

Book of the Week: Small Group Guide

Week 6: Acts

July 12, 2026

Icebreaker Question: Share a time when you stepped out of your comfort zone. What motivated you to do it, and what was the result?

Key Scripture

Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 8:4 - "Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went."

Sermon Summary

- The book of Acts reveals God's purpose beyond Jesus' resurrection—the global expansion of the church
 - The Spirit-empowered witness of believers creates a life-changing, world-impacting movement
 - The early church grew through persecution and discomfort, not despite it
 - We are called to focus less on "the ending" and more on faithful living and witnessing now
 - The church impacts culture when people inside go outside
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **The Theme of Acts:** Read Acts 1:6-8 together. Why do you think Jesus redirected the disciples' question about the end times to focus on being witnesses instead? What does this teach us about God's priorities?
2. **Scattered and Witnessing:** Read Acts 8:1-8. How did God use persecution to accomplish His purposes? What does this reveal about how God works through difficult circumstances?
3. **Philip's Story:** Discuss Philip's journey from Acts 8:26-40. What impresses you most about Philip's response to the Spirit's leading? What barriers did he have to overcome?

Personal Reflection

4. **Comfort vs. Calling:** The pastor mentioned that Acts is an "inconvenient book" because it pushes us out of comfort and familiarity. In what ways do you find yourself prioritizing comfort over witnessing? Be honest with each other.

5. **Focus on the Living:** Jesus told the disciples not to worry about the ending but to focus on living as witnesses now. What areas of your life are you spending too much energy worrying about "the ending" rather than being faithful in the present?
6. **Inside vs. Outside:** The sermon stated, "The church impacts culture when people inside go outside." What does this look like practically in your life? Where are your "outside" places—work, neighborhood, activities?

Application

7. **Your Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria:**

- Who is in your "Jerusalem" (immediate circle)?
- Who is in your "Judea" (broader community)?
- Who is in your "Samaria" (people different from you, possibly uncomfortable)?

Share one specific person in each category and how you might witness to them.

8. **The Giraffe Illustration:** The mama giraffe pushes the baby out of comfort for its own survival and growth. When has God "pushed" you out of your comfort zone? How did you respond—with fear or faith?
9. **Spirit-Led Opportunities:** Reflect on the story of Pastor Fred's son at the funeral. When have you had an unexpected opportunity to share your faith or serve in Jesus' name? How did you respond? What might have held you back?

Key Takeaways

- **God's purpose didn't end with the Gospels**—He is building a global, life-changing movement through Spirit-empowered witnesses
- **We are called to witness wherever we are and wherever we go**—not to seek comfort but to embrace the mission
- **The church grows through both nurturing believers and reaching non-believers**—it's both/and, not either/or
- **Discomfort and even persecution can be tools God uses** to expand His kingdom
- **Focus on faithful living now**, not just on when or how things will end

Closing Prayer

- Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit who empowers us to witness
- Ask for courage to step out of comfort zones
- Pray for specific people and opportunities to share Christ
- Commit to being faithful witnesses wherever God has placed us

Pray together: "Lord, help us not to focus on the endings, but to live faithfully as witnesses right now, right here. Give us Your Spirit's power to overcome fear and embrace the mission You've given us. Amen."