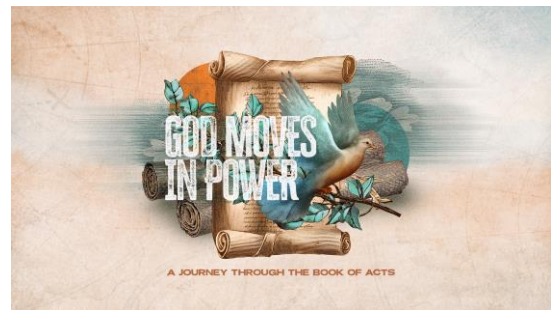




God Moves in Power: A Journey through the Book of Acts

Group Discussion Guide | July 26

Series overview and leader instructions

Overview

Our newest sermon series, “God Moves in Power,” is a journey through the book of Acts, where we witness the Holy Spirit at work through prayer, the gospel, the Church, and ordinary people. As we explore the story of the early church, we’ll discover that the same God who moved powerfully then is still moving today. This series will challenge and encourage us to live with bold faith, expectant prayer, and a willingness to join God’s ongoing mission in the world. The story of Acts is far from over and we’re invited to be a part of it.

Note: This series will be a thematic walk through the Book of Acts rather than a chapter by chapter or verse-by-verse study.

Bible Lab

Each week, in addition to sermon discussion questions, groups are invited to participate in “Bible Lab,” an interactive Scripture reading experience. Your group will read a different text each time you gather, but the questions you ask will be the same, inviting you to consider what you notice about God, humanity, and yourself in each passage. By providing the same questions each week, we hope to offer a Bible-reading strategy that puts the emphasis first on God and the church/others before drawing a personal application.

It could be tempting for your group to skip the Bible Lab, but we *strongly* encourage you to engage with it each week, allowing God’s Word to form your group and each person in it.

Reading Plan

We have created a reading plan to accompany this sermon series. You can find it here: [Acts Series Resources](#). You can download the reading plan or subscribe to receive the daily devotional guide each week, which contains the reading plan and reflection questions.

Consider committing to completing the reading plan as a group. Here are questions you can use (during your life group time, over a meal, or however you choose) to reflect on the reading plan each week:

- As you read, what resonated with you?
- What questions came up in your mind?
- What challenged you from God’s Word?

Opening reflection questions and Bible Project videos (25 minutes)

- The title of the Acts sermon series is “God Moves in Power.” When was a time you feel like you have seen God move in power in your own life? Explain.
- What are you hoping to get out of this series in Acts?

Since this week is an introduction to Acts, we’re going to watch two Bible Project videos that provide an overview of the entire book. (Click the links below to watch.)

***Note:** If you don’t have time to watch the videos during group, please share the links with your group to watch later. Each video is approximately 8 minutes long.*

- [Watch Acts 1-12.](#)
- [Watch Acts 13-28.](#)

Bible Lab (15 minutes)

All through the God Moves in Power series, we’ll be spending time each week in what we’re calling “Bible Lab.” Bible Lab consists of three “movements.” In the first movement, we will read the passage out loud, paying attention to what is happening in the passage. In the second movement, we’ll read it out loud again, noticing what it teaches about God, people, and ourselves. In the third movement, we will silently read the passage and share what next step the passage has for us.

***Note:** See the last page of this document for a guide you can provide to your group members if desired.*

Movement 1

*Invite everyone to turn to **Acts 1:1-11**.*

The first time through, we want to get an overview. As we listen, ask yourself:

- What is going on in this passage?
- What caught your attention?
- What questions arise as you listen?

Read Acts 1:1-11 out loud or invite someone else to do so. When you are finished, discuss your group’s answers to the questions above. Feel free to break into groups of 2–3.

Movement 2

The second time through, we want to consider what the passage reveals about God and His people. As we listen, ask yourself:

- What does this passage show you about God? The work of the Holy Spirit?
- What do these verses reveal to us about the body of Christ, the Church?

Read Acts 1:1-11 out loud or invite someone else to do so. When you are finished, discuss your group's answers to the questions above. Feel free to break into groups of 2-3.

