



## Small Group Discussion Guide- Day 42, Week 6 (Acts 1-5)

Welcome again to our journey together through the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts this summer! Remember <http://christchurchsl.org/la70> is the learning resources center for pastor's videos, discussion guides, reading plans, and the link to the closed Facebook Group. Also, if you would like a pastor's insight to a question you have about your readings, please email them to [LA70@christchurchsl.org](mailto:LA70@christchurchsl.org) so that a reply may be emailed to you and posted to the Facebook Group.

This discussion guide is provided as a tool for small group discussions that center on the readings for week 6 (Acts 1-5) or for personal reflections for our independent readers. For the best small group discussion it will be helpful to have done the following prior to each meeting:

- 1- Watched the Pastor's video about the readings for the week
- 2- Completed the daily readings for the week
- 3- Noted at least 2-3 questions or insights from the readings to bring to the meeting to share with the group

### Possible Meeting Format for 1 Hour Small Group Meeting:

1. Brief Opening Prayer (1-2 minutes)
2. Discussion of Predetermined Questions & New Questions & Insights from the Group (45 minutes).
  - a. Leader's discretion to be used on question and time management
  - b. You are intentionally provided with more questions than you need (you may wish just to choose the first general question and then one from each day's readings)
  - c. If people have brought insights or questions from their readings during the week, they are encouraged to share them as the group moves through the verses in order.
3. Summarize Life Application Points From Conversation (5 minutes)
4. Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer (5 minutes)
5. Reminders for the Coming Week & Resources (2 minutes)

### **Predetermined Questions & New Questions & Insights from the Group:**

1. In the Pastor's video for week 6, Pastor Eric Solorio from the Youth Ministry area offered an overview of the book of Acts and a summary of chapters 1-5. What similarities in content or style did you notice between the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts so far?
2. Day 36, Acts 1:1-26



- a. Why do you think the two volumes of Luke's gospel are divided at this particular point in the story of Jesus? Where might there be overlap between the two volumes (1:1-11)?
- b. What is the general timeframe in which we can understand the Ascension of Christ to take place (1:3, 1:9)?
- c. How does 1:5 bring back to mind Luke 3:15-16?
- d. How are Jesus' last charges to his people prior to the ascension appropriate for that particular time (1:4-5 and 1:8)?
- e. As the disciples gathered for prayer in an upper room Peter stood out as a leader of about 120 people (1:15). Does this number of followers surprise you? What had been taking place over the 40 days since the time of the Passover and resurrection of Christ?
- f. What was required by who would replace Judas as a 12<sup>th</sup> disciple? Why is this important? (1:21-22)
- g. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

### 3. Day 37, Acts 2:1-13

- a. Pentecost, or feast of weeks, was a Jewish festival 50 days after the Passover that involved bringing sacrifices from the first harvest and a celebration of the giving of the law. Where do you envision the experience of the Disciples and the Holy Spirit taking place in verses 1-4?
- b. Like the Passover festival during the time of the crucifixion and resurrection, Jerusalem was filled with Jewish spiritual pilgrims from other areas during Pentecost (2:5). What happened there?
- c. Why do you believe God chose Jerusalem as the location for both the crucifixion of the resurrection of Christ during the Passover festival and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost?
- d. Why do you think onlookers thought they might have been drunk (2:13)?
- e. Are you comfortable around unplanned joyful exuberance or enthusiasm in the Lord? Why or why not?
- f. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

### 4. Day 38, Acts 2:14-47

- a. In Peter's Pentecost sermon to the crowd he referred to the prophet Joel about the signs they were experiencing (2:17-21) and to King David about Jesus being raised from the dead (2:25-36). How did this build on Jesus' own words about the Messiah (Luke 20:41-44)?
- b. How did Peter explain or describe their miraculous experience in 2:31-32?
- c. What strikes you about how the crowd reacted to Peter's message (2:37-41)?



