

1. **Read** Acts 5:17-28 and Acts 4:13. Why do you think the high priest and his fellow Sadducees were filled with jealousy and imprisoned the apostles?
2. What areas of disagreement are dividing the Christian church today?
3. The apostles were escorted from jail by an angel. Where has God helped you get out of a bad situation, and what might He be hoping you will do with your freedom from this situation?
4. **Read** Acts 5:29-32. As a Christian, when should you obey and when should you disobey the authorities in your life?
5. **Read** Psalm 110:1 and Acts 7:55. What is the significance of Peter describing Jesus as being at the right hand of God?
6. **Read** Acts 5:33-39. How would you describe the advice of Gamaliel, and why do you think it worked?
7. When would “wait and see” be a problematic strategy for Christians?
8. **Read** Acts 5:40-42 and Matthew 10:17. How would being whipped 39 times (flogged) affect your desire to witness?
9. Why are we so reluctant to tell others about Jesus with the boldness of the apostles?

1. **Read** Acts 6:1-8. What do you think was going on with the Greek women not receiving food in preference to the Hebrew women?
2. Where do you see similar injustice in the Christian church today?
3. How would you describe the decision of the Apostles to separate themselves from serving food to just teaching the word of God and praying?
4. **Read** 1 Cor 12:12-31. What are a few ways you can discover how you can serve the church assuming you agree every believer should be serving other believers in some way?
5. **Review** Galatians 5:16-25. How would you identify a man that is “full of the Spirit”, and can you identify at least one that you know today?
6. Why would the qualifications of these “chosen” men in Acts 6:1-8 be critical in their new role?
7. **Read** Acts 6:8-15. What do learn about Stephen’s character in chapter 6?
8. Why do you think these men opposed Stephen to the point of lying about him?
9. What causes you to speak badly about other Christian men?

1. **Read** Acts 6:12-14. What were the accusations made against Stephen?
2. **Read** Acts 7:1-8 and Genesis 15. How was Abraham made right with God?
3. **Read** Hebrews 11: 13-16. How does the focus of his accusers on the sacred nature of the land, the law, and the temple seem to conflict with Abraham's right standing with God?
4. What violations of your standards of a "good Christian" cause you to become critical in your heart toward others?
5. **Read** Acts 7:9-36 and Hebrews 11:22-29. Stephen points to Joseph and Moses as examples of why Jesus was right with God, and the Jews accusing him were in violation of God's true desires. What are a few possible similarities you think he wants them to see?
6. **Read** Acts 7:37-43. How did the Jewish people treat God when Moses brought them the laws of God? How does that compare to the Jews attacking Stephen?
7. What do you pursue each day to find comfort and happiness?
8. **Read** Acts 7:44-50 and Jeremiah 7:1-15. What does God think of a temple made by man, and what is Stephen telling his accusers about the temple?
9. How might we as Christians place too much emphasis on a building instead of God?
10. **Read** Acts 7:51-60. What accusations of Stephen caused him to be killed?
11. **Read** Psalm 110:1. What do you learn from the posture of Jesus and Stephen?

[Please be prepared to answer at least two questions during your group time. Please consider volunteering your answer to help the Zoom process move more effectively. Thank you.]

1. **Read** Acts 8:1-3, 16:7, 22:3-4,19,25-28, 23:6, 26:4-5, 9-11 and Phil 3:5-6. What do you learn about Saul (Paul) from all these verses, and what caused the disciples to scatter?
2. **Read** Acts 8:4-8 and Acts 1:8. When Philip entered Samaria, a place Jews were not typically welcome, what did he do, and how did the people respond? (Google the history of Samaria for a deeper understanding.)
3. What does this story indicate was Philip's first priority, and how does that inspire you?
4. What were the key elements of the growth of the church at this point, and how should we apply those to the church today?
5. **Read** Acts 8:9-25 and 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. What do you learn about Simon, and how would you describe his faith?
6. How can you discern a false spiritual leader from a true follower of Jesus?
7. What are a few possible reasons God had the apostles impart the Holy Spirit in this manner but does not require that today?
8. **Read** Acts 8:26-40. How do you know when the Holy Spirit is leading you?
9. What is an eunuch, and what are some of the key elements of his path to being saved?
10. What are a few key things from this story that will help prepare you to walk a person down the path to salvation?

