



October 13	Gathering
October 20	Praying
October 27	Ministering
November 3.....	Giving
November 10.....	Serving
November 17.....	Evangelism
November 24.....	WKND United
December 1	Uniting
December 8	Sending
December 15.....	Multiplying
December 22.....	Christmas
December 29.....	Discipling





Pastor's Introduction

Acts 1:1-2 states, “I wrote the first narrative, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.” The Acts of the Apostles is part two in a two-part book written by Luke. The Gospel of Luke is the first narrative that he is referring to in these verses. In his Gospel, Luke recorded all the things that Jesus did during His ministry on the earth. It is all the things that “Jesus BEGAN to do.” The book of Acts includes all the things that Jesus CONTINUED to do through His church that is birthed on the day of Pentecost. Acts records the ways in which the Holy Spirit guided the church to serve the Lord and spread the gospel to the ends of the earth.

As we dive into the book of Acts, we will examine it in two parts: “The Church Gathered” and “The Church Scattered.” Each half of this series will be comprised of ten sermons. During “The Church Gathered” we will learn about what the Holy Spirit was calling the church to be and to do. During “The Church Scattered” we will highlight interactions of the early church as they spread the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, and the remotest parts of the earth. My prayer is that this series will challenge us to be the church that God desires for us to be and to answer the call to spread the good news. My prayer is that we will see what God CONTINUES to do in His church today.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed. TG



Participant Guide for October 13, 2024

Gathering

Acts 2:42-47

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. Has there ever been a time in your life when something happened that caused you to have a sense of joy no matter how bad things around you were going?
2. What was going on in the days before today's focal passage that brought such a feeling of elated expectation and anticipation?
3. Read Acts 2:1-13. What happened next was a reversal of what occurred at the tower of Babel. What happened, and how did God miraculously set a course for the beginning of what would be the birth of Christ's church and the movement we now know as Christianity?
4. Don't miss verse 41: How does this continue to manifest itself in cultures around the world today who have access to the Gospel?
5. Read verses 41-47: How did hearing and receiving this message make them respond?
6. What has the Good News of the Gospel changed your life? Do your lives and words reflect the change that was realized by those who accepted the message at Pentecost that day?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated?**

- ◆ This week, dedicate time to prayer. Ask God to search your heart and show you it's true state. If you find areas that need improvement, confess your sins and turn away from them. If you haven't already accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, do so now, following God's guidance. Then, surrender your life to Him and live a courageous life that is centered on the Gospel.



Participant Guide October 20, 2024

Praying

Acts 4:23-31

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. How do different cultures or religions approach prayer? Have you ever been exposed to different prayer practices? How would you compare the prayer practices of other religions you've been exposed to compared to Christianity in America?
2. What language do the disciples use in verse 24 to describe God? How does this language reflect their understanding of God's sovereignty and power?
3. Why do the disciples quote Psalm 2:1-2 in their prayer? How does this Psalm connect to their own experience of persecution and their witness to the gospel?
4. Can you describe a specific prayer you have offered recently? Did your prayer include both God's glory and your own needs? How did you balance these two aspects of your prayer?
5. What are some specific methods you use to direct your prayers? How do these methods help you to focus on God and express your needs in a meaningful way?
6. What advice would you give someone who's struggling with their prayer life? Is there anyone in your life that helps hold you accountable?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Choose a theme for the week (e.g., gratitude, forgiveness, healing) and focus your prayers on that topic.

■ ■ ■TG



Participant Guide for October 27, 2024

Ministering

Acts 4:32-37

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. Has there ever been a time when you could contribute toward the needs of another person or family? What feelings/emotions did generosity elicit?
2. Imagine a situation where you need help or support. How would you feel if your spiritual family stepped in to help? Would you feel grateful, relieved, loved, or something else? How might asking for help affect your pride?
3. Read verses 32-34: The early church was quickly placed in a situation where their community got much smaller as they were ostracized from those who did not follow Christ. In this passage, how did they reform their community to survive?
4. This new movement would soon be scattered to all parts of the known world. Why was this generosity development critical in spreading the Gospel?
5. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate this mindset of ministering to each other so that we can minister to others in the 21st-century church? What is the reason for your rating? How can we increase our effectiveness in this area?
6. What is the danger of ministering primarily to the body and not those outside of our walls?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ How can you and your family develop a healthy process of ministering both inside and outside the body?



