



## ACTS: LifeGroup Leader Overview

July 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](https://www.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 one of the Acts Community Prayer Nights on 7/26 and 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 11

### Can Bad People Really Change?

Pastor Andrew

July 5

#### Life Group Discussion

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

- Share about a time someone believed in you when you didn't think you deserved it. How did their encouragement impact what you did next?

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

Read [Acts 9:1-2](#), [Acts 9:10-15](#), [Acts 9:26-28](#), and [1 Timothy 1:12-16](#)

- Why was Saul persecuting disciples of Jesus? How did the disciples view/respond to his actions and reputation? How do these viewpoints relate to God's perspective/response toward Saul?
- Compare and contrast the character of Saul, Ananias and Barnabas based on these passages. How are they different? How are they alike?
- How is God's mercy expressed toward Saul through Ananias and Barnabas?
- Who in your circle needs someone to see beyond their past and encourage them toward their God-given purposes? What barriers do you need to overcome to show them grace and mercy?

Read [John 8:3-11](#) and [Ephesians 2:1-10](#).

- When has God interrupted a worldly pattern or behavior in your life and shown you mercy? Why do you think God chooses to raise us up out of those situations/beliefs? Do you truly believe that He can redeem that part of your life?
- How has your past (including rebellions and mistakes) equipped you to walk in the good works God has prepared for you?

Read [Psalm 51](#).

- This psalm records David's response to God when he is confronted with his sin. What does this reveal about David's heart posture? What does Saul/Paul have in common with David?
- How can David's prayer challenge you toward transformative repentance?

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

Spend some time recalling situations and relationships that God has unexpectedly redeemed in your life. Share a testimony of one of these with someone who is currently in need of His help.

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





## ACTS: Week 12

You Can Be Wrong With God While Quoting Your Bible

Pastor Derek

July 12

### Life Group Discussion

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

- Share about a time God asked you to do something that didn't make sense until later.

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

Read [Acts 10:1-8](#) and [Acts 10:9-16](#)

- Compare and contrast these two scenes. Consider who the men are, what they are doing and how they respond. What practices, traditions and assumptions can you identify in each?
- How is each man serving God? How is each being challenged to something deeper?

Read [Acts 10:28-29](#), [Acts 10:34-35](#), [Isaiah 49:6](#), and [Romans 2:9-11](#)

- What cultural and religious boundaries did Peter have to cross to be obedient to God?
- How difficult do you think it was for Peter to set aside what he thought he knew and accept the truth being revealed to him?
- When has God challenged your perspective on who He is or how He wants to work in your life? What made that most difficult? What helped you leave behind that point of view or practice?
- Are there any traditions, long-held beliefs or expectations that God is prompting you to release currently? What is holding you back from swift obedience?

Read [Romans 14:13-19](#)

- What is Paul's big idea in this passage?
- When have you found yourself more committed to a pattern than its purpose? How can we as Christ's body reconcile and live out God's dual calls to holiness and acceptance?
- What traditions, cultural characteristics or people groups do you find most challenging to engage with? Why do you think that is so? Take some time to seek God's perspective and confess any areas that you may be resisting His lead or passing judgment on others.

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

Review the Savvy Follower Tool: [Discern God's Voice](#).



Slow down a bit this week. Make space in your schedule and heart to pay attention to unexpected moments and encounters. Ask God how He wants you to engage. Decide in advance to be willing and available for His plans and purposes. Share and encourage each other in a LifeGroup chat as you go.



## ACTS: Week 13

When Life Feels Out of Control

Pastor Sarah

July 19

### Life Group Discussion

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

- Share about a struggle or low time in your life. How did you see God at work during that time? How have you seen His work in that situation more clearly since?

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

- Read [Acts 12:1-5](#). How do you think these believers felt as they saw James killed and Peter imprisoned? What did they do in response? How do you respond to suffering and threats you see?
- Acts 12: 5 says they made “earnest prayer”. Exactly how do you think they prayed? What did they expect God to do?
- Now read their reaction when Peter was released ([Acts 12:14-16](#)). Which do you think was more surprising—James’s deliverance through death or Peter’s miraculous deliverance to life? Why?
- Read [Hebrews 11:29-39](#). All the people noted in these verses were described as people who had faith. Describe the different ways in which God rewarded their faith. What different responses do you see to your prayers of faith?
- How can we trust God when we walk through hard times in life? What are some promises from God’s word that help carry you through? (some ideas -- [Job 12:9-10](#); [Romans 8:28](#); [Isaiah 41:10](#); [Matthew 10:29-31](#))

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

- Take some time now to think about His sovereignty as it relates to what you or someone close to you is experiencing right now.
  - Where is there tragedy in your life?
  - Where do you need to trust God?
  - Where do you see triumph?

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

- How can our group hold each other accountable for following through this week?



## ACTS: Week 14

What does it mean to be “called”?

Brian Lusky

July 26

### Life Group Discussion

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

- Have you ever been tasked with a “mission” that was both familiar and new? For example, planning an event, finding a specific gift, tracking down a key resource, planning a Disney vacation, etc. Where did you start? Who did you recruit to help you? What was the result?

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

Acts 13 marks a shift in the story of the early church. For the first time, the church intentionally sends missionaries to take the gospel to new places.

- Skim [Acts 13](#) and then look at verses 1-5 and 13-15. How did Paul and Barnabas’ journey begin? What feels familiar?
- Read Acts 13:6-12. Imagine witnessing these events! What stands out to you?
- Acts 13:16-41 records the summary of Paul’s speech in the synagogue. He weaves the gospel story from Exodus to Jesus. What are the gospel themes he reveals to his Jewish audience? [Try using cross-references to find the many Old Testament citations he uses!]
- Review the mixed reactions in Acts 13:42-52. How might Paul and Barnabas have been discouraged? Encouraged?
- Think back to your “mission” you shared at the beginning. What keeps you going when things get hard? Apply that to your life as a Christian- what is the “mission” God has called you to? We’re not all missionaries or evangelists, but we’re called to Light to a dark world. We’re called to live lives that reflect Jesus and his gospel. What motivates us to keep going when it gets hard?

For an overview of Paul’s first missionary journey:

[https://biblehub.com/g/key\\_events\\_in\\_paul's\\_1st\\_mission.htm](https://biblehub.com/g/key_events_in_paul's_1st_mission.htm)

**PRAY:** Pray for a Grace global partner, missionary partner, or local partner. Find more information at

<https://whoisgrace.com/missions/>

**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...”