did the Holy Spirit impact the believers’ use of possessions? What can we learn from their example?

Verses 1 and 2: Peter and John went to the Temple for a prayer service, a daily occurrence. The lame man was carried to the Temple gate just like he was every other day.

1. Have you ever seen the miraculous in the midst of everyday activities?
2. Have you ever looked for the miraculous, or is just church as usual?

Verses 3-8: The lame man asked Peter and John for help, expecting money. They didn't have any silver or gold so they gave him what they had, the Name of Jesus, and he was healed.

3. Did you ever not get what you expected, but instead got something much better?
4. Have you considered that what you have could have the same effect on someone as what Peter and John had for the lame man?

Verses 9-16: All of the people were absolutely astounded when they saw that the lame man was healed. Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd explaining how faith in the name of Jesus had healed the lame man.

5. Do you remember a time when God set the stage for someone to witness to others about Him?
6. What does having faith in the name of Jesus mean? Is it faith for healing, faith for salvation or something else?

Verses 17-23: Peter tells the people to repent of their sins so that their sins might be wiped away and times of refreshment would come the presence of the Lord.

7. How would you define repentance to someone outside of the church?
8. What are times of refreshing? Have you ever experienced them?

Verses 24-26: Peter explains that his listeners were included in the covenant that God promised to their ancestors and that they would be blessed when they turned back from their sinful ways.

9. How are we blessed by turning from our sinful ways?
10. What are examples of this kind of blessing?

Acts 4

Nicole Strange

1. In Acts 4:1-4 it lists the priests, the captain of the temple guard, and the Sadducees present to hear Peter and John's teachings in addition to the people gathered. These leaders had Peter and John arrested, and thrown in jail for their teachings, why? What specific teaching did these religious leaders object to?
2. In Acts 4:5-12 it relays the story of Peter and John being questioned by the religious leaders. Read Psalm 118:22 and then describe Peter's defense of their teachings about Jesus.
3. Read Luke 22:54-62 and Acts 4:8-14 then compare the Peter we see in Luke's story, and the Peter who we see in Acts 4. How is Peter different in each of these stories? What makes Peter so different in Acts 4 from the actions you see of him in Luke 22? How would the people in the stories of Luke 22 and Acts 4 describe Peter? List 2 things that the religious leaders said they could see in Peter and John.
4. Acts 4:8 says that Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit today? How are we changed when we are filled with the Holy Spirit? Have you been filled with the Holy Spirit? And if not, would you like to pray to receive the Holy Spirit? You can pray on your own at home, or you can also ask a youth leader/pastor or leader in your church to pray with you to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
5. What left the Sanhedrin speechless and why?
6. Read Acts 4:15-20 The Sanhedrin commanded Peter and John not to teach in the name of Jesus ever again, but in verses 19 and 20 Peter clearly says that they will continue to teach in the name of Jesus and directly disobey the Sanhedrin. Many times, in the Bible we are told to obey those in authority over us (for example Ephesians 5 and 6). Is Peter violating a biblical principle of obedience/submission to authority here? Why or why not? At any point, was Peter disrespectful in the way he addressed the religious leadership even though he did not agree with them?
7. According to Acts 4:23-31 how did the other believers respond when Peter and John reported all that had happened to them with the Sanhedrin? What did they believers ask God for specifically (3 things)? What was God's response to their prayers?
8. Why do you think the believers asked God for boldness and for Him to perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of Jesus? What affect do signs and miracles have on believers and nonbelievers?
9. Read Acts 4:32-37. Why were there no needy people among the believers? What biblical principle do we see in action in this passage? How can we develop this same heart attitude in our lives?

Acts Chapter 5 –

I'm not sure how reading about Annanias and Sapphira hits you, but I find my greatest lesson in how I react to their story! I sometimes panic as soon as I hear it, "Oh no! What lies have I told lately? Oh no! Did I try to or even maybe accidentally shortchange my tithe or offering? I don't want to be struck by lightning!" This is not the entire point of verses 1-11! Rather the Holy Spirit will always prick us and give us a chance to come clean. And doing so will lead to life but looking Him in the eye and continuing our sin will only lead to death.

