

C-Group Study Guide

Acts 19-23



Cultivating our Community for Christ

1 Cor. 3: 6-9

Calendar

August 7	Acts 19:1-40
August 14	Acts 20:1-38
August 21	Acts 21:1-25
August 28	Acts 21:26-40
September 4	Acts 22:1-30
September 11	Acts 23:1-35

2022 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 19:1-40

Connect:

Share about your salvation experience. How did it happen? What did you feel? What did you know?

Interpret:

1. What was John's baptism for (Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3)? What piece was missing from the Ephesus disciples and what happened upon them hearing the truth from Paul?
2. Verse 8 claims that Paul was reasoning and persuading those in the synagogue boldly for three months. How does this line up with the claim he makes in 1 Cor. 2:1-5? How do we reconcile these two accounts?
3. Why was Demetrius concerned about what Paul and his companions were doing? Was his reasoning for his goddess or for himself? Who spoke logic into the situation and what did it reveal concerning the crowd's reasoning?

Apply:

False piety is what rallied the city of Ephesus into a frenzied mob. Where do you see this happening today in our current culture? How do we quiet the false religious piety and display true reverential worship instead?

Acts 20:1-38

Connect:

Eutychus fell asleep during Paul's sermon and fell out of a window to his death only to be raised from the dead. What is an embarrassing story that you endured in the church in your life?

Interpret:

1. Paul mentioned that the Holy Spirit revealed to him that everywhere he went would be met with imprisonment and afflictions. How was Paul able to not shrink away and lose heart through that? How would you respond in that situation?

2. What was Paul's final exhortation and warning in vs. 25-30 to the church elders? Why would he say these things? What was Paul expecting of church elders and how does this speak to their responsibility today?

Apply:

Read verse 31. Can this be said of your life of prayer in your intercession of others?

Acts 21:1-25

Connect:

Have you ever been on a mission trip? Share some of your experiences with it (where, what, who...)

Interpret:

1. What prophet came to where Paul was staying and what did he claim would happen to Paul? How did those with him react and what was Paul's response?
2. What falsehoods were being spread about Paul and by who? What did James and the other elders tell Paul to do to set the record straight?
3. What vow is being talked about here and why would this convince the Jews otherwise regarding what Paul was teaching (Num. 6:1-21)?

Apply:

Where have you seen this same issue of misrepresentation in the church today? How does the Bible instruct us to live and act in regard to correcting or avoiding misrepresentation?

Acts 21:26-40

Connect:

Have you ever seen "mob mentality" happen due to individuals not knowing the facts of a situation?

Interpret:

1. How did Agabus' prophecy come to pass as Paul arrived in Jerusalem? What was ironic about the knowledge of the crowds when asked why they were amazing in such a number against Paul? Is the church today guilty of this at times?

2. How did Paul respond to the tribunal? What were they surprised to find out considering who they thought Paul was considering their misinformation?

Apply:

What are some biblical verses that speak to how we should use our knowledge and language in a way that best glorifies God?

Acts 23:1-35

Connect:

How would you rate yourself in showing respect and honor to leaders, especially ungodly ones? What makes this so hard to do?

Interpret:

1. How did Paul respond to being struck (2)? Where have you heard a similar phrase to Paul's reaction (3)? Upon learning of the identity of Ananias, how did Paul's attitude change and for what reason (Ex. 22:28)?

2. How did Paul turn the tables in his favor (6-9)?

3. Verse 11 reveals that God had plans for Paul in Rome. What do the following event of chapter 23 reveal in regard to God sovereignly working out His will for Paul?

Apply:

How can we better seek and obey God's will for our own lives? How have you seen God work things out in ways that could only be His doing?



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