Participant Guide for November 3, 2024

Giving

Acts 5

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. Share a personal experience where you witnessed or experienced dishonesty. How did it affect your trust and relationships?
2. Beyond the surface, what underlying motivations might have driven Ananias and Sapphira to deceive the community? What fears, desires, or insecurities might have influenced their actions?
3. Discuss the role of divine judgment in the story. Was the immediate punishment necessary, or could it have been handled differently? What does this event reveal about the early Christians' understanding of God's justice?
4. Read Matthew 6:1-4: What does Jesus say about giving? What does it mean to give "in secret" and "without fanfare"? How can we cultivate a genuine spirit of generosity that is free from worldly motivations?
5. What are the dangers of giving for show or to be seen by others. How can we avoid falling into this trap, and what are the consequences of doing so?
6. How can we balance the desire to give generously with the need to be responsible stewards of our resources? What practical steps can we take to ensure that our giving is both meaningful and sustainable?

Respond

→ Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?

- ◆ For this week, focus on cultivating gratitude and practicing acts of giving. Each day, take a moment to reflect on something you are grateful for, and then find a way to give back to someone or something in your community.



Participant Guide for November 10, 2024

Serving

Acts 6:1-7

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. Today's passage is about organization for the greater work. Discuss organizations you have been part of that have been disorganized and how that affected their goals.
2. As the church grew, how did the original organization affect the work of the church?
3. How did the Apostles address the issue that the Greeks had raised?
4. What did the leaders do to create buy-in for the entire body?
5. What did the new organization look like? What benefits did this propagate within the body?
6. Read verse 7: What were the results of this decision and organizational change? Do you think such conflict should be handled in the same manner in today's church? Why or why not?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Think about something you have perceived as a problem in your family, job, or church. What can you do to be a healthy part of the solution?

■ ■ ■ DW



Participant Guide for November 17, 2024

Evangelism

Acts 9

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. Encourage participants to share their recent experiences with evangelism, whether they have had a formal conversation or simply witnessed to someone through their actions. What have you learned from your recent evangelistic encounters? Have there been any unexpected challenges or successes? How can we create a supportive environment for discussing evangelism?
2. How does the Holy Spirit act as a catalyst in Saul's conversion and subsequent ministry? What specific actions or manifestations of the Holy Spirit do you observe?
3. Beyond filling Saul with the Holy Spirit, how does the Spirit equip him for his evangelistic mission? What specific gifts or abilities does the Spirit bestow upon him?
4. How does Saul's personal experience of the Holy Spirit serve as an internal confirmation of his conversion and calling? What role does the Spirit play in validating his spiritual journey?
5. Consider the story of Jonah. How do Paul and Jonah's callings from God compare? What are the key similarities and differences in their missions?
6. How can we share our personal testimonies in a way that is authentic and relatable to others? What elements make a testimony effective in connecting with people?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ This week, identify a specific goal related to evangelism that you can pursue this week. This could involve starting a conversation about faith with someone you know, sharing your testimony with a friend or family member, or volunteering at a local outreach ministry. What steps can you take to move closer to your goal?



Participant Guide for November 24, 2024

WKND United

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

Today's discussion will center around the WKND United message.

1. List the outline points.
2. Discuss what the Holy Spirit spoke to you about through the message.
3. What are some practical steps you can take to respond to the Spirit's prompting?



Apply

1. Outline Points:
2. Specific promptings of the Holy Spirit pertaining to your life:
3. Practical steps you can take to respond to the Spirit's prompting.”

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Pray about applying this process to the message every week. The key is not only learning what the Word of God says. The key to growing as a disciple is to respond to what He says.

