



ACTS: LIVING ON MISSION

Acts 1:12-26

Week of July 2, 2023

Start at 9:45-9:55

Belong: *Use 5-10 minutes as an opportunity to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and to know the group members.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Choose two of the questions below:

- Ask about highs or lows that have happened since the last time you met.
- **Or, If you had to serve on a church committee (finance, personnel, operations, missions or nominations), which one would you choose? Why?**
- **Or, When you were growing up, how did you and your friends choose teams for games of kickball, tag, or other such games?**

How has God revealed Himself to you this week?

9:55-10:05

Believe: *Use 5-10 minutes to read this week's assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that helps you to understand the passage better. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

For the remainder of the year, we are going to look at the Book of Acts. The "Acts of the Apostles," is a unique book in the New Testament. Acts follows the 4 Gospels of Jesus Christ - Matthew, Mark, Luke & John - which give an account of Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection. Acts is also a continuation of the gospel of Luke...AND is written by the same author. The Acts of the Apostles introduces us to the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the conversion & ministry of Paul as well as the spread of the Gospel from Jerusalem...to Judea...to Samaria and then to the ends of the earth.

Have a group member read **Acts 1:12-26**. When we left Acts last week, Jesus had ascended into heaven. This week, we will discover what happened shortly after His ascension.

10:05-10:20

Build: *Use about 15 minutes to engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning.*

Where did the ascension of Jesus take place? **[vs. 12]**

- How did the apostles show that they were following Jesus' command? **[vs. 12-13]**

How did Peter take leadership of the early Christians after Jesus' ascension? **[vss. 15-17]**

Is there an action OR saying in this upper room meeting which sticks out in your mind the most? Why?

Was there a main qualification of those being considered to replace Judas? **[vss. 21-22a]**

- What were they?
- What do these qualifications tell us about the number of people who followed Jesus during His ministry? Was it just the 12?

How did they end up making the decision who was going to replace Judas? **[vs. 26]**

10:20–10:35/40

Become: *Use about 15 minutes to apply what you have read. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?*

In **Acts 1:15**, Peter stands up and leads Jesus' followers to replace Judas. Just a few weeks earlier, Peter had denied Jesus three times (**Luke 22:54–62**). Jesus even prophesied about Peter's denial of Him (**Matthew 16:18–19**).

- What can we learn about God's willingness to use Peter to lead the church?
- What can we learn about God's willingness to use you to make a difference in other people's lives?

This chapter ends with the apostles discerning God's will. What method does the Holy Spirit help us to discern God's will?

- Do you think it is wrong to cast lots, or flip a coin to determine God's will? **[Have someone read Proverbs 16:33 & Proverbs 18:18 aloud.]**
- What do these Scriptures mean?

Looking back on your life, how have you made decisions in your life?

- What is one way you can include God in all important decisions you make?
- How would your decisions change, if every decision you made was filtered through the mindset of "how does this advance God's kingdom?"

What approach does FBC use in making important decisions?

10:35/ 10:40 – Class ends at 10:45

Begin: *Use the last 5–10 minutes for prayer. It's important that we not only hear and discuss God's Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)*

**Do you see any of God's attributes in this week's passage that struck out to you?
How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?**

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
 - Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.
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Additional Resources:

Blue Letter Bible: Acts 1- Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: Acts 1- Check out the QR code to learn more.