Both Annanias and Sapphira were questioned, "Is this the correct amount?". That was the Holy Spirit allowing for truth and life before death. I'm certain you have all had a parent or teacher ask you, "Are you sure you cleaned your room properly? Are you sure the dog ate your homework? Are you sure...fill in the blank?". This is not just a question of accusation, it's a question desiring to see you choose to tell the truth and in turn revive life in yourself and those who witness you doing right after all. Continuing to cover our sin isn't fooling anyone and only causes instant death of trust, relationships and even what God would like to do in and for you. It is scary to hear the question, "Are you sure..." because we know a consequence is coming, however next time, rejoice when it is asked of you! This is an opportunity to choose whether you will need to only re-clean your room and be grounded for a week or have the added burden of spiritual death. "Are you sure..." is a gift so receive it (although let's aim to not need the second chance in the first place)!

Next, we read about the disciples and the church as they enthusiastically shared the Holy Spirit through signs and wonders! Diseases disappeared, handicaps were healed, relationships restored...who wouldn't want to have a town full of joy and health? But the chief priest did not like sharing the control. He was blinded to the fact that God was in control not the disciples and he took their obedience to the Holy Spirit as rebellion to him. And into jail they went! Often the lesson we take away from this portion of Acts is to obey God no matter our circumstances and this is a true lesson. But let's look at the chief priest and the Sadducees. They were not filled with the Holy Spirit, they understood the formalities of a religious life but they were missing conviction and relationship. This led to them being threatened by the very thing they themselves were trying hardest to live up to! Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through you like the disciples? Or are you trying so hard to "get it right" that you are missing the real meaning and power of knowing Christ? Are you blind to growth because you are jealous or threatened by what you perceive of others around you – they are smarter, funnier, more athletic? Do not focus on what YOU can do, focus on who Christ has made you. Then you will live like the bold disciples who didn't miss a beat when a real threat came their way and even a miracle was performed for them by the Holy Spirit, he broke them out of jail! The alternative is always feeling threatened by people or circumstances that are not actually a threat.

A relationship with the Holy Spirit not only gives us power to see enormous miracles through healings and jailbreaks, but it also is a still, small, voice that asks, "Are you sure...?" because God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit want nothing more for us than a fruitful and favorable life.

Bible Quiz Discussion Questions

Acts Chapter 6

1. Acts 6:1. Read 1st Corinthians 6:1-9. What does it say about having disputes with fellow believers? As you read Acts 6, bear in mind how the Apostles handled their situation of “rumblings of discontent” wisely.
2. Acts 6:1. Read James 1:27. Understand what James says about the necessity of caring for widows to realize why the Apostles’ situation was so important.
3. Acts 6:2. Pay attention to the Apostles’ words: “We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program.” Do you think this verse is advocating for a hierarchy of services in the Kingdom of God? Does God think certain deeds are better than others? What do you think is the intent of the Apostles?
4. Acts 6:3. Read Exodus 18. How does this example relate to the Apostles’ situation in Acts 6? What does this teach us about the process of delegation? Read Acts 6:7 for a hint.
5. Acts 6:3. Abraham Lincoln once said, “Whether it be true or not, I can say for one that I have no other desire so great as that of being truly esteemed of my fellow men, by rendering myself worthy of their esteem.” How does this contrast with a leader who just wants to be well liked? What are the criteria for selecting the “seven men”? What does it mean to be “well respected”?
6. Acts 6:3-4. Notice how the Apostles solved the problem in their sphere of obligation first and then went on to fulfill their desire of “prayer and teaching the word.” What situations in your life first require your responsibility to solve a problem before you can do the things you want?
7. Acts 6:5. What words does Luke use to describe Stephen? What would it mean for your life to be described in similar terms?
8. Acts 6:11-14. Notice how Stephen has done nothing wrong and yet is being blasphemed against. This is the life of a Christian and learning to bear with integrity words of slander. Reflect on the words of Mother Teresa:

“People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies.

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you.

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight.

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.

Give the best you've got anyway.

