



# 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? Acts of the Apostles tells the story of how Christianity spread like wildfire across the Roman Empire and beyond. We will journey through Acts in pursuit of the truth behind history's most consequential movement.*

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## **Group Discussion Guide: Week 19**

### Conversation Starter

How would you describe the City of Houston? What are the things we live for, and what are some of the sins we harbor? How could we relate to Corinth in the 1st century?

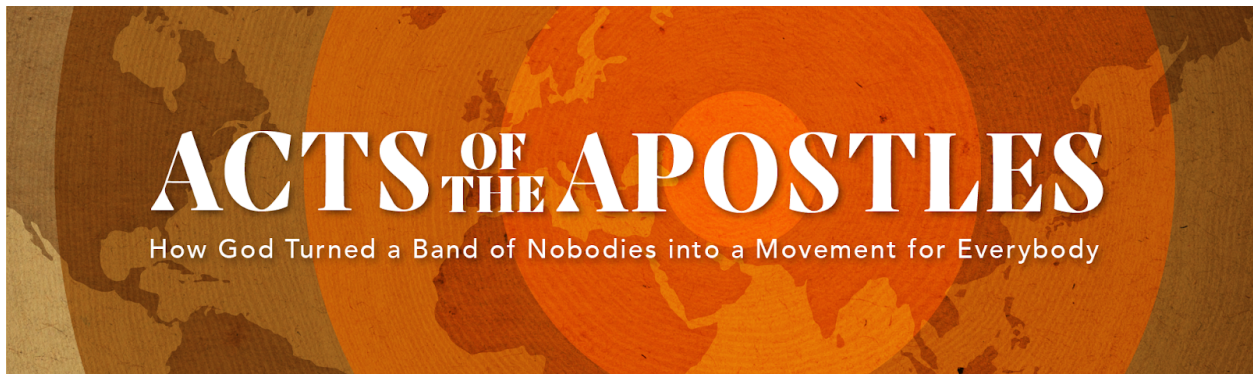
### **Rejection and Revival**

*Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.* How does Paul describe the kinds of people who joined the church in Corinth, and more broadly, what does it say about the purpose of the Church of Jesus Christ?

*Read Acts 18:1-4.* Who were Priscilla and Aquila? What do we learn about them from this passage and other passages in the New Testament (see Romans 16:3-5 and 1 Corinthians 16:19)? How did they partner with Paul?

*Read Acts 18:5.* What did Silas and Timothy bring Paul, and what did that allow Paul to do? (See also 2 Corinthians 11:8-9 and Philippians 4:14-15.)

*Read Acts 18:6-8.* What happened after Paul began preaching the Gospel full-time, and how did the apostle respond? What does this show us about the CONNECTIONAL nature of the Church?



### **Rejection and Revival... and more Rejection**

What typically happens whenever revival breaks out in a city (see Acts 16:19-24, 17:5-8, 17:13-14, 18:12-13, 19:23-29)?

*Read Acts 18:9-11.* Given Paul's recent successes in ministry and the apparent revival unfolding in Corinth, why do you think Paul would have been afraid and reluctant to continue? How did the LORD respond to Paul v. 9?

#### Reflection Questions

Using the Lord's words to Paul in Acts 18:9-11 as a template, how can we prepare ourselves not only for the revival, but also for the resistance?

GOD'S PRESENCE - How has the Lord been with you?

GOD'S PROTECTION - How has the Lord protected you from evil?

GOD'S PROVISION - How has He provided for you?

Despite what many believe about the supposed decline of Christianity in America, many churches and cities (including ours) are witnessing a revival. What should we expect as this revival unfolds?

Earlier we discussed the sorts of unsavory people who made up the Corinthian congregation according to 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. But in the very next verse, we find that their sins no longer defined them (read 6:12). How is this encouragement to us today? What sins do we need to be cleansed of?