ACTS:
THE EARLY CHURCH

A twelve-week group series on courage, community and mission

From Jerusalem to Rome, discover the Spirit-empowered church and its witness to the world.

How to use the Guide

Each week, there will be an assigned reading. Read the passages, take notes in a journal, write down any questions you may have, then come together with your small group to discuss and share what the Lord revealed to you.

Included in this study guide are reflection questions, cross reference verses and a place to take notes during your small group sessions. You can also utilize the Bible Notes section on **Emunah** to reference cultural and historical context as well as the chapter summaries to refer to the overall happenings of the story.

Waiting for the Promise

Read Acts 1 I

REFLECT

1. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do before the Spirit came?
2. How does verse 8 map out the rest of the book?

CROSS REFERENCES

Luke 24:46–49

John 14:16–17

Isaiah 49:6

NOTES & APPLICATION

The Spirit Comes

Read Acts 2 I

REFLECT

1. Why does Peter quote the prophet Joel?
2. What marks of community do you see in 2:42–47?

CROSS REFERENCES

Joel 2:28–32

Genesis 11:1–9

Psalm 16:8–11

NOTES & APPLICATION

Courage Under Pressure

Read Acts 3–4 I

REFLECT

1. Where did Peter and John's boldness come from?
2. What did the church pray for when threatened (4:29)?

CROSS REFERENCES

Psalm 2:1–2

Psalm 118:22

2 Timothy 1:7

NOTES & APPLICATION

Integrity and Care

Read Acts 5–6 I

REFLECT

1. What went wrong with Ananias and Sapphira?
2. How did the church solve the food distribution problem?

CROSS REFERENCES

Joshua 7:1

Exodus 18:17–23

1 Timothy 3:8–13

NOTES & APPLICATION

Stephen's Witness

Read Acts 7 I

REFLECT

1. How does Stephen retell Israel's story?
2. How does his death echo Jesus' death?

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 12:1

Luke 23:34

Luke 23:46

NOTES & APPLICATION

The Gospel Spreads

Read Acts 8–9 I

REFLECT

1. How did persecution help the gospel spread?
2. What changed Saul — and what did Ananias risk?

CROSS REFERENCES

Isaiah 53:7–8

Galatians 1:13–16

1 Timothy 1:15–16

NOTES & APPLICATION

No Favorites with God

Read Acts 10–11 I

REFLECT

1. What did Peter learn from his vision?
2. Who might God be calling your group to welcome?

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 12:3

Galatians 3:28

Ephesians 2:14

NOTES & APPLICATION

Prayer, Mission, and the Jerusalem Council

Read Acts 12–15 I

REFLECT

1. How did the church respond to Peter's imprisonment, and what surprises you about his release
2. How did the church in Antioch discern and support the call to mission (13:1–3)?
3. Why was the Jerusalem Council's decision important for Gentile believers (15:1–21)?

CROSS REFERENCES

James 5:16

Galatians 2:1–10

Amos 9:11–12

NOTES & APPLICATION

Good News in Philippi

Read Acts 16 I

REFLECT

1. What do Lydia's response and hospitality reveal about receiving the gospel (16:11–15)?
2. Why do Paul and Silas pray and sing in prison, and how do they respond when the doors open
3. What does the jailer's household show us about faith and a changed life?

CROSS REFERENCES

Philippians 1:3–6

Psalm 34:1–3

Romans 10:9–13

NOTES & APPLICATION

Searching the Scriptures and Speaking to a City

Read Acts 17–19 I

REFLECT

1. How can your group follow the Bereans' example of examining Scripture (17:10–12)?
2. How does Paul connect with his listeners in Athens while calling them to repentance (17:22–31)?
3. What changes in Ephesus show that following Jesus can reshape everyday life (19:18–20)?

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Timothy 3:16–17

Isaiah 42:5

1 Thessalonians 1:9–10

NOTES & APPLICATION

A Faithful Farewell and a Costly Witness

Read Acts 20–23 I

REFLECT

1. What priorities does Paul give the Ephesian elders in his farewell (20:17–38)?
2. How does Paul respond to warnings about suffering as he travels to Jerusalem (21:10–14)?
3. How does the Lord encourage Paul after his arrest (23:11)?

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Peter 5:2–3

2 Timothy 4:6–8

John 16:33

NOTES & APPLICATION

Through the Storm to Rome

Read Acts 24–28 I

REFLECT

1. How does Paul explain his hope and testimony before rulers (24:14–16; 26:12–23)?
2. What does Paul's response to the storm teach us about trusting God's promise and caring for
3. How does Acts end — and what does its open ending invite your group to consider (28:23–31)?

CROSS REFERENCES

Isaiah 49:6

Matthew 28:19–20

Romans 10:14–15

NOTES & APPLICATION