You see, **in the final analysis it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway.”**

9. Acts 6:15. Read 2nd Corinthians 3:13-18. Understand the context is talking about Moses' face becoming radiant with the light of God. The same thing is happening to Stephen here. Consider the spiritual ramifications of this verse 18 for your own life.

Study Questions

As the church started to grow, what happened and how did church leadership address the issue? How can good leadership affect the growth and direction of the church?

Acts 6:3 says seven men, full of the Spirit and wisdom, were selected to be over the feeding program for the church community. One of those was Stephen. You can see the depth of Stephen's relationship with the Lord in Acts 6:8 as he performs signs and miracles through the Holy Spirit as he ministers in his community. In reading chapter seven, how does Stephen's life challenge you in your depth of relationship with God, knowledge of Scripture, and what is necessary for your own leadership? Do you need further understanding of more texts of Scripture? Have you been praying to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Have you been asking the Lord for wisdom or boldness? Keep praying for the things that you need.

The Synagogue of Freed Slaves find men to accuse Stephen to the high council of blaspheming Moses, God, the law, and the temple. Why? How do their accusations contrast with Stephen's face as it becomes like an angel's with the glory of God?

Stephen chooses not to defend himself, instead proclaiming to those listening God's redemption story of Israel and their rejection of the Messiah. According to Acts 1:8, what power is evident in the life of those who are filled with the Holy Spirit? What do they do? What did Stephen do in Acts chapter 7?

Read Luke 12:4-12. How do you see these verses play out as Stephen begins to give his speech in Acts 7?

As Stephen speaks, why does he go through many of the life stories of the heroes of faith? Why do their stories matter in his explanation of Jewish history and the rejection of the Lord's prophets?

Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, and others all had encounters with the living God. Who is the other person in Scripture whose face shone? How do you compare his life with the life of Stephen?

Stephen proclaims, "You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That's what your ancestors did, and so do you! Name one prophet your ancestors didn't persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One—the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered. You deliberately disobeyed God's law, even though you received it from the hands of angels." As the men lay their coats at the feet of Paul and began to stone Stephen, what do you think Paul was thinking? What does Acts 8:1 say? Do you think that Paul remembered what Stephen said when Jesus asked Paul why he was persecuting the Lord in Acts 9:4?

The beginning of Acts 7 starts with Stephen saying, "Our glorious God appeared to our ancestor," and it ends with the glory of God powerfully appearing to Stephen himself. Consider his vision in Acts 7:55-56. What does Stephen see? What is the significance of Jesus standing instead of being seated at the right hand of the Father?

What final thoughts do you have about the life and death of Stephen and his prayer for God to forgive those who martyred him? How is your faith challenged to be like him, standing for truth, righteousness, and love for the Lord above all else?

Biblical narratives are not written like novels or blogs. Biblical narratives include relatively few details and beg the reader to think about the surrounding story. As you study Acts 8, think about not just what is stated but also what is not specifically stated.

1. In Acts 1:8 Jesus commanded the disciples to go into all the world, but not until Acts 8 did they leave Jerusalem. Think about how persecution influenced their obedience to Jesus. Think about the significance of challenges and/or suffering in our own lives. Are there areas in your life where you are not obedient, and what might it take before you finally say yes to the Lord? Discuss the difference between God allowing suffering to take place as opposed to causing it and God's ability to bring good out of suffering. In church history, what is the impact of persecution on the growth of the church?
2. What kind of things happened at the revival in Samaria? Even in such a mighty move of God, note that it was not without problems. As we approach church life today, what should we pray for and expect? Most scholars believe that since Simon had already seen many supernatural things in the Samarian revival, it is most likely that what Simon saw and wanted to purchase was the gift of tongues. Think about why it was so wrong for Simon to want to purchase this. What implications might this have for ministry, motives, and money in our lives today?
3. Discuss the ministry of Philip including his quick rise from deacon to evangelist. Think about the excitement Phillip experienced in the revival at Samaria. What would it be like if God called you away from what seems to be great success to go to the unknown in the middle of nowhere? Is obedience easy? Leaving the multitude to go to the one, how is that for math?

Acts 9

Look at verses 5 and 10. Both verses address God with the four-letter word “lord”. However, in verse 5, the “L” is lower case and in verse 10, the “L” is capitalized.

