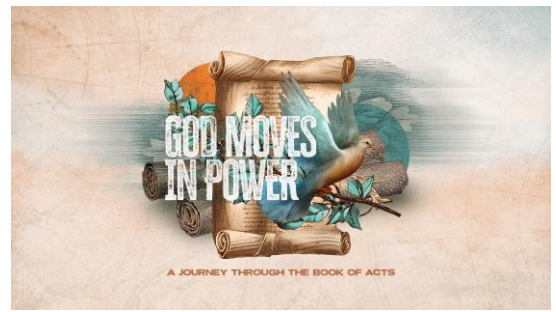




Group Discussion Guide | September 27

God Moves in Power through the Church

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 will talk about how God moved to create the kind of church people were looking for. Let's take a minute to reflect on what brought each of us to *this* church.

- Why did you choose to start attending The Creek?
- Why have you stayed?

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 **Acts 2:42-47** and **Acts 4:32-35**.*

Tonight we are going to read two short, related passages. 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 2:42-47 and Acts 4:32-35 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 2:42-47 and Acts 4:32-35 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 2:42-47 and Acts 4:32-35 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)

The early Christians were *devoted*.

- What are some things you’re “devoted” to?
- Does your devotion to those things contribute to or distract from your devotion to God?

Those first Christians were specifically devoted to four things: the Apostles’ teaching (Scripture), fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer.

- Let’s each reflect for a moment and then rank order the priority those four things take in our lives. (*Encourage everyone to answer.*)
- As you listened to the sermon and read the passages in Bible Lab, did you notice a conviction or invitation to grow in one or more of those areas? What would that look like for you?

The early believers had everything in common. They didn’t think of their possessions as belonging to them but shared in a sacrificial and open-handed way.

- Be honest. What’s your gut-level response to this kind of generosity?
- Have you received radical generosity in your life? What was the impact?
- What would need to change in your heart and circumstances for you to live like this?

God’s grace was powerfully at work in the early church. People were saved. Lives were changed.

- Take a moment to reflect on the impact God’s grace has had on your life or the life of someone you love. When you’re ready, share what comes to mind.

- How has the church—either The Creek or another church you’ve been a part of—been part of God’s grace and blessing in your life?

Prayer and upcoming events (10 minutes)

Tonight, let’s pray for our church—and for ourselves—to be increasingly like those early, devoted believers. Think about the things you noticed, the grace you’re grateful for, and the places you’ve experienced conviction during the sermon, Bible Lab, and life group conversation.

I’ll read a prompt, then anyone can respond with a brief prayer. After a few moments, I’ll read another prompt. At the end, I will close our time of prayer.

Prayer:

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank you for the gift of the church. We are grateful to stand in a long line of believers stretching back almost 2000 years.

We begin our time of prayer tonight thanking you for The Creek, our life group, and other churches we have been a part of. *Invite the group to offer specific prayers of thanks now.*

Pause to allow for prayers.

We continue our time of prayer in repentance for our lack of devotion, generosity, and unity. We confess the specific ways we have not lived in line with Your vision for Your Church. *Invite the group to offer specific confessions now.*

Pause to allow for prayers.

We come before you now to ask for Your blessing and grace in our lives, especially in our specific areas of need. *Invite the group to offer their specific prayer requests now.*

Pause to allow for prayers.

Finally, we come before you to ask for Your blessing and grace on our church, The Creek. *Invite the group to offer specific requests for our church and its impact.*

Make us a people of devotion, unity, generosity, and supernatural grace. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

Upcoming events

- **Thursday night services start on October 22!**

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.