

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

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KEEP JESUS WEIRD: ACTS and the birth of non-religious Christianity

Session 1 – Following Jesus

DAY 1

Introduction:

Studies have shown that the vast majority of weapons taken through x-ray airport security go undetected. In 2010, a study suggested as many as 70% passed the eyes of TSA representatives. While they are trained to look specifically for weapons, how does this happen so frequently? Since guns are so rarely brought through TSA, the screeners simply don't see them. The bags that carry these weapons blend into the pattern the TSA agents are used to seeing, and the screeners struggle to see these weapons with "fresh eyes".

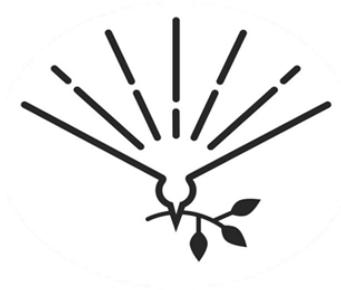
Reading the Bible allows for fresh eyes as well. Reading through a text with the baggage of cynicism and past hurt can hinder our ability to encounter God with the awe and wonder He intends. Keep this in mind as you go through the book of Acts.

What begins with a small group of believers births the worldwide movement of non-religious Christianity. We will peel back the layers of our preconceived notions of the Church and see what it means to authentically follow Jesus.

Questions:

What skepticism and past hurt do you need to address in order to read through Acts with fresh eyes?

What does non-religious Christianity mean?



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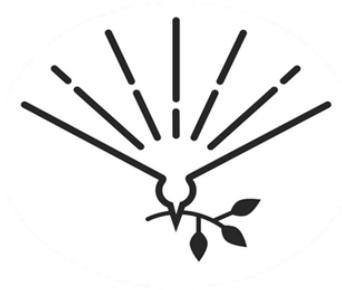
DAY 2

1. Who wrote the book, Acts of the Apostles? See Acts 1:1 and Luke 1:1-4
2. What do you know about the author? See Colossians 4:11,14; 2 Timothy 4:11. If your Bible has notes, refer to them.
3. What do you think the purpose is for the book of Acts?
4. What barriers, if any, do you have to relying on Acts as a trustworthy account of Jesus and the Apostles?

DAY 3

Read Acts 1: 1-7

1. Luke begins by recapitulating Jesus' final moments on earth. What was Jesus doing in his final days according to Acts 1:3-5?
2. What instructions did Jesus give the apostles in 1:4? The Jewish people were waiting for the restoration of Israel. In 1:6, the apostles ask Jesus if He will restore the kingdom to Israel. How does Jesus respond?
3. Discussion question: How does baptism by water differ from baptism by Spirit? Also see Matthew 3:11. What is the significance of "baptism by the Spirit?"



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DAY 4

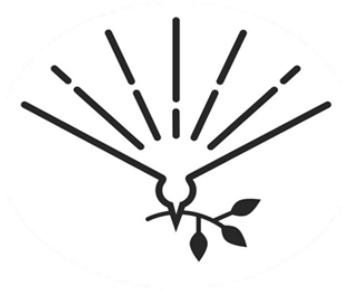
Read Acts 1: 8-11

1. What promise did Jesus make in 1:8? How did this shift the apostle's mindset of evangelism?

2. In your own words describe how Jesus ascended into Heaven. What is the significance of this?

3. There are times when we need to stand and be in awe of Jesus, and there are times when we are called to action. When in your life have you been called to "be still, and know that God is God" (Psalm 46:10), and when in your life have you been called to action? How did you respond to those specific callings?

4. Discussion Question: See 1:8. How is this significant? How can you be a witness to your:
 - a. Community
 - b. City
 - c. Country
 - d. World



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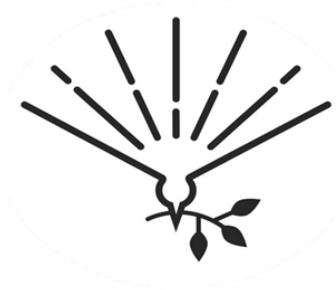
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DAY 5

Read Acts 1: 12-26

1. Luke mentions in verse 14 that the apostles were all in one accord. What one thing were they constantly doing and why was that so important?
2. On a scale of 1-10 (lowest to highest) how would you rate your prayer life? What practical steps could you take for a better prayer life?
3. In Acts 1:16-17 we read that Judas “served as a guide for those who arrested Jesus.” What do we know about how Judas Iscariot led to the arrest of Jesus? Read Luke 22: 1-6, 22, 47-48. Be honest with yourself. Do you see reflections of Judas in how you treat Jesus?
4. Discussion question: Read 1:24-26. The apostles first sought God’s wisdom when deciding upon Judas’ replacement. What would your decision-making look like if you sought God’s wisdom first? Would it be different than your own and why? What decision can you seek God’s wisdom first for today?



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DAY 6

Review Acts Chapter 1

1. What did you learn about Jesus this week?
2. How does it challenge your view of God?
3. What is the main takeaway that you can use this week from the Scripture?