

## Week # 1

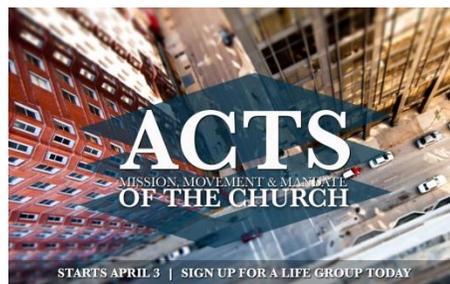
### “Acts: Mission, Movement, & Mandate of the Church” Series

Cedar Grove Church – April 3, 2016

#### Leaders Guide

### Acts 1 – 5

Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh

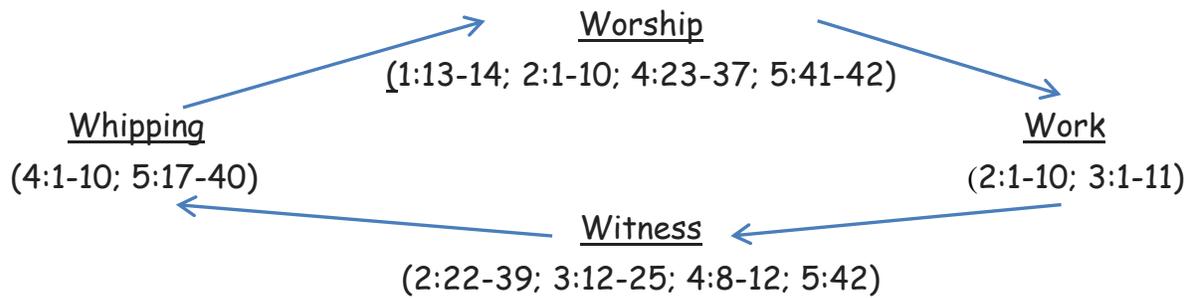


#### **SPECIAL NOTE TO LG LEADERS:**

Each Study guide provides you with more questions than you will have time to get through in your discussion. You do not need to cover them all. Choose the ones that will best suit your group and focus on those. Thanks, Pastor Ross

#### **GROUP DISCUSSION:**

1. The book we are studying is called *Acts*. Whose “acts” are they? Who is this book about?
  - They are the acts of the first believers in the Church of Jesus Christ. The book is about the earliest history of the Church.
2. What does the church mean to you? What role does it play in your life? How important is it?
3. How would you say God defines the church? What is the church to Him?
  - Various descriptions could be given, but essentially, it is the Body of believers – those who have believed in Him unto salvation through his Son, Christ, who have been made righteous and are adopted into His Family. These are those He loved and died for.
4. An outline of the first 5 chapters of Acts was given as follows:
  - Ch. 1 – Gift (v.4-5); Mission (v.7-8); Matthias (v.16-26)
  - Ch. 2 – Church Born (v.1-13); Peter Preaching (v.14-41); Fellowship (v.42-47)
  - Ch. 3 – Ministry (v.1-11); Evangelism (v.12-26)
  - Ch. 4 – Persecution (v. 7-22); Prayer meeting (v.23-31); Generosity (v.32-37)
  - Ch. 5 – Corruption (v.1-11); Arrested (v.18-21); Beaten (vs.33-42)
5. Is there any one thing (or more) that stands out to you as to what was happening in the church in those early days?
  - There is no one “correct” answer here. Encourage each group member to talk about what they see happening in these opening chapters. Most of all emphasis the zeal, the joy of the people as they share the gospel (“good news”) and the growth of the church as people were changed and new churches were planted!
6. It was suggested that a recurring theme seen in these opening chapters included the following cycle:



Have you ever seen that pattern happening in your life? Tell about it.

7. Pastor Kevin made the statement: “How you are feeling about ‘the church’ is directly related to how you yourself are engaging with the mission, vision and values of the church.” Do you agree with this or disagree?
8. When do we most tend to become unhappy with and critical of the church?
9. When do we tend to be most supportive of and engaged with the church?
10. For your records, the following were outlined in the message:

**VISION/PURPOSES**

- |               |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Evangelism | 2:22-39; 3:12-25; 4:8-12; 5:42    |
| 2. Worship    | 1:13-14; 2:1-10; 4:23-37; 5:41-42 |
| 3. Teaching   | 2:42; 4:2; 5:25,28,42             |
| 4. Service    | 2:1-10; 3:1-11;                   |
| 5. Fellowship | 2:42; 5:12;42                     |

**VALUES-**

- |            |         |
|------------|---------|
| Honesty    | 5:3-4   |
| Sharing    | 4:34-35 |
| Generosity | 4:34-35 |
| Community  | 2:42    |

11. How would you characterize your current attitude towards “the church?” How could that change for the better?
  - Encourage members to share openly, especially if they have some challenges with the church right now. Counsel them as to how that could turn around and pray for them.

**PRAYER TIME:**

Make time to share needs and close in prayer. Pray for your church and those in it.

- Encourage all group members to read the passages and memorize the verse this week . . .

**This Week’s Reading Assignment:** Acts, Chapters 1-5

**Memory verse:** Acts 4:12 – “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”