

C-Group Study Guide

Acts 1-6



Cultivating our Community for Christ

1 Cor. 3: 6-9

Calendar

Jan 9	Acts 1:1-26
Jan 16	Acts 2:1-39
Jan 23	Acts 2:40-47
Jan 30	Acts 3:1-26
Feb 6	Acts 4:1-22
Feb 13	Acts 4:23-37
Feb 20	Acts 5:1-16
Feb 27	Acts 5:17-22
March 6	Acts 6:1-15

2021 Connection Groups

<u>Leader(s)</u>	<u>Demographic</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>
Gillispie	Ladies	CBC Prayer Room	WED. – 10:00 A.M.
Jennings	Open Group	Parsley Home	WED. – 5:30 P.M.
Howards	Open Group	Howard Home	WED. – 6:00 P.M.
McHale	Open Group	McHale Home	WED. – 6:00 P.M.
Barricklows	Open Group	Barricklow Home	WED. – 6:30 P.M.
Reynolds	Open Group	Reynolds Home	WED. – 7:00 P.M.
Simpkins	Open Group	Simpkins Home	WED. – 7:00 P.M.

Helpful Tips for Studying Scripture

Below are some helpful questions to ask and answer when reading, understanding, and applying scripture to our lives. You do not need to answer all these questions as part of each week, but as you read through the passages you are encouraged to keep these questions nearby to enhance your experience reading God's word.

Understanding the Bible

- 1. What do we learn about God?**
 - a. Look for God's character (who he is, what he is like).
 - b. Look for God's conduct (what he is doing).
 - c. Look for God's concerns (what things, events, and people he is concerned about).
- 2. What do we learn about people?**
 - a. Look for aspects of what it means to be created in God's image.
 - b. Look for fallen condition
 - c. Look for how God's people should live.
- 3. What do we learn about relating to God?**
 - a. Look for things to praise and thank God for.
 - b. Look for sin to confess and repent.
 - c. Look for promises and truths to believe.
- 4. What do we learn about relating to others?**
 - a. Look for how we should interact with and treat others.
 - b. Look for ways to pursue reconciliation with others.
 - c. Look for specific ways to love, serve, and care for others.

Applying the Bible

- 1. What does God want me to understand?**
- 2. What does God want me to believe?**
- 3. What does God want me to desire?**
- 4. What does God want me to do?**

Content taken from Dr. Matthew Harmon's book, *Asking the Right Questions*, Crossway, 2017. Used with permission.

Acts

Background:

The book of Acts serves as a bridge between the gospel accounts and the New Testament letters. We learn of the lives and fates of the earliest followers of Christ and the start of the early church. Written by Luke as a second volume of his gospel account to Theophilus, both books are understood together as one continuous narrative. Luke uses various sources in his writing of this two-volume work including eye-witness accounts and written documents. The testimonies came from the early Palestinian church as well as the apostle Paul himself.

Acts traces the geographical progress of the gospel. Prior to his ascension, Jesus commands his disciples to spread the gospel (Luke 24:44-47). Acts begins with this command and expands on it as the disciples are instructed that they will be witnesses in Jerusalem, all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Luke wanted to demonstrate the place of the gospel within Roman history as well as discuss theology as demonstrated by the speeches given in the book of Acts. As Hengel observes,

“We only do justice to the significance of Luke as the first theological ‘historian’ of Christianity if we take his work seriously as a source, i.e., if we attempt to examine it critically, reconstructing the story he tells by adding and comparing other sources... He does not set out primarily to present his own ‘theology.’”¹

The book can be split up into four main sections:

1. The beginnings in Jerusalem (1:1-26).
2. The mission in Jerusalem (2:1-8:3).
3. The mission in Judea, Samaria, and surrounding regions (8:4-12:25).
4. The mission to the ends of the earth (13:1-28:31).²

¹ Martin Hengel, *Acts and the History of Early Christianity*, 67.

² Gene L. Green, *The New Testament in Antiquity*, 233.

Acts 1:1-26

Connect:

Share a time when you felt completely lost in a task that you had been given?

