



ACTS: LifeGroup Leader Overview

August and September 2026

Acts is the story of the early Church, which bears witness to a key principle of God's Kingdom: ordinary men and women are the tools of God's extraordinary work through the power of the Holy Spirit. For the next few months, we're chasing the answer to this one big question: *How does the unstoppable Spirit of God advance the mission of Jesus through ordinary people like us?*

As every generation of the Church has sought to answer this question, Christians have leaned on the foundation laid for us in Acts 2:42-47 (NLT).

"42All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

43A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— 47all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved."

In verse 42, Luke gives us four key functions of the Church: Teaching, Fellowship, Meals together, Prayer. Throughout the next four months of our study through Acts, consider incorporating each of these functions with your LifeGroup either during group time, or in addition. Here are some suggestions:

Teaching:

- Listen to a podcast or watch a Biblical Documentary.

Fellowship:

- Do something fun together: hike at Asbury Woods, Seawolves game, picnic at Presque Isle,...
- Serve somewhere together. Check out serverie.com or any of the non-profits in Erie.

Meals together:

- Go out to eat together, or all bring your favorite food to share.
- Plan a time to celebrate the Lord's Supper together. ([Here are some tips](#))

Prayer

- Plan a dedicated meeting to praying for each other using ACTS or PRAY.
- Attend the Acts Community Prayer Nights on 8/30 together.



ACTS: How to Celebrate the Lord's Supper

Supplies needed: Bread or Crackers, Grape Juice, Cups

1. **Read Scripture.**
 - a. **Say:** "Let's take a few moments to read about the Lord's Supper together."
 - b. **Do:** Read one (or more) of the passages about the Lord's Supper: [Matthew 26:26-30](#), [Mark 14:22-26](#), [Luke 22:14-23](#), [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#)
2. **Set the Tone.**
 - a. **Say:** "As we pass the elements, each person will have a chance to share. What's shared here stays here. I'll go first to help us get started. Take a couple of minutes to reflect on these questions. How have you seen Jesus sustain you this past year? Where have you experienced Christ's forgiveness in your life this year?"
 - b. **Do:** Allow a few minutes of reflection for people to think about their answers.
3. **Pass the Bread.**
 - a. **Do:** As the bread is passed and each person takes a piece, have each person answer the question.
 - b. **Say:** "As you take the bread, share: how have you seen Jesus sustain you this past year?"
 - c. **Do:** After each person has shared and has a piece of bread in their hands, pray a blessing over the bread, thanking Jesus for sustaining us.
 - d. **Say:** "The body of Christ broken for you, do this in remembrance of him." Then eat the bread together.
4. **Pass the Cup**
 - a. **Do:** As the individual cups are passed out, have each person answer the question.
 - b. **Say:** "As you take the cup, share: where have you experienced Christ's forgiveness in your life this year?"
 - c. **Do:** Have the person to the right/left pray for that individual.
 - d. **Say:** Once everyone has shared, "The blood of Christ poured out for you, do this in remembrance of him." Drink the cup together.
5. **Close and Debrief**
 - a. **Do:** Close in prayer and allow space for brief reflection, especially if this is new for the group.
Say: "Let's close our time in prayer. If this was a new experience, feel free to share what it was like for you."



ACTS: Week 15

Handling Rejection

Pastor Andrew

August 2

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- Share how you felt when an idea of yours was rejected or when you were rejected from a group/ school/job, etc.

GROW: *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

Read [Acts 14](#), noting the cycle of success/rejection/success Paul and Barnabas encountered along their travels.

- In vs 1-7, How does the statement "a great number of Jews and Greeked believed" capture an encouragement to Paul and Barnabas before they were "mistreated" and fled? Why do you think they stayed "a long time" (v. 3) even after the opposition started?
- Read [James 1:2-5](#). In Acts 14:8-18, amidst a miracle, putting off unto admiration for it, sharing the truth, and a stoning, how does Paul apply these verses from James 1?
- What are some of the ways that the Lord gives wisdom to his people?
- Read [Psalm 16:8-11](#). How does Acts 14 exemplify David's words in this Psalm?
- How have you seen the lasting effects of faithfulness and perseverance during times of adversity bring hope to your lifelong struggle/success cycle?

Tool Practice: Review the [CARE Tool](#). Share with the group a time when someone intentionally connected with you during a difficult season, was a source of wisdom, helped to recall God's principles, and provided encouragement to continue.

GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it? Choose one of the next steps below and pray for each other.

- Reach out to the person who currently needs a friend to CARE.
- Turn a negative attitude about adversity into thankfulness: share what the Lord has done for you, during or through a struggle, with another person this week.



ACTS: Week 16

Can You Really Love Someone You Disagree With This Much?

Pastor Derek

August 9

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- When have you seen a disagreement among Christians be solved in a Christ-like manner? What did they do?

GROW: *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

Read [Acts 15:1-21](#).

- What would have been the easy decision (one which has the least negative impact on their time, emotion, effort, etc) for each of these people to make?
- How did the fact that "Jesus gave them his Spirit" and that they were all "saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus" change how these ordinary people acted on the problem they faced?
- How are obstacles removed, and the grace of the gospel maintained in this decision?

Read [Acts 15:36-41](#).

- How is the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas concerning John who is called Mark different from the one earlier in Acts 15?
- How was this disagreement solved?
- What are some different strategies used to solve disagreements among Christians throughout Acts 15?
- What are important things to consider in these disagreements?
- How can these disagreements provide guidance for us today when we have disagreements with other Christians?

GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

- What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it? Identify an area where you are "putting God to the test" by placing an unnecessary burden on others and determine your next action concerning it. "I will..."



ACTS: Week 17

Sharing Your Faith in a Skeptical World

Pastor Sarah

August 16

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- What is something you are looking forward to in the next month, and what is something that you are dreading? Spend time praying for each other.

GROW: *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

Assign these passages to 3 teams - [Acts 16:6-15](#), [Acts 16: 16-34](#), [Acts 17:1-4 and 10-15](#). Have each team discuss these passages using the following questions. Then, as a whole group let each team share what they found.

- Based on this story, finish this sentence, "The Holy Spirit's involvement could look like..."
- What techniques were used in sharing the gospel?
- God works in preparing hearts for the gospel. Based on this reading - what could be evidence that someone is responding to God's preparation?

As a group, read [Acts 17:22-33](#).

- What is different in the way Paul shared the gospel from how he usually shared with Jewish people?
- What tactics did Paul use to make a connection and relate?
- What could be some different scenarios (or belief systems) that may affect your starting point when sharing the gospel? (Example: With an atheist discussion might start with the existence of God.)
- [God's Story Tool](#) - Which of the five movements (Creation, Fall, Redemption, Mission, and Restoration) do you see in Paul's gospel presentation? Is there anything in his presentation that speaks to the 2 big questions (Identity and purpose).

GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

- Who have you been hoping to share God's story/the gospel with? What are the challenges to sharing with them? What do you think their hang up with the gospel might be?
Pray as a group for the people you are hoping to share the gospel with.



ACTS: Week 18

Overcoming Cultural Idols

Pastor Sarah

August 23

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- What tends to take up more of your time than you think it should? What do you want to invest more time in? And what time investment do you feel like you have just right?

GROW: *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

Read [Acts 19:1-30](#)

- This passage describes a growing response to the message of the Gospel and the ministry of Paul. What are the events that built this momentum?
- Vs 18-20 - What was the natural response of the new believers in this passage? Have you ever had a personal experience of letting go of things that were not consistent with your new relationship with Jesus? What did you let go of? What brought you to the realization that you should do this? What did it cost you?
- Vs 23-30 - Within a great gospel movement there is opposition. Why is Demetrius upset? Have you ever seen a business or non-Christian religious group affected by the conversion of people to Christianity? What happened? What about on a smaller scale? How have you seen families, businesses, or friend groups upset or disrupted because a family member, friend, or an employee came to Jesus?
- [Ephesians 5:1-8](#) - In the letters to the churches in Corinth and Ephesus it appears that the ways of the culture, which the original believers abandoned, seem to be a temptation to the believers later. What are the cultural sins that seem to draw Christians back in today?
- What can we gain from this passage that would help us from drifting back into these sin patterns?
- In what ways are you most tempted to drift back to old ways?

GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

What is God saying to you?

What are you going to do about it? "I will..."



ACTS: Week 19

What Will People Say About You at Your Funeral?

Pastor Derek

August 30

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- Share one character trait that you appreciate about the person on your left.
- What is one fruit of the Spirit that you want to reflect more consistently? ([Galatians 5:22-23](#))

GROW: *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

Read [Acts 20:18-24](#)

- Who is Paul speaking to in this passage? Why is the audience significant? What is his message?
- Make a list of all the action verbs Paul uses in verses 18-21. (lived, serving, declaring...) Describe how he approached each of these. (consistently, with humility...)

Read **1 Corinthians 11:1** in [New International Version](#), [New Living Translation](#), and [King James Bible](#).

Read [Matthew 16:24](#), [John 13:12-15](#) and [1 Corinthians 4:16-17](#)

- Why do you think Paul instructed the Corinthians to imitate him? How do we know this wasn't a prideful command?
- What does it mean to be imitators of Christ? What other words or terms might you use in place of 'imitate' to explain this concept to someone else? What are some specific principles or character traits of someone who follows Jesus this way?
- If asked right now, would the people who know you best say *you* are an imitator of Christ?

