



# ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

How God Turned a Band of Nobodies into a Movement for Everybody

*How did a handful of ordinary people become ten thousand followers of Jesus in the year following his public execution? How did his movement gain so much momentum, especially as ten of the eleven charter members were crucified, burned, or stoned to death? How did ten thousand Christians become one million by the second century, and 3.3 billion today?*

*Written in the middle of the first century, The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of how Christianity spread like wildfire across the Roman Empire and beyond. For 25 weeks we will journey through Acts in pursuit of the truth behind history's most consequential movement.*

---

## Discussion Guide: Week 7

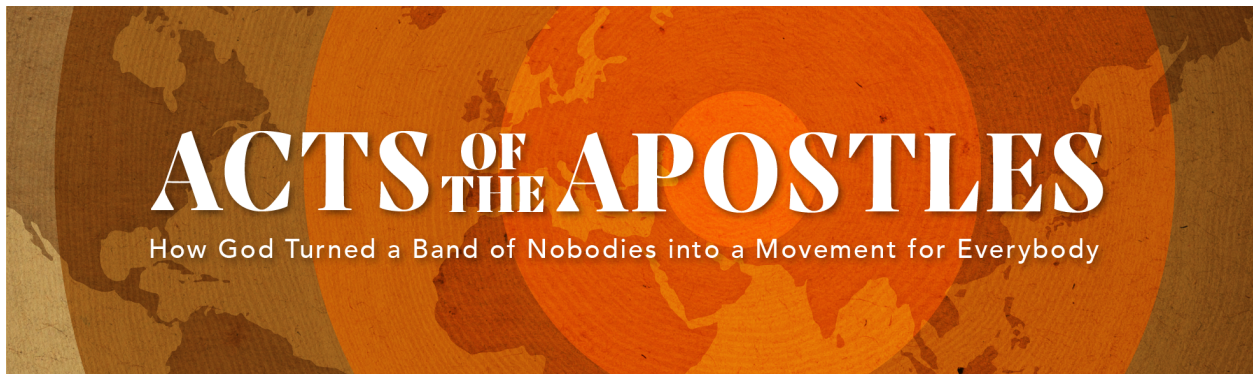
### Opening Question

Can you remember a time when your convictions got you into trouble or made your life complicated? If so, what happened?

### **Acts 4:13-21**

Read verse 13. Why do you think the authorities were so astonished by Peter and John and their educational background? What made them significant?

Why would Jesus choose such “Ordinary” men as his followers, and then to be the ones who would spread the good news to the ends of the earth?



Read verse 14-17. What dilemma did the Sanhedrin face? Why were they so adamant about stopping the apostles from speaking the name of Jesus?

In Verse 19 the Apostles replied, *"Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges!"* What point are they making about the allegiances and priorities of disciples of Jesus?

Peter and John said they could not help but speak about what they had seen and heard. What had these two witnessed over the past few years, and even the past few days? What does this passage tell us about the power of testimony?

### Reflection questions

Have you ever felt so inspired by something you couldn't help speaking about it? What was it? (It could be anything, does not have to be faith related)

Have you ever experienced God in such a real and transformative way that you just had to tell someone about it? If so, how did you feel when you told them? How did they respond?