Use your Bible – probably on your phone or BibleGateway – to look up Acts 9:5 and 9:10 in the NIV.

1. Is the observation above still true in the NIV?
2. Why do you think it's different in the NIV translation versus in the NLT translation? Look at the context of each of the verses.

Look up Exodus chapters 3 and 4 to read about a man who had a similar encounter with God.

Moses also had a conversation with God who spoke through a bright light – in the form of a burning bush.

3. Compare and contrast the conversations each man had with God.

Oftentimes, we associate Moses with being an obedient servant who saw the bush and then went and did God's bidding. But if you look in the Scripture, it took two whole chapters for Moses to accept his task. Conversely, we associate Saul with being the persecutor turned preacher who had to be convinced supernaturally to do God's bidding.

4. What significance is there to diving deeper into each man's encounter with God? What impact should it have on our faith that Moses was the one who needed a whole conversation in order to be obedient and Saul simply listened to the instruction of go and wait in order to be obedient?

Obedience to God often goes above and beyond what we as human beings can understand or comprehend in a given moment. Ananias was given the ultimate directive from God.

5. Discuss how much obedience Ananias had to muster up to go and lay his hands on Saul!

He even tried to get out of it (verse 13) with an excuse. Or maybe it was a justification. What's the difference?

6. Look up Webster's definition of “excuse” and “justification”. How are these two terms similar? How are they different? Once you discuss, choose the term you best think fills in the blank below:
“Ananias had a good _____ (excuse / justification) for trying to get out of what God had asked him to do.”
7. Does God actually care if our excuse – or our justification – is a ‘good’ one when it comes to obeying Him?

Verse 22 says that Saul had *proofs* that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. Proofs. Plural!

8. What do you think these proofs were? He had only one personal encounter so where did the other proofs come from?

Verses 20 – 30 describe Saul’s initial tries to convert people to believe in God as difficult and hostile. Verse 21 says “all who heard him were amazed.” It would be reasonable to say that believers and non-believers were part of this “all”.

9. Would you struggle to listen to the message Saul was now spreading if you knew his history? Think of a personal experience where someone in your life was convinced something was true. Then by the next time you spoke to that person, they were trying to convince you of the complete opposite of their original position. Don’t you think you’d have a hard time believing where your friend stood on that topic?

Read Acts 1:8. Then read Acts 9:31.

10. Describe how Jesus’s final earthly words (that we are aware of) are being fulfilled in chapter 9.

Peter healed a man, Aeneas, and raised a woman from the dead, Dorcas. As a result of both, “[people] turned to the Lord” (verse 35) and “many believed in the Lord” (verse 41).

11. Why do you think Peter had a seemingly easier time turning people to the Lord than this chapter alludes that Saul did?

Fill in the table below to help sort your thoughts before coming to a conclusion for #12:

