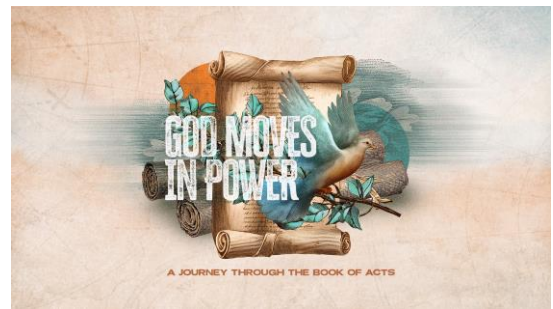


Group Discussion Guide | September 13
God Moves in Power through the Gospel

Series overview and leader instructions



Overview

Our current 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 (10 minutes)

This week we are looking at Acts 26 where Paul shares his personal testimony with King Agrippa, ruler of Israel.

- Dan began his sermon by sharing the effect online customer reviews had on his Amazon cart. Have you ever tried something, bought something, or made a decision because someone you trusted shared their experience with you? What was it, and how did it turn out?

- Think for a moment about your decision to follow Jesus. What was most compelling or impactful for you in choosing to surrender your life to Christ?

Bible Lab (20 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 your group members if desired. You could print one for each person, collect them after Bible Lab, and reuse the same guide each week.

Movement 1

Invite everyone to turn to **Act 26:4-18**

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 Act 26:4-18 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 Act 26: 4-18 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 Acts 26:4-18 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 sermon and Scripture (20 minutes)

Up to this point, in our series through the book of Acts, we’ve explored how the Gospel has been shared at large in more public and broad settings. This week, in Acts 26, we see Paul proclaim the Gospel to the King of Israel through the personal sharing of his story.

- As you reflect on Acts 26, what stands out to you about the way Paul shared his story with King Agrippa?
- Now think about your own story. What thoughts and feelings come to mind for you when you think about sharing your story with others?

Dan mentioned, “Your testimony isn’t the gospel. Your testimony points people to the gospel.”

- How does this statement influence your perspective on sharing the hope of Jesus with others?

Not every testimony looks like Paul’s. Some people can point to a specific moment when everything changed, while others have come to know and follow Jesus over time through small steps and/or ongoing relationships and experiences.

As you reflect on your own story...

- Is it an everything-changed-in-a-moment story or an ongoing-relationship-and-experiences story?
- Where do you see evidence of God at work, both in the past and presently in your life today?

In his sermon, Dan shared three encouragements for how we can approach sharing our stories with others: (1) Lean into authenticity, not accomplishments. (2) Communicate like an eye-witness, not an expert attorney. (3) Focus on the invitation, not the outcome.

- Which of these three encouragements most resonates with you? Which one most challenges you?
- Take a moment and think about your own story in relation to these three encouragements. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you consider how you can personally share with authenticity, like an eye-witness, with a focus on the invitation.

Give space for everyone to quietly reflect—it may be helpful for people to journal their response—then invite them to share what they notice.

As you reflect on this week’s sermon and our group conversation:

- Where do you see God inviting you to grow? Is there a specific relationship, conversation, or opportunity that comes to mind?
- What is one practical way our group can encourage and support one another in sharing the hope of Jesus this week?

Prayer and upcoming events (15 minutes)

Tonight, we discussed how, like Paul, we can share our story in meaningful ways that point others to love and hope of Christ.

As you close your time together, spend time praying for:

- *God to create opportunities for one another to share the Gospel.*
- *Names of specific people in your life who have not yet decided to follow Jesus to be open and curious to a relationship Him. If no one readily comes to mind, invite the Spirit to make you aware of individuals He has placed in your life.*
- *God to provide what you need to share your story and His story with others: courage, compassion, wisdom, trust in the work and power of the Holy Spirit etc.*

You may consider splitting into smaller groups of 2-3 to share and pray with one another.

Upcoming Events

- **All-Church Worship Night** on Thursday, September 17.
- **Fall Family Block Party** on Sunday, September 27. Consider signing up to serve as a life group! Sign up at thecreek.org/fallfamilyblockparty.

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.