



# 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? 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 19.5

### Conversation Starter

If you were there Sunday morning what did you think of John Burke's Sermon on Near Death Experiences (NDE's) and the character of God? What was most surprising to you from his talk?

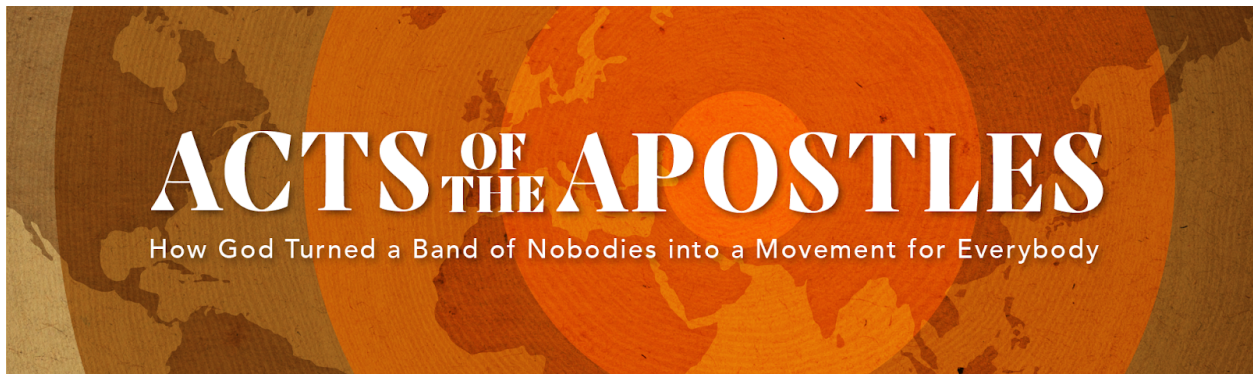
We all subconsciously put boxes around who God is and how we experience Him. What part of God's character do you struggle with or where are you still growing in your understanding of him?

### **Moving by the Will of God**

*Read Acts 18:18-23.* Paul's Missionary journeys moved him all across the mediterranean. What served as Paul's rudder and sails during his travels, and how did he decide how long to stay and when to go? What was his goal wherever he visited?

*Read James 4:13-17.* James, the half-brother of Jesus, in his pastoral letter wrote something very similar to Paul about moving as God leads. How does James describe our lives and what it means to follow God?

Why is it so difficult for us to surrender to the will of God?



### **Kingdom work is Communal**

*Read Acts 18:24-26.* Apollos was a smart guy who knew the Old Testament Scriptures, but needed some extra teaching from Priscilla and Aquila. What was he lacking?

*Read Acts 18:27-28.* After he gained much needed teaching and discipleship Apollos hit the road and began powerfully preaching. How does this entire passage show us the importance of teaching, mentoring, and the passing down of truth?

The other place we read about Apollos in the Bible is in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. *Read 1 Corinthians 3:4-9.* Paul, Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos were all faithful co-workers in God's service. What do they teach us about the communal nature of Kingdom work?

### Reflection Questions

Has God ever challenged YOUR plans for YOUR life? How did you respond? What does it look like to hold on to our plans loosely, and follow God's will for us?

Priscilla and Aquila were able to meet with Apollos and fill in his gaps. Has there ever been a time when your understanding of God was incomplete and someone had to help explain the ways of God more adequately? Who was it, what did they show you, and how did you respond?

We are all called to mentor and disciple other believers. Who is God leading you to mentor?