12. Which was more impactful? Peter’s reputation? Saul’s reputation? Peter’s grand actions? Saul’s grand actions?

	Peter	Saul
Reputation		
Grand Actions		

13. Which would be the most impactful for you personally?

14. Which would be the most impactful in today’s day and age?

15. Which was probably more impactful back in Biblical times?

16. If your answer to #14 and #15 are different, why do you think that is?

Acts 10 - Shreya Joy

1. In verse 5, an angel of God tells Cornelius to send men to Joppa to summon Simon Peter. In verses 19-20, the Holy Spirit tells Peter to go and welcome the men sent by Cornelius and to go with them. In both instances, Cornelius and Peter obey what God tells them to do.
 - In our life is there something that God is calling/telling us to do? Are we hesitant about it or are we wholeheartedly obeying Him? If we are hesitant, what is holding us back (ex: our own fears, our own agendas for our life, etc.)? And how can we overcome them to follow God's plan for our life?
2. As Christians, prayer is an important part of our spiritual life. Verse 2 says that Cornelius "prayed regularly", and verse 9 also mentions Peter praying.
 - What is the importance of prayer in our own personal life? How often do we pray? Do we take time each day to talk to God in prayer, or do we tend to put it aside and forget about it? How can we make prayer a daily habit?
3. Verses 9-16 : In verse 15, the voice in Peter's vision tells him that he should not call something unclean if God has made it clean. The context of this is that originally the whole revelation of God and His plan for salvation was offered to the Jews (Romans 3:2), but because the Jews would not accept Christ (John 1:11-12; Romans 11:15), this gift was extended to everyone who believes and accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The meaning of this vision was that God was telling Peter that he would also be preaching to the Gentiles, not just the Jews, and that the Gentiles are also included in God's plan for salvation.
 - Why is it important that God offers salvation to the Gentiles as well as the Jews?
 - How can we relate this to our own life?
 - Do we look at others and assume that they can never accept Jesus as their Savior because their life is too sinful? Do we sometimes avoid telling others about Christ because we judge too quickly thinking that they will never accept the Good News? What are ways we can overcome this?
 - God does not show favoritism (Acts 10:34). Why is that important for us?
4. Verse 38 mentions that Jesus, while He lived on this earth, healed those who were oppressed by the devil. Even today we see people around us oppressed by the devil, whether it be through addiction (to their phones, video games, social media, etc.), depression, drugs/alcohol, ungodly friendships/relationships, lust, etc.
 - What are other common traps the devil sets for people today?
 - First, we should ask ourselves if we are trapped in any of these things (or any other things that we know are from the devil)? If so, have we taken time to pray for ourselves? Whoever the Son sets free is truly free (John 8:36) and Jesus came to this world to give us life to its abundance (John 10:10). So if we sincerely ask the Lord to set us free from our sinful practices and truly repent of

our sin, He will surely help us overcome the devil's temptation and will help us be victorious over our sins.

- Second, do we know friends, family members, classmates who struggle with such things? If so, do we earnestly pray for them that they should come to know about Jesus Christ and come out of their sinful practices and to receive the peace that Christ offers? Why is it important to pray for others too?

5. In verse 44, the gift of the Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius and the other Gentiles with him. And then in verse 48, Peter orders them to be baptized in water. Both water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are very important and essential in Christian life (John 3:3) Water baptism symbolizes that we are dying to our old sinful nature and are coming out as a new creation in Christ. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is important because the Holy Spirit empowers us to tell others about Christ, gives us knowledge and wisdom, strengthens us in our weakness, guides us into truth, convicts us, and does so many more things for us!

- What role do you think water baptism and the baptism in the Holy Spirit play in a believer's life?
- As one who accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and who has repented of their sins, have you already received water baptism? Do you earnestly ask God to be filled with the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do for you (ex: strengthen you, instruct you, etc.)?
- Take a moment to read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. Pray earnestly and ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit and to give you the strength to do His work.

1. In the section titled Peter Explains His Actions, Peter restates what happened at Cornelius' house. Why give this information twice?
2. In verse 16, Peter says he thought of the Lord's words, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit". How do these events fulfill this?
3. Through Peter's actions, the Gentiles were given the privilege of repenting of their sins and receiving eternal life. Why is this such a big deal to the Jewish believers in Jerusalem?
4. In the section titled The Church in Antioch of Syria, Jews in various locations heard the word of God. How did this come about?
5. Gentiles in Antioch also heard the Gospel, and many believed. How did the church in Jerusalem respond when they heard that more Gentiles had come to faith in Jesus?
6. What did Barnabas see and do in Antioch?
7. Who did Barnabas bring to Antioch to help him preach, and why was this significant?
8. Why do you think the believers were first called Christians in Antioch?
9. When the Prophet Agabus predicted a great famine, how did the believers in Antioch respond?
10. How does their response to the prophecy apply to us today? Is prophecy still seen in the church?