Movement 3

Each of us will now take a few moments to read the passage silently to ourselves. As you read, prayerfully consider this question:

- Lord, what are You inviting me to believe, receive, or do in response to this passage?

Allow time for everyone to read and reflect. Then invite anyone who would like to share a brief response.

*When the time of sharing is done, pray a short prayer. You may use these words based on James 1:22 or something similar: **"Lord, thank You for this time in Your Word. May we not merely listen to the word and so deceive ourselves. May we do what it says. And may we encourage each other in that pursuit. Amen."***

Discussion of the sermon (15 minutes)

Dan outlined six things the book of Acts shows us:

- The continued work of Jesus in the world
 - The gift of the Holy Spirit
 - The birth of the church
 - The growth of the church
 - The power of the Gospel
 - How God uses ordinary people.
- Which one of these are you most excited to learn more about as we journey through the book of Acts? Why?

Dan pointed out how Luke creates specific parallels between the actions of Jesus in the book of Luke and the actions of the Apostles and other believers in the book of Acts, demonstrating how

followers of Jesus are called to continue to do what He did.

- How does this perspective shift or shape your view of the Christian life?

Acts 1:8 provides a “map” of the book of Acts as the apostles are commissioned to be Christ’s witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

- As Dan listed the ministries that The Creek supports in our own area, in our country, and around the world, were there any that stood out to you or that you’d like to learn more about?
- If you sense God calling you to get more involved in one of those areas, what is a next step you could take?

Dan shared that even though the ascension of Jesus, recounted in Acts 1:9-11, doesn’t get as much attention as His incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection, it has huge significance for us.

- What stood out to you from what Dan shared about the significance of the ascension of Jesus?

In case people need prompting, here’s a quick reminder:

What Jesus’ Ascension Means	What It Means for You
Completed His work	Your sins are fully paid
Enthroned as King	Your King is reigning in every crisis
Became High Priest	Your Advocate is praying for you right now
Sent the Holy Spirit	Your Helper lives inside you
Exalted His humanity	Your future resurrection body is guaranteed
Prepares a place	Your eternal home is secure
Promises to return	Your King is coming back to make all things new

- Is there anything else from this week’s sermon or Bible Lab that you want to share?

Upcoming events and prayer (5-10 minutes)

Let’s close our time of discussion in prayer, using the text we’ve been focusing on tonight to guide us. After that, I want to share some upcoming opportunities with you.

Pray Acts 1:1-2 – thanking Jesus for His death, burial, and resurrection

Pray Acts 1:8 – asking that you’d be God’s witnesses in God’s world

Pray Acts 1:9-11 – praising God that Jesus now reigns as King

Upcoming events

- **Life Group Prayer Experience:** Remember the prayer experience your group did in Rooted? Since church will be looking at how “God Moves in Power through Prayer” over the next few weeks, we’ve created another prayer experience for life groups to walk through together! (Guides will be emailed to life group leaders.) All you’ll need to do is designate a time and a place, gather your group, and utilize the guide.
***Note:** Don’t wait! Get it on the schedule now. You can use a regular life group meeting or find a separate time to dedicate to the prayer experience. This is an on-your-life-group’s-own-schedule experience.*
- **August 20 Prayer Night:** You and your life group are invited to a church-wide Prayer Night on Thursday, August 20 from 5-8. (This prayer walk experience is similar in format to our Holy Week prayer experiences. You may arrive at any time in that window.)

Bible Lab Questions

The following may be used to guide each week's Bible Lab time.

Movement 1

The first time through this week's Scripture, we want to get an overview. As we listen, ask yourself:

- What is going on in this passage?
- What caught your attention?
- What questions arise as you listen?

Listen as the passage is read out loud then discuss your answers to the questions above.

Movement 2

The second time through, we want to consider what the passage reveals about God and His people. As we listen, ask yourself:

- What does this passage show you about God? The work of the Holy Spirit?
- What do these verses reveal to us about the body of Christ, the Church?

Listen as the passage is read out loud then discuss your answers to the questions above.

Movement 3

Each of us will now take a few moments to read the passage silently to ourselves. As you read, prayerfully consider this question:

- Lord, what are You inviting me to believe, receive, or do in response to this passage?

After a time of reflection, everyone will be given the opportunity to share their response.