Read [1 Timothy 4:6-16](#)

- Paul wrote to Timothy to encourage and instruct him. What practical lessons can we learn from this passage about serving Christ well and living authentically as His disciple?
- If Paul were speaking these things to you, what areas would you feel confident about? Which do you find more challenging?

Read [Acts 20:34-37](#)

- Paul's ministry was marked by hard work and personal sacrifice. He poured out his life for the message of Jesus. In what ways has your Christian walk required hard work in your life? What has following Jesus cost you? How is God calling you deeper in this season?

Read [2 Timothy 3:10-11](#)



- Timothy learned how to be more like Jesus from Paul, and this equipped him to carry on the work of the Gospel.
- Is there someone in your life of whom you would say you are more like Jesus because you have interacted with them? Who is more like Jesus because they have been near *you*?

GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

- Pick one person God has put in your life for you to disciple or mentor *in this season*. Pray for them by name this week and then take the first step to develop that relationship. What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it? “I will...”



ACTS: Week 20
Defending Your Faith
Pastor Scott
September 6

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- How would you describe your comfort zone? The place or type of situation in which you feel most at ease. What types of things stretch you to step out of that place?

GROW: *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

Read [Acts 21:10-13](#) and [Acts 21:27-36](#)

- Take some time to identify the different people / people groups in these passages. (Paul, believers, Jews from Asia, city crowds...) Note what each is doing and saying. What can we learn about each of their motivations and priorities? How did those priorities impact their actions? Their emotions?

Read [Acts 23:9-11](#)

- What is happening in this scene? How do you think Paul felt in the midst of all this conflict? How do you think the words of the Lord impacted his perspective going forward?
- When have you found yourself in situations of conflict or disagreement about your faith? How were you inclined to respond? What did you actually do? How can this passage help you maintain a kingdom perspective in future uncomfortable situations?

Read [Acts 26:2](#); [Acts 26:19-23](#)

- What is Paul focused on in these passages? How does maintaining that focus influence what he says and does (or doesn't)? What role does telling his personal story take as he faces his accusers and those who are just curious?
- How easy/difficult do you find it to remain focused on God's purposes in the middle of hard personal experiences? What strategies can you use to grow in this?

Read [2 Corinthians 1:3-10](#); [Philippians 4:11-13](#)

- How does God use hard or uncomfortable situations to form Christlike character in His people?
- What situation in your life have you been frustrated by but perhaps He is using to prepare you for a future season? How can the lessons of Paul's example help you stay faithful during trials?

GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*



In most of the scenarios of Acts 21-26, Paul didn't dig deep into theology, he simply told the story of what God had done in his life. Take a chance this week and tell the story of what God has done in your life to someone who has not yet believed that Jesus' love is real.

What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it? "I will..."



ACTS: Week 21

When Life Gets Shipwrecked

Pastor Sarah

September 13

Life Group Discussion

CONNECT: *Make time for encouragement, relationship-building, and prayer.*

- We've spent 21 weeks in the book of Acts. Share a specific chapter or verse or story of the early church that challenged or encouraged you.
- From July 26th through September 13th, we heard from many different Grace missionaries. Which one had a story that resonated with you? <https://whoisgrace.com/missions/>

GROW: *Engage with God's word, one another, and the Dream Disciple tools and practices.*

- How has the book of Acts taught us these truths? How has God taught you these truths?
 - o You don't need a title to be used by God. ([Acts 4:13](#))
 - o Sometimes God uses hardship to move his purposes forward. ([Acts 8:4](#); [12:1](#), [24](#))
 - o Nothing, not even chains, can hold back the mission of God. ([Acts 28:30-31](#))
- Now that we've read the entire book of Acts, we've journeyed with Paul to the end of the earth, let's read a letter from Paul to the first church in Europe. The church in Philippi was first established in Lydia's house (Acts 16:11-15) and included her household (family, employees, servants), a slave girl rescued from demonic oppression (16:16-24) and a Roman jailer (16:25-40). What a diverse blend of people! Paul's letter to this church encourages them to live as citizens of God's Kingdom, serving God and one another. As we read, let's imagine we're a new church located in a place where our faith is seen as strange, even dangerous.
 - o Read [Philippians 1-4](#) in its entirety. Choose an easy-to-read-out-loud version like NIV or NLT. Invite group members to take turns reading

GO: *Put your learning into practice and hold one another accountable.*

The church today continues the story of the early church! Week 1 and Week 21 shared the same Big Idea: God's Spirit is still writing God's Story, and you're in it. We're living out Acts chapter 29 wherever we live work learn and play. The question you must ask is:

How is the unstoppable Spirit of God advancing the mission of Jesus through me?

***Baptism Sunday is September 27th!** "They believed and were baptized" is a recurring theme in the book of Acts. If you've never taken this step of obedience, register today! Invite family and friends to join you in celebrating your decision to be baptized. <https://whoisgrace.com/baptism/>