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1. **Read** Acts 9:1-9, II Samuel 7:11-14, Isaiah 11:2-5, 42:1-7, Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15-18. Why did Saul believe Jesus was a heretic trying to destroy Judaism, and was not the Messiah?
2. **Read** Acts 22:1-5 and Galatians 1:13-14. What made Saul feel justified to imprison and kill Jewish Christians?
3. What issues cause you to become so angry you can feel yourself wanting to hurt people either verbally or physically? *(It may feel difficult to share these thoughts with other men. The "Christian" answer is to say you never feel that way.)*
4. What are a few possible reasons Jesus introduced himself to Saul in this manner?
5. Can you share a story of how Jesus forced you to examine your lifestyle and choices?
6. Why do you think God wanted us to see Saul being led like a sheep by other men after his conversion?
7. **Read** Acts 9:10-19 and 22:1-21. Why do you think God used Ananias to heal Saul and reveal his new life mission, and what does that say to you about the role of men like Ananias?
8. **Read** Acts 9:20-25, Gal 1:15-18, and Matthew 4:1-11. Why do you think God led Saul to Arabia for three years before launching him into ministry?
9. **Read** Acts 9:26-31. How did the Jerusalem church overcome their fear and accept Saul?
10. How can God use you to help bring a time of peace to our churches and other believers?

1. **Read** Acts 10:1-8. What do you learn about Cornelius and why does God choose him?
2. Why do you think we are told Peter stayed with a tanner named Simon? (The Jews believed these people were unclean: Lev 11:39-40.)
3. **Read** Acts 10:9-20. How does God use food to connect with men?
4. **Read** Leviticus 11. What did God expect of the Jews regarding animals?
5. How many times did Peter say “no” to God? When was the last time you told God “no” because you did not agree with what He wanted for your life?
6. **Read** Acts 10:21-33. What has Peter learned from his visions that he applies to these people?
7. How does the effort of Cornelius inspire you toward bringing people to meet Jesus?
8. **Read** Acts 10:34-43. Why does Peter share the Gospel with Cornelius when it’s been made clear he already believed in God?
9. How do these words of Peter challenge how you feel about other cultures?
10. **Read** Acts 10:44-48. What is the sequence of salvation for the people?
11. What is your responsibility in the salvation of unbelievers? How can you improve in this effort?

1. **Read** Acts 11:1-18. Why would the Jewish believers question Peter for meeting with gentiles after having seen or heard that Jesus healed and saved numerous gentiles?
2. What types of people do you avoid when it comes to sharing your faith? Why?
3. What are the three defenses Peter uses to justify his actions? How can we follow Peter's defense steps to help our spiritual decision-making process?
4. **Read** Acts 11:18, 15:1-2, Philippians 3:1-3, Galatians 5:2-6. How did the Jewish Christians respond to Peter? Why do you think they changed their mind when it came to circumcision?
5. Can you think of any standards you expect Christians to meet that may vary depending on your audience or the situation?
6. **Read** Romans 14. Paul wrote this after arguing with these Jewish Christians. How does it help you think about your attitude toward other believers?
7. **Read** Acts 11:19-26 and Acts 8:1-3. What do you learn about this critical growth stage of the new church?
8. What do you learn about Barnabas, and how can each of his traits be built-up in believers?
9. **Read** Acts 9:26-30 and 11:25-26. Why do you think Barnabas brought Saul from Tarsus?
10. Why is it important for every believer to have a role to play in the global Christian church?
11. **Read** Acts 4:32-37 and 11:29-30. How does the history of Christianity inform your giving?

1. **Read** Acts 12:1-4 and Matthew 4:21-22. Who is James and why do you think Herod killed him? (Google *Herod Agrippa I* to help understand his connection to the Jews.)

2. **Read** Matthew 20:20-28 and Rev 1:9.
 - a. What were James and John hoping for when they first started working for Jesus?

 - b. How did the words of Jesus come to pass for James and John?

3. **Read** Acts 4:23-30. How does the death of James make sense to the first disciples?

4. **Read** Acts 12:5-17. How does Peter sleeping help us understand his emotional state?

5. What has been disrupting your sleep these days?

6. **Read** 1 Peter 3:8-17. How does Peter's teaching address your anxiety and lack of sleep?

7. **Read** John 21:18-19. How might this have helped Peter while in jail?

8. **Read** James 5:16 and Acts 12:5 & 12.
 - a. What are the other disciples doing while Peter is in prison?
 - b. What is the result?
 - c. What do you think the impact was on those disciples?

9. **Read** Numbers 20:12, Isaiah 42:8, Acts 12:20-23, Romans 12:19. How does God feel about you taking his glory? When do you flirt with this type of behavior?

10. **Read** Acts 12:24-25. How does the response of the church help you move ahead after a crisis?