- d. What convinced you of your need for Christ (L.C.)?
- e. What practices and aspects of this new Holy Spirit filled community are lifted up in 2:42-47?
- f. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

5. Day 39, Acts 3:1-26

- a. How do you think Peter and John approached and engaged the paralyzed beggar at the temple gate differently than most (3:3-5)?
- b. How do you account for Peter's confidence in preaching and boldness in commanding a paralyzed man to walk in Jesus' name (3:6)?
- c. How did this healed man bring amazement and wonder and open doors in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- d. How did Peter's message both confront the sin of the people (3:13-15) and offer good news (3:17-20)?
- e. How was Peter's call to response to the people in the temple courts similar to his message on Pentecost (3:19-26, 2:38-40)?
- f. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

6. Day 40, Acts 4:1-31

- a. 4:1 refers to the priests, the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees. What roles did they play in the ministry of Jesus (see Luke 20:27-40; 22:6, 52)? (L.C.)
- b. How did the healing of the beggar also open a door to share the gospel with these religious leaders (4:7-17)?
- c. What do you think it is about disciples that has led others to conclude "these [people] had been with Jesus?" (4:13)
- d. Why did the leaders release them after the second day in jail (4:16-22)?
- e. What can we not keep quiet about (4:20)?
- f. How did the disciples often respond to adversity against the early church (4:23-31)?
- g. \*what other insights or questions do you have from this section?

7. Day 41, Acts 4:32-5:16

- a. In 4:36-37, how was Barnabus (A.K.A. Son of Encouragement or Joseph) a positive example of the early church described in 4:32-34 and 2:42-47?
- b. How did Ananias and Sapphira try to be like Barnabus but with impure motives and methods (5:1-11)?
- c. Why is moral compromise or lies within a community so damaging?



- d. What was the effect of their natural or supernatural deaths upon the church community? Upon the perceptions of those outside the community? (5:11, 13-14)
- e. How might great fear or uncompromising honesty be useful to God (L.C.)?
- f. How did those outside the community know to seek them out for healing (5:15-16)?
- g. \*what other insights or questions do you have from this section?

#### 8. Day 42, Acts 5:17-42

- a. The first time the disciples were arrested was for preaching about the resurrection. Why were they arrested the second time (5:17-18)?
- b. How were they released and for what purpose? (5:19-21)
- c. How was this an answer to their prayers in 4:29-30?
- d. How did their experience with the religious leaders parallel that of Jesus (5:21-26, see also Luke 19:47-48; 21:37-38)
- e. Why would the religious leaders think the disciples were trying to make them guilty of [Jesus'] blood? (5:28, see also 2:22-23, 36; 3:13-15, 17-18; 4:10-11)?
- f. Why was this an essential part of their message?
- g. How did the disciples not succumb to intimidation (5:29-32)?
- h. What was Gamaliel's argument that somewhat pacified the angry religious leaders (5:38-39) and led to the disciples' eventual release?
- i. \*what other insights or questions do you have from this section?

\*If you did not bring any questions or insights ahead of time, the following questions may help you develop some in the moment. (Discussion questions from Immerse: The Reading Bible by Tyndale)

- What stood out to you this week?
- Was there anything confusing or troubling?
- Did anything make you feel differently about God?

#### Summary of Life Application Points from the Conversation:

1. How might what we have learned today change how we live?
2. In light of this conversation today and the readings for week 6, what do you believe the Lord is calling you to move towards in your thinking or actions or relationships?

#### Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer:

1. What recent life events are worth giving thanks to God for or lifting up as a prayer request before the group?





2. The facilitator closes the meeting in prayer

### Reminders for Next Time & Support Resources:

1. Please bring 2-3 questions or new insights from your readings to our meeting next time on Day 42.
2. If you would like input from a pastor on particular questions about the readings, please email them at [LA70@christchurchsl.org](mailto:LA70@christchurchsl.org) and they will get back to you via email and/or post on the closed LA70 Facebook Group.
3. You can access all resources including the Reading Plan, Online Daily Readings, Pastor's Videos, Discussion Guides and a link to the Facebook Group on the church webpage <http://christchurchsl.org/LA70>.
4. You can directly access the daily scriptures on your smart phone or computer or tablet from the LA70 webpage through the hyperlinks, see <https://christchurchsl.org/la70-reading-plan/>
5. For the leader- if you would like additional background information about the verses each week in addition to information provided in the Pastor's Videos of what to look for in your readings, The Bible Project is another good source. They have a 9-part video series on Luke-Acts, see <https://bibleproject.com/explore/category/luke-acts-series/>