

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 9

Opening Question

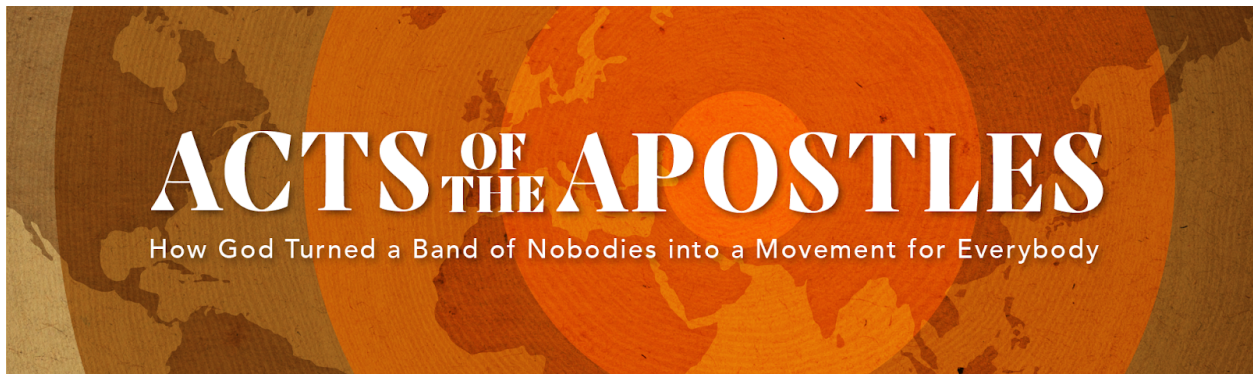
What's the closest thing to heaven you have ever experienced? What about this experience (the location, people, the event) made it so significant for you?

Acts 4:32-37

What words would you use to describe the Church in this passage? Why?

Acts 5:1-11

What is so challenging about this passage? When you read it does it sound more like a passage from the Gospels or the Old Testament?



What is the difference between Barnabas' actions and what Ananias and Sapphira did? What motivations drove their actions?

What does Peter accuse Ananias of? Why do you think that this is such a grievous sin?

Why did Ananias and Sapphira die? Was it just because they didn't give all of their money, or something deeper? Is that fair?

How do we try to look "Christian" today on the outside without being transformed by Christ on the inside?

Reflection Questions

What does this message teach us about the importance of purity within the Church?

When Peter was confronted with sin he acted boldly. How and where can you confront the sin among the believers within our community with the same boldness?