

C-Group Study Guide

Acts 13-18



Cultivating our Community for Christ

1 Cor. 3: 6-9

Calendar

June 12	Acts 13:42-14:28
June 19	Acts 15:1-41
June 26	Acts 16:1-40
July 10	Acts 17:1-34
July 17	Acts 18:1-28

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 13:42-14:28

Connect:

“As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath.” (Acts 13:42). Do you think this is a common response of the church today? Why or why not?

Interpret:

1. What response were the crowds met with by the Jews the following Sabbath (13:44-45)? Do our church gatherings receive the same response by those outside the fellowship of believers?
2. What OT verse does Paul and Barnabas quote in verse 47? What does this reveal regarding the purpose of Israel? Of the gospel?
3. What was the result of Paul and Barnabas preaching in Iconium (14:1-4)? What caused the division? Was the reasoning something that is still cause for division in the church today? Are there times when division is needed?

Apply:

Have you ever been driven out of somewhere for proclaiming the gospel? How does persecution differ in our culture in comparison to what it was in Acts? Does this change how we approach evangelism?

Acts 15:1-41

Connect:

Acts 15:1 talks about some men who claimed circumcision was needed to be saved. What other issues like this disturb the church today? Have you ever been in a church that these issues were present?

Interpret:

1. When the issue of circumcision was brought up in the church, what was done to resolve the problem (15:6)? How has the church handled these issues throughout history? How is it handled today?

2. What did the council do upon reaching their conclusion (15:22-29)? Who did they send to communicate to the Gentiles in the church what was decided? Why might they have chosen these men?

Apply:

Why did Paul and Barnabas separate? Was this necessary? Unnecessary? Good? Sinful? Are there times that separation from others in ministry is needed?

Acts 16:1-40

Connect:

Can everyone participate in any ministry? Are there certain areas that you are better equipped to serve in than others?

Interpret:

1. Why did Paul circumcise Timothy following the decision made by the council in Chapter 15 (16:1-3)? Was this hypocritical of Paul? Why or why not? (see also: 1 Cor. 9:19-21)

2. Who heard the message of Paul and what was their response? What caused the response (16:4)? What impact does this have on the Christian in regards to evangelism?

Apply:

How did Paul leverage his citizenship to rebuke the magistrates (16:35-39)? What impact does this have on how we as Christians interact with the authorities in our culture? (see also: Rom. 13:1-7)

Acts 17:1-34

Connect:

Have you ever had a discussion with someone about the gospel in which they became hostile? What about eager to hear more?

Interpret:

1. How did the responses of the Jews differ from Thessalonica to Berea? What did the Bereans do upon hearing the Word (17:11)? What lessons can we learn from their example?
2. Read Acts 17:22-31. What other sermon in Acts have you seen that is similar to this one? How do they differ from preaching to the Jews? Why?

Apply:

How does the reactions of the Athenians compare to the reactions of people today when they hear the gospel? How should we respond to them?

Acts 18:1-28

Connect:

Who do you feel lead to share the gospel with? Are there certain people you can share with easier than others?

Interpret:

1. How does Paul's response to opposition in 18:6 compare to Jesus' command given to his disciples in Matthew 10:12-14? Are we required to continue pursuing after those who are actively opposing the gospel message? What other options do we have?

2. Read 18:24-26. Who explained the gospel message more accurately to Apollos? What can we learn about women's role in teaching from this exchange?

Apply:

What lessons can we learn from the correction of Apollos? What other passages come to mind that instruct us how we should correct those in the church?

Prayer Requests / Praises



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