1. In the section titled James is Killed and Peter is Imprisoned, James is put to death by Herod and Peter is imprisoned. Why did Herod do this?
2. When Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him. What do you think they asked for in prayer?
3. In the section titled Peter's Miraculous Escape From Prison, an angel led Peter out of prison. At first, he thought that he was having a vision. How do you think he felt when he realized it was actually happening?
4. Do you think that Peter would have escaped if church had not been praying? Why or why not?
5. When Rhoda heard Peter at the door, she was so excited that she forgot to open the door and ran to tell the everyone. Has anything like that ever happened to you?
6. When Rhoda told the church that Peter was at the door, they did not believe her. Why not if they had been praying for him?
7. When Rhoda insisted it was Peter, the church said "it must be his angel" Why would that be their conclusion? Why couldn't they believe that Peter was alive and at the door?
8. What does this teach us about prayer and answers to prayer?
9. In the section titled The Death of Herod Agrippa, the people of Tyre and Sidon said that Herod had the "voice of a god, not of a man" why would they say that? Do you think that they actually believed that Herod was a god?
10. Why did the angel of the Lord strike Herod down instantly?

1. Throughout your life, where have you seen the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Describe the situation and your encounter during this time. Compare the role of the Holy Spirit in Acts 13:1-4 to that of Acts 16:6. How does Proverbs 3:5,6 fit into this picture?
2. Acts 13 contains the events of the first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas. Describe a missions journey that you have taken and how God used you to share Jesus. If you have not been on a missions trip, where might you sense God calling you to go?
3. In Acts 13:9 we are told Paul was filled with the Holy Ghost. What difference did this make for him as he encountered Elymas the sorcerer? Where in your life have you experienced the boldness and authority that comes from the Holy Ghost?
4. Beyond the guidance of the Holy Ghost, what does Paul's speech in Acts 13:15-41 say about Paul's preparation for ministry? How did he know this history and did it matter? How did he connect Jewish history (Old Testament) to Jesus (36-38)?
5. The gospel was declared by Paul to the Jews, but he also declared salvation is also for the Gentiles or to those who fear God. How is this good news for us today? (Vs. 26 and 46 and 47)
6. In his sermon Paul said that Jesus was condemned by the Jews and the rulers even though he had not done anything wrong. They even crucified him on a cross. How have you experienced unfair things in your life for your faith?
7. In the midst of despair, even death on the cross, it seemed as if Jesus had been defeated and then Paul declares, "But God raised him from the dead." (30) Where do you need to experience the resurrection power of God in your life? Where do you need to see victory when it seems all is lost?
8. Paul declared in vs. 38 and 39 that Jesus is the means of salvation and the forgiveness of sins and provides justification to appease God's wrath. How have you tried to justify your actions that dishonor God? What are some of the ways the world tries to substitute Jesus as the Saviour for them?
9. When you declare good news to people, there are varying reactions by individuals and groups. How did people react to Paul's message? (43, 46, 49, 50) How have people responded to your church or to you individually when you have shared the salvation message about Jesus?
10. When people mistreat you for your faith, it is tempting to attack them and try to get even. What were the responses of Paul and Barnabas to such treatment? (51,52) How can you practice this in your response to those who mistreat or persecute you?

1. In the section titled Paul and Barnabas in Iconium, they preached to the Jews and to the Greeks. How did God validate that what they were saying was true?
2. Does God still do signs and miracles that show that the Gospel is true? Can you think of any examples?
3. Why were the Jews so violent when they disagreed with what Paul and Barnabas were preaching? What did they say that prompted the Jews to want to stone them?
4. In the section titled Paul and Barnabas in Lystra and Derbe, a crippled man heard Paul preach and Paul realized that this man had faith to be healed. Where did that faith come from?
5. What do you think Paul was preaching?
6. When the people saw that the crippled man was healed, they decided that Barnabas was the god Zeus, and Paul was the Hermes. How does this compare with the people calling Herod a god in Acts 12:22? What was similar and what was different?
7. How did Paul and Barnabas respond when they found out that the people wanted to offer sacrifices to them?
8. How do you think the people responded to Paul's answer to them? Do you think that any of them became believers in Jesus?
9. After this, the Jews stoned Paul and left him for dead. The believers gathered around him and Paul got up. What else do you think happened at that time?
10. In the section titled Paul and Barnabas Return to Antioch, they returned to places they had ministered in before. They appointed elders in every church. Do you think that the elders were ready to care for these churches? Why or why not?

