

**Week # 3**  
**“Acts: Mission, Movement, & Mandate of the Church” Series**  
**Cedar Grove Church – April 17, 2016**

**Leaders Guide**

**Acts 12 – 17**  
**Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh**



**NOTE TO LG LEADERS:**

Each Study guide provides you with more questions than you may 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. An outline of chapters 12 to 17 of Acts was given as follows:  
Ch. 12 – Peter Escapes (v.6-7,12); Herod Eaten (v.22-24)  
Ch. 13 – Missions Born (v.1-2); Cypress (v.4-5); Pisidian Antioch (v. 13-15,47-48)  
Ch. 14 – Death Threats (v.4-5); Assassination Attempt (v.19); Testimony Time (v.26-27)  
Ch. 15 – Salvation (v.1,5); Expectation (v.28-29); Disagreement (v.37-39)  
Ch. 16 – Timothy (v.2-4); Lydia (v.14-15); Silas (v.22,25,31)  
Ch. 17 – Thessalonica (v.2-3); Berea (v.11-12); Athens (v.22-23)
2. In Acts 12:22-24, the account is given of the people worshipping self-centered Herod who refused to honour God, and of God striking him down. What do you think the connection is between our dishonouring God and His judgment on us? Is there any?
  - This conversation could go in a number of directions. Guide it along and do not let it consume too much time. The main point is that there is a connection. God honours our obedience and worship of Him, but there are consequences, if not now, then later, for those who disregard God.
3. In Acts 13:1-5, modern missions is born and the Holy Spirit prompts the church to send out Saul (Paul) and Barnabas as the first missionaries. Do you think it is still important for churches to pray over and send out missionaries, and how should we support them?
  - The mission mandate is still upon us as a church. We need to pray for God to raise up labourers to go into the fields, both at home and abroad. Those sent abroad should be commissioned by the home church to their task, prayed for and supported in every way possible as they serve.
4. Acts 13:47-48 records Paul and Silas declaring that their mission is to be a light for the Gentiles (people like we non-Jews) and to bring salvation to the ends of the earth. Is that task finished? When do you think it might be?
  - Make the point that we – each and all of us – must continue this task until Jesus returns!

5. Acts 14 recounts the plot of the Judaizers to try to destroy Paul, which they almost did in Lystra when they stoned him (v.19). Who do you think are the main enemies today of Christians who proclaim the gospel (good news) of salvation through Jesus Christ? How are we to treat such people?
  - First help participants to identify the most out-spoken critics of Christian faith they may face in their own lives (limit how long this conversation goes on). Then emphasize the role of patient love and prayer in facing them and winning them over.
  
6. In Acts 15:28-29 why did the church limit what was required of new believers to abstaining from sexual immorality and not eating food offered to idols, and not demand circumcision?
  - Focus on salvation as a gift of God received by faith, not earned by works or rule keeping.
  
7. In Acts 17:11-12 the Berean Christians were commended (praised) for what, and how is that an example for us today?
  - They didn't just accept what the apostles were teaching because of who they were. They studied the Scriptures themselves to make sure the messages lined up with the Word of God. So must we!
  
8. Christian living (following salvation) is about growing in our obedience to the will and ways of God? As you assess your life, where do you feel you are at now in **(a) your obedience to God** and **(b) in your relationship with Cedar Grove Church?**

Community	5-10,000	<b>Aware</b>	Need / Support
Crowd	1-1,500	Association	<b>Events / Activities</b>
Congregation	750	<b>Attendance</b>	Hit / Miss
Committed	362	Active	<b>Accountable</b>
Core	200	<b>Accountable</b>	Engaged

- This is an open-ended discussion, not meant to put anyone on the spot, but to help participants to talk about how they feel they are doing in their walk with God and in their involvement with their church. As the leader, be an encourager in this conversation and look for ways to pray for each other.

## **PRAYER TIME:**

1. Make time to share needs that members may have and close in prayer.
2. Pray especially for any struggles that were shared in the last question or to give praise for victories that were or progress that was reported.

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

**This Week's Reading Assignment:** Acts, Chapters 12-17

**Memory verse:** Acts 16:31 – *“They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.’”*