



## Small Group Discussion Guide- Day 56, Week 8 (Acts 10-14)

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 8 (Acts 10-14) 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 8, Pastor Marquice offered his narrative and insights upon chapters 10-14 which included such events as Peter's vision and meeting with Cornelius in Caesarea, Peter sharing with the Jerusalem church about the gentile converts, Barnabas and Saul planting the church in Antioch, the killing of James, the arrest of Peter, and Barnabas and Saul sent to Cypress and Psidian Antioch and later to Iconium, Lystra



and Derbe and then back to Antioch. If you were to describe common processes or characteristics in these church planting experiences, what would you say?

2. Day 50, Acts 10:1-26

- a. How was the coming together of Peter and Cornelius in this section, similar to the meeting of Saul and Ananias in the previous section (acts 9:8-19)?
  - i. What different groups of people were being reached by the gospel of Jesus Christ in each encounter?
  - ii. How did Peter's vision prepare him for this cross-cultural touchpoint (10:11-20)?
- b. Cornelius was both a God-fearing Jew (possibly a gentile convert), and a Roman military leader (10:1-2, 22-23). Do you think it was a struggle for Cornelius to be both such that he was respected by the Jews?
- c. How would being generous to people in need and a person of prayer help in this? A person of humility (10:25)? What can Christians exercising faith in the workplace learn from Cornelius?
- d. What can Christians learn from Peter and Cornelius in how they responded to divine messages?
- e. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

3. Day 51, Acts 10:27-48

- a. Peter offered his interpretation of the vision he had in yesterday's readings in 10:27-28. What was it?
- b. How is what Peter and Cornelius were each doing when they received their own independent divine message significant (10:9; 10:30)?
- c. What barrier to the spreading of the gospel was God overcoming through these two people (10:34)?
- d. What was the basic message God communicated through Peter in this divinely arranged appointment (10:36-43)?
- e. What effect did seeing the Holy Spirit come upon these uncircumcised gentiles with speaking in tongues and praising God have upon Peter and his Jewish friends? How did Peter's suggestion about baptism confirm this?
- f. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

4. Day 52, Acts 11:1-30

- a. In Jerusalem, why would the circumcised believers criticize Peter for eating with uncircumcised men in their home (11:3)?
- b. How do you believe the story Peter shared with them would have confronted their objections (11:4-17)? What part do you believe would have been the most compelling- the arranged appointment through divine messages, the vision of



peter about unclean being made clean, the faith and responsiveness of the crowd to Peter's message, or the signs of Pentecost being present with them too?

- c. Why did both Gamaliel and Peter express concerns that they might be opposing what God was doing (5:39 and 11:17)?
  - i. Were they right to do so?
  - ii. How can we tell when we are opposing what God is doing?
- d. How did the Peter-Cornelius experience and 11:19-21 introduce a pivot in the Christian movement in the book of Acts that began at Pentecost?
- e. How was the importance of slow-roasted/hand crafted discipleship lifted up in the church of Antioch in 11:22-26?
- f. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

5. Day 53, Acts 12:1-24

- a. At least one year after the death and resurrection of Christ, Herod (different Herod than in Jesus' time), had James killed and Peter placed in jail during the Passover (12:1-5). Why would this have pleased the Jews at this point (12:3)?
- b. How do you believe the death of James (brother of John) would have impacted the morale of the believers in Jerusalem and their prayer life (12:5)?
- c. Why would they be slow to recognize Peter at the door of the prayer meeting place (12:13-16)?
- d. How do you think Peter's miraculous jail break and the death of Herod bolster the faith of the persecuted church in Jerusalem?
- e. \*What other insights or questions do you have from this section?

6. Day 54, Acts 12:25-13:12

- a. After delivering the gift to the churches in Jerusalem and Judea from the church in Antioch because of the famine (11:30), Barnabas and Saul returned to Antioch bringing with them John Mark (12:25). The home of John Mark's mother Mary, was where they were praying before during and after Peter's miraculous jailbreak. What kind of influence do you think John Mark's homelife had on him that may have encouraged his choice to travel with Barnabas and Saul?
- b. After returning to Antioch, Saul and Barnabas were sent on to new places as missionaries and John Mark went with them (13:4-12). What kind of practices and experiences led to this conclusion about God's calling them to go elsewhere?
  - i. How do churches commonly discern ministry priorities, strategies or directions or leadership decisions today?



- c. What kind of opposition did Saul and Barnabas face in pursuing their mission (13:6-8)?
- d. How did God provide miraculous support for Saul's evangelistic work against this opposition as God did for Peter's (13:9-11)?
- e. If Saul and Barnabas were to write a letter to their supporting church (Antioch) about this mission trip so far, what do you believe would be on their lists of praise reports and prayer requests?
- f. How might this experience in the mission field been different for John Mark than his ministry experience back home in Jerusalem?
  - i. Why do you think John Mark left for Jerusalem after that (13:13)?
- g. \*what other insights or questions do you have from this section?

7. Day 55, Acts 13:13-51

- a. In their next stop in their missionary journeys, Paul (AKA Saul) and Barnabas went to Psidian Antioch (far from Antioch, different city). As in Cyprus, they began with the people in the local synagogue (13:5; 13:14-15). Why start there?
- b. What ideas and themes in Paul's sermon (13:16-41) to the synagogue are common to Peter's sermon at Pentecost (2:14-41)?
  - i. What would you say is the core message of "the gospel?"
- c. In just the second sabbath day of Paul and Barnabas teaching, "almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord (13:44)." How do you believe so many people learned of the opportunity so quickly and why do you think they came?
  - i. How does the example of the worship attenders in Psidian Antioch challenge you to be more invitational toward others about coming to church?
- d. Why was there such a divide between the Jews and the gentiles in their receptivity to the gospel on the second sabbath (13:45, 50-51)?
- e. How did Paul and Barnabas demonstrate how to deal with rejection (13:49-52)?
- f. Paul and Barnabas shared a verse that summarized their sense of calling to the gentiles in particular (Isaiah 49:6 in 13:47). Is there a theme verse for your life or calling that you would share with the group?
- g. \*what other insights or questions do you have from this section?

8. Day 56, Acts 14:1-28

- a. How was their experience in Iconium similar or different from their experience in Psidian Antioch?





- b. In the next towns of Lystra and Derbe the miraculous healing of a man with crippled feet leads Greek people to conclude Paul and Barnabas were gods. How did Paul and Barnabas respond to this claim differently than Herod did in (compare 12:21-23 with 14:14-15)? What do you think kept them from pride and arrogance?
- c. How did they redirect this wrongful claim towards a teaching opportunity (15:16-18)?
- d. After the crowds were turned by the Jews who tortured Paul by stoning, why do you think Paul went back into the city for one more day before leaving town when they thought he was dead (14:19-20)?
- e. Paul and Barnabas continued to strengthen the churches in Derbe, Lystra, Iconium and Antioch (15:21-22) and stayed in Antioch a long time with the disciples (15:28). Their journeys together from 13:1-14:26 spanned about 1100 miles. In seeing their courage, faith, and endurance, how are you challenged to serve the Lord more completely (L.C.)?
- f. They “appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust (14:23).” Do you have a sense of calling for a particular area of service within the church?
- g. \*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 8, 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 63.
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/>