Interpret:

1. What is the theme of the book of Acts (1:8)?
2. Define “apostle” and explain what makes someone an apostle. Are there any “apostles” today? Why or why not?
3. To serve as an apostle, what kind of man was needed (1:21-22)? Who was Judas’ successor and how was he chosen (1:24-26)? How does this compare to how the other apostles were chosen? What can we learn from this?

Apply:

What is a witness? In what ways are we “witnesses” to the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Acts 2:40-47

Connect:

What is the easiest way for you to show someone you care? What is the hardest?

Interpret:

1. What response did Peter's sermon receive (2:41)? Do we see the same response today? Why or why not?

2. What was the response of those added to the number of the assembly (2:44-47)? Can someone be a follower of Jesus and not be a part of the church? Why or why not?

Apply:

The differences among the individuals of the early church were vast, but the unity under the same message of forgiveness and redemption was the same. What does this mean for all the denominations we have today? When do we break bread and when do we separate?

Acts 3:1-26

Connect:

When have you seen or experienced a miraculous healing in your life?

Interpret:

1. List the characteristics of the healing of the lame man (3:1-8). How is this event unique compared to modern miracle healings?
2. What was Peter's response to how the man had been healed (3:12)? What further explanation did he give in 3:16 regarding the healing of the lame man? Through whose faith was the man healed?
3. Who predicted the coming prophet like himself, and what would happen to the people who would not listen to that prophet (3:22-23)? Who was this prophet and how much of his teaching must we obey?

Apply:

What covenant was also being fulfilled in 3:25? How do you see the fulfillment of that covenant today?

Acts 4:23-37

Connect:

What is your “go-to” in times of temptation, hardship, struggle, etc...

Interpret:

1. Where did the disciples go when released and what did they do (4:23-24)?

2. What did the disciples ask God to do about the situation (4:29-30)? What happened in response to their prayer (4:31)?

3. How were needy people provided for (4:34-35)? Who oversaw the distribution and who received funds from this collection – Christians, non-Christians, or both?

Apply:

What can we learn from the disciple’s example about the context of prayer and what we should pray about?

Acts 5:1-16

Connect:

Have you ever experienced a severed relationship because of a lie? How did you handle the situation?

Interpret:

1. What was the sin committed by Ananias and Sapphira (5:1-3)? What was the reason behind the sin? What was the result of the sin (5:10)?

2. What effect did this have on the church and other people (5:11)? In what ways does this example differ from other passages about discipline of erring church members?

3. Who were the ones performing miracles in the early church (5:12)? What was their purpose? What might this mean for the continuation / cessation debate concerning some of the works of the Holy Spirit today?

Apply:

What can we learn about church discipline from the example of Ananias and Sapphira?

Acts 5:17-22

Connect:

Have you ever known someone to be arrested for being a Christian? If not, what stories have you read about concerning persecuted individuals and how has their testimony been an encouragement to you?

Interpret:

1. Who caused the apostles to be arrested again (5:17-18)? What was their complaint against the disciples (5:27-28)?

2. What was the council's reaction to Peter's speech (5:33)? What differences do you see compared to the reaction in 2:37. Why do you think the same message garnered such different responses?

3. What conclusion is stated in 5:38? Is this good advice to follow regarding false doctrine? What conclusion is stated in 5:39? Is this the best advice in how we should respond to a doctrine that **is** from God?

Apply:

What should we learn from the apostle's conduct as they faced persecution?

Acts 6:1-15

Connect:

Have you ever been in a situation where you had to solo a job that was meant for a team? Describe your experience.

Interpret:

1. What reason did the apostles give why they should not be in charge of this work (6:2,4)? Who had been supervising the work previously (4:35)?
2. Discuss the characteristics needed for the men appointed to do this work. Why might these characteristics be important for the work they would be doing?
3. Who disputed with Stephen (6:9)? When his opponents could not disprove him, what did they do (6:11-12)? What three charges were made against Stephen and in what sense was it true or not true (6:11-14)?

Apply:

What can we learn from the Jerusalem church about how the church should care for its needy members? Did it donate money to separate organizations to supervise work? Did it care for destitute non-members? Does it mean doing these things are wrong?

Prayer Requests / Praises



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