

Week # 5

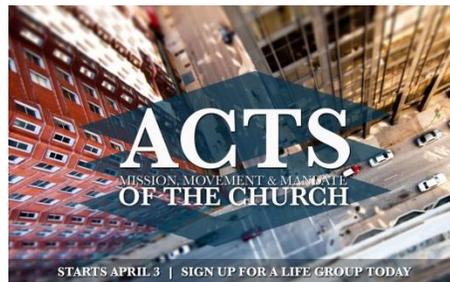
“Acts: Mission, Movement, & Mandate of the Church” Series

Cedar Grove Church – May 1, 2016

Leaders Guide

Acts 23 – 28

Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh



NOTE TO LG LEADERS:

Each Study guide may provide 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. May you have a good study as you finish this last one in the series. ~Pastor Ross

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. An outline of chapters 23 to 28 of Acts was given as follows:
Ch. 23 – Supreme Court (v.1-11); Death Squad (v.12-22); Military Escort (v.23-24)
Ch. 24 – 1 Minute Testimony (v.14-16); Effective Witness (v.24-25)
Ch. 25 – Testifying Before Authorities (v.11-12)
Ch. 26 – Testifying Before Kings: Life Before Christ (v.4-11); How I Came to Christ (v.12-18); Life After Christ (v.18-23)
Ch. 27 – Sailing (v.1-12); Storms (v.13-26); Shipwrecked (v.27-44)
Ch. 28 – Snake Bit (v.1-10); House Arrest (v.16-31)
2. In Acts 24:24-27 Paul gave witness of his faith in Christ to Felix and his wife, but Felix cut him off out of fear. Do you remember anyone witnessing to you before you came to faith in Christ? How did you react to their testimony? What was it that eventually brought you to Christ in spite of your first, possibly negative, reactions?
 - Point out that sometimes the most resistant people to our Gospel witness, may be the closest to coming to Christ. Others, however, will resist to the very end. Our task is to be faithful in witnessing. The results we leave with God. He is the only one who can “save” people.
3. In Acts 26 we see Paul’s testimony before King Agrippa – which models the three parts that every good testimony should have, whether one minute or one-half hour long. Discuss the three parts as a group and even share with each other that part of your testimony as you discuss it.
 - a) Part 1 – Life Before Christ – Acts 26:4-11
 - b) Part 2 – How I Came to Christ – Acts 26:12-18
 - c) Part 3 – Life After Christ – Acts 26:18-23
 - Remind them that every Christian has a testimony, and when we share it with others, the Holy Spirit takes our words and uses them in the life of others to convict them of their need of Christ.

4. In the Acts record we see new believers in Christ being called **disciples** e.g., Acts 6:1,2,7; 11:26; 14:21. What is a “disciple?” Can one be a “believer” or “Christian” and not be a “disciple?” Why or why not?
 - A disciple is a follower of Jesus, or Christ-follower! He or she is ‘learning’ Jesus, reproducing His life in them and producing other followers of Jesus.
5. Some people make reference to Acts 29, which of course is not in the New Testament. Why do you think this idea is mentioned and what is our responsibility in this regard?
 - This refers to the idea that Acts is the record of the new Church of Jesus Christ. You and I are writing Acts 29 with our lives as we continue to spread the gospel message to this present day. The work started then by the New Testament believers is far from finished. We carry it on today.

PRAYER TIME:

1. Make time to share needs that members may have before closing in prayer.
2. Pray especially for each other to be diligent disciples of Jesus and faithful in sharing our testimonies with others.

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

This Week’s Reading Assignment: Acts 23-28

Memory verse: Acts 23:6 – *“Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, “My brothers, I am a Pharisee, descended from Pharisees. I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead.”*”

NEXT WEEK:

Decide as a group on your next study. Suggest the six-week study that is being provided, entitled **“Workplace Grace: Becoming a Spiritual Influence at Work”** – which flies in the face of almost everything you’ve ever heard about evangelism. It’s written for Christians who don’t think they have a gift for outreach but want their lives to impact the people around them. It offers a biblical model for evangelism that respects the unique relationships you have with your coworkers, clients, and customers.

The six short videos are on RightNow Media (rightnow.org) and the Participants handbook is available to Life Group leaders (on our church website) to download to help you to lead the studies. This study will take you through May to mid-June.