

# COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

## THE LIFE — I

Acts 1:1-8

Pastor Miles McPherson – January 6, 2013



## MEMORY VERSE

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

## DISCUSSION STARTERS

### 1. Review the Sunday Message

Acts Facts:

1. The **‘what’** of the book of Acts:
  - Acts is the fifth book of the New Testament, immediately following the four gospels.
  - Luke, a doctor and the only Gentile New Testament author, wrote a detailed account of Jesus’ life, a continuation of the gospel of Luke.
  - 30-year history of the Birth of the Christian Church.
  - Bridge between the gospel and the rest of the New Testament.
  - The four gospels present what Christ taught and modeled about THE LIFE.
  - Acts is an account of people living the life Christ lived.
  - The four gospels promise the Holy Spirit.
  - Believers were first called Christians in Antioch. (**Acts 11:26**)
  
2. The **‘who’** of the book of Acts:
  - Four people – three apostles and one Holy Spirit.
  - Peter in Jerusalem and Judea.
  - Philip in Samaria.
  - Paul – Ends of the earth.
  - Three missionary journeys.
  - Six epistles written during those journeys.

### 3. The **‘how’** of the book of Acts:



- Witness – μάρτυς – Martoos
- 3a. A witness has and **shares** experiential knowledge of God.
  - 3b. A witness must **deny self** to make room for their experiential knowledge.
  - 3c. A witness will suffer **persecution** for sharing that knowledge. (**Acts 22:20; Rev. 2:13, 17:6**)
  - 3d. The testimony of the witness brings eternal **blessings** to the kingdom of God.

## COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS — THE LIFE, PART ONE

This week we begin our new study through the book of Acts entitled “The LIFE”. This series is designed to show us how the Church got it’s form, and what this means for us two-thousand years later. Miles introduces us to the series by giving us minor background information that will set us up for the rest of the series. There is no better way to get us started then to look at the key theme of the book, Acts 1:1-8. This is the pinnacle of the book and more importantly the church. The following questions will center on this verse and the implications of it.

### Study Questions:

1. Look at the following passages in Acts that deal with the word “witness” and describe what the “witnessing” is all about in those passages.
  - Acts 1:22, 2:32, 3:15, 5:32, 10:39, 13:31
  - Who are the witnesses and what are they witnessing? Understanding this is foundational in understanding “The LIFE” we are supposed to live.
2. Why do you think the author is explaining the importance of reaching Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, as well as the ends of the earth? How does our understanding of the “witness” in #1 shape this?
  - This verse actually structures the book of Acts – Jerusalem, chapters 1-7; Judea and Samaria, chapters 8-12; ends of the earth (i.e. Rome), chapters 13-28.
  - If we are reaching the “ends of the earth” with the gospel what exactly are we communicating to them? Take time with this question. Combine #1 and #2 in your answer.
3. How will you be committed to “being a witness” to San Diego, California, America, or the ends of the earth? Discuss plans individually or together as a group.
  - This doesn’t necessarily have to mean international missions or leaving your life behind, but of course it could mean that. Think practical yet biblical. Start with San Diego. How does the gospel shape your life and how can you proclaim this good news to others?

Add'l Notes:



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