■ ■ ■ DW



Participant Guide for December 1, 2024

Uniting

Acts 10-11

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. How does the encounter between Peter and Cornelius challenge the cultural and religious divisions that existed in the early church? What role does the Holy Spirit play in breaking down these barriers?
2. What arguments does Peter use to defend his actions and justify the inclusion of Gentiles into the church? How does he appeal to the authority of the Holy Spirit?
3. How did the early church navigate the cultural and religious divide between Jews and Gentiles? What specific actions or attitudes helped to promote unity?
4. How does the Bible celebrate diversity in a way that differs from our culture's often superficial understanding? What are some biblical examples of diversity being embraced and valued?
5. Why is unity within the Christian community essential for effective witness and spiritual growth? What are some real-world consequences of division within the church?
6. What are some of the biggest obstacles to unity in contemporary Christian communities? How can we apply the lessons from the early church to overcome these challenges and foster a more united and inclusive community?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ This week, consider how you can personally contribute to bridging cultural and religious divides within your own community. What specific steps can you take to promote understanding, respect, and unity among people of different backgrounds?



Participant Guide for December 8, 2024

Sending

Acts 13

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. In the context of mission work, what might be the difference between “going” and “being sent?”
2. Read verses 1-3: What was the Spirit’s role at the beginning of the mission era of the church? What was the participant’s role? What was the church’s role?
3. Does our church’s mission process follow this pattern? Are there any parts of our process that need to be adjusted?
4. It is often said that a measure of a church’s success is not its seating capacity but its sending capacity. What does this mean, and why is it critical to the success of the Great Commission?
5. What is your understanding of your responsibility to be sent? Have you ever prayed about the will of God regarding being sent out on mission?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Call our Mission Office this week to discuss your opportunities to be sent, and then pray and plan to go where the Spirit leads. You will never regret being obedient to the call.

■ ■ ■ DW



Participant Guide for December 15, 2024

Multiplying

Acts 14

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. Share a time when you've seen support or excitement for something start to multiply. It can be anything; an event, TV show, movie, etc. How did it grow and what factors fueled its growth?
2. Read 2 Tim 3:10–12: How does Paul's reflection on his past connect to the events in Acts 14? What lessons did he learn from his experiences?
3. What practical steps can we take to share the gospel effectively in our communities today, drawing inspiration from the model presented in Acts 14?
4. Despite facing opposition and persecution, Paul and Barnabas remained steadfast in their mission. Why was their perseverance crucial? How can we maintain our resolve in the face of challenges we may encounter today?
5. How can a church prioritize growth without compromising its core values and mission? In other words, how can we ensure that growth is a byproduct of spiritual health and faithfulness, rather than a primary goal in and of itself?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ This week, identify one specific way you can contribute to the growth of your church community. This could involve inviting a friend to church, volunteering for a ministry, or simply offering words of encouragement to a fellow member.



Participant Guide for December 22, 2024

Christmas

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Today's discussion will center around the Christmas message.

1. List the outline points.
2. Discuss what the Holy Spirit spoke to you about through the message.
3. What are some practical steps you can take to respond to the Spirit's prompting?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. Outline Points:
2. Specific promptings of the Holy Spirit pertaining to your life:
3. Practical steps you can take to respond to the Spirit's prompting.”

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Pray about applying this process to the message every week. The key is not only learning what the Word of God says. The key to growing as a disciple is to respond to what He says.

■ ■ ■ DW



Participant Guide for December 29, 2024

Discipling

Acts 16

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. Share a time when you've learned something new from someone else. How did this experience impact you? What are the pros and cons of mentorship learning versus the more modern classroom approach?
2. How does Acts 16 portray discipleship as a journey? What challenges and triumphs do Paul and Silas face? What lessons can we learn from their experiences about the ongoing nature of discipleship?
3. How does the establishment of a church in Philippi emphasize the importance of community in discipleship?
4. Reflect on your own discipleship journey. What challenges have you faced? How have you grown as a disciple during the past year?
5. How does Paul adapt his approach to the gospel in different cultural contexts (e.g., Philippi)? What principles can we apply to our own evangelistic efforts?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ This week, identify someone in your life who could benefit from spiritual guidance or encouragement and reach out to them.

■ ■ ■TG