Acts Chapter 15 Discussion Questions

Acts chapter 15 contains the accounts of two conflicts, and how they were resolved. The first conflict (Acts 15:1-35) had to do with church doctrine, while the second conflict (Acts 15:36-41) was a personal one between Paul and Barnabas.

1. The men from Judea held to a very traditional point of view regarding what was needed for salvation (v1). Were they wrong in holding to this? Are there people in the church today who hold to very traditional points of view?
2. Why did the church at Antioch of Syria send Paul and Barnabas, and other delegates to Jerusalem? Is this same process still used today by local churches to address matters that arise internally?
3. Just as in Jerusalem where there were believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees who strongly voiced their opinions, aren't there differences among believers in the church today who hold different opinions based on their backgrounds and previous life experiences? How best can the church meld people of different backgrounds into one unified body?
4. At the meeting in Jerusalem, first Peter, then Paul and Barnabas, and finally James addressed the church, and "Everyone listened quietly" (v12). How important is maintaining order, and having people willing to listen, to resolving conflict within the church?
5. The solution which James suggested in verses 19-21 seems to have removed the major restrictions upon the Gentiles being saved, while keeping some other requirements. Was this a compromise solution? Why were the restrictions listed still kept?
6. According to the letter from the church at Jerusalem to the church at Antioch, Judas and Silas were sent to "confirm what we have decided concerning your question" (v27). Does this show a lack of trust in Paul and Barnabas to communicate the message? How important is confirmation by others?
7. Paul and Barnabas had been a tremendous ministry team, and had agreed on their next course of action. What caused the conflict that led to their separation? Were either of them right or wrong in their point of view? Did they fail to resolve their conflict? As believers, should they have been able to work things out and continue ministering together?
8. Upon their separation, Paul and Barnabas chose different ministry partners and went their own ways. Did they continue to minister? Is it possible that more churches and believers were helped due to their separation than if they had remained a team? Was this an example of "multiplication through division," and was their conflict eventually a good thing?

Acts 16 Discussion Questions

Dave Dangerfield

16:1 tells us that Timothy's mother was a believer. How important is it to have at least one parent that is a believer?

16:5 tells us that the churches strengthened by Paul & Timothy grew larger every day. Why do you think many of our churches today don't seem to be growing larger?

Read 16:6-10. We read that Paul & his group were prevented by the Holy Spirit & the Spirit of Jesus from entering certain areas. Why do you think this happened?

How many times do we plan to do "good" things but God has other plans and we still do what we planned?

Why do you think Paul became "exasperated" at hearing the demon-possessed girl declare they were servants of God come to show the people how to be saved?

Read 16:23-25. Paul & Silas were severely beaten & put in prison yet they still vocally prayed and worshipped. Why do you think we struggle to pray & worship in the good times?

What is your response after being "beaten" down because of your faith?

Read 16:25-26. There is something about the power of worship. How have you seen God move or act when either you or a group of believers began to worship?

Read 16:31-34. The jailer & his whole household came to know Jesus and were baptized. What does this show us about the head of the household coming to Jesus first?

Acts 17 - Josh Gallo

In Acts 16:16-40, we see Paul and Silas were arrested, thrown into prison, and miraculously released, all before going to Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9).

1. How do you think Paul and Silas felt about preaching the Gospel at Thessalonica?
2. Do you think there was anything they were looking forward to about preaching in a different city?
3. When they heard Jason's home was searched by the Jews, do you think they wanted to quit?

In Acts 17:10-15, we see Paul and Silas head towards Berea, where the people there were more open to hearing them preach

1. Would they have been relieved to see people willing to listen to the Gospel? How?
2. We also see the Bereans fact-checking Paul and Silas as they preached (vs. 11). Should we do the same as we hear people today preach the Gospel?
3. What importance is there in preaching the truth of God's Word?

In Acts 17:16-34, we see Paul preaching in Athens (alone this time), speaking to philosophers and other educated people, and seeing many idols in the city.

1. Have you ever thought you're not smart enough to debate what the Bible says?
2. Does Paul seem worried about preaching to these educated people?
3. Paul was deeply troubled by the idols he saw throughout the city (vs. 16). What is an idol? What are some idols we see in our world today?
4. How should we go about dealing with idols in our lives?