

# ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God..." 2 Timothy 2:16

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### You Will Be My Witnesses

#### *Acts 1*

I remember telling a friend, "If I were dying, what I would most need would be confidence that all I believed about Jesus were true. I would want you to read Scripture to me, pray with me, and talk to me about Jesus and heaven." This confidence is not only what I need most when I am dying, but also when I am living. During the days between his resurrection and ascension, Jesus built the confidence of his disciples. He demonstrated and spoke truth about himself. And then he left them with a clearly defined task and the promise of the power to carry out that task. Thus, Luke was able to write with confidence to Theophilus about Jesus.

### Questions

1. When has your faith in Jesus Christ been encouraged by the words of others?
2. Read Acts 1:1-11. What did Luke, the author of Acts, report to Theophilus about Jesus' last days upon earth? What gives credibility to this report?
3. How is your hope and confidence in Jesus affected by what you learn of him in the passage?
4. Put yourself in the shoes of the apostles. How would you feel if you were the first to be given the task described in verse 8?
5. How are we equipped for this task, according to the passage?
6. Imagine that you were there, looking into the sky. How do you think the followers of Jesus were affected by the promise that he would return?
7. How are you affected by that promise today?
8. Read Acts 1:12-26. How did the disciples respond to all that they had seen and heard?
9. Why was it important for them to be together?
10. How are you affected when you pray with other believers in this way especially as you consider your part in this task (v. 14)?
11. Peter comes forth as the leader of this group. He goes to Scripture immediately when he speaks. How do these words of David affect their confidence as well as give them direction?
12. In summary, how does this passage define your task, equip, motivate and give you confidence to complete the task?

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### Receiving the Power

#### *Acts 2*

At my school of nursing, a group of upperclassmen wanted to communicate the message of Jesus to the incoming class of freshmen. They realized that there was only one source to accomplish this task—the power of the Holy Spirit. So they decided to pray for each new student by name weeks before they arrived on campus. As a result, many who did not know Jesus when they arrived graduated as maturing Christians.

### Questions

1. What do you think it would be like if the Holy Spirit were suddenly withdrawn from the church?
2. Read Acts 2. Imagine that you were there on the Day of Pentecost. What do you think it would have been like for you as one of the crowd looking on?
3. How do the Jews respond to the power of the Spirit which they witness?
4. Here, we see Peter as a dynamic leader and preacher. It is the power of the Holy Spirit which has changed this man who was once a coward that denied Jesus three times. Scripture, again, is the foundation of Peter's proclamation of truth. What message does the book of Joel have for the bewildered crowd?
5. In our study of Acts we will see Peter's perception of evangelism broaden. In this chapter why do you think there is a difference between the people Luke mentions as being present (v. 9-11) and Peter's address, "Fellow Jews" (v. 15)?
6. What is there in Peter's sermon that would reassure Theophilus about his faith and help him "know the certainty of the things" that he'd been taught?
7. What does Peter have to offer to those who are responsive to his message (v. 37-39)?
8. How has your life been affected by the gift of the Holy Spirit?
9. Describe the fellowship of the believers in this young church (v. 42-47),
10. What were their priorities?
11. How does the life and purpose of your church or Christian fellowship group compare to that of this group?
12. In summary, what are all the ways you see the power of the Holy Spirit demonstrated throughout the chapter?
13. How does your church or fellowship group need to change in order to see the power of the Holy Spirit demonstrated in these ways?

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### Healing Power

#### *Acts 3*

I met Anne at the hospital where I was working one evening. She was in an isolation room. She had hepatitis from using contaminated needles to take drugs. In time our relationship grew, and Anne came to know Jesus. She recovered from hepatitis and went off drugs. She worked at healing her relationship with her parents. Later, she married and established a Christian home. Anne's story makes it clear that the power of the Holy Spirit is not only demonstrated through physical healing, but also in the "complete healing" that includes every aspect of our lives.

### Questions

1. In your experience what causes non-Christians to be open to hearing about Jesus?
2. Read Acts 3 - The outreach in Jerusalem continues as Peter and John respond to a crippled beggar. What is the significance of the feet that they found him at the temple gate?
3. What happened that caused the people to be filled with wonder and amazement (Vs. 1-10)?
4. How does the response of the people to this miracle contrast with that of the beggar (Vs. 8 & 11-12)?
5. When Peter saw the response of the crowd; he saw his opportunity of talking to them about Jesus. According to Peter's message, what had God done to Jesus (w. 13-15)?  
What had the Jews done to him?
6. How is the authority of Jesus demonstrated in this miracle (v. 16)?
7. What do you think it meant that "complete healing" (v. 16) was given to the beggar?  
What healing do you need in your life?
8. How did Peter explain that all that had happened to Jesus was a part of God's plan (w. 17-26)?
9. The wait for Jesus to return from heaven may seem very long.  
How is your perspective on this wait affected by verse 21?
10. How do you respond when you have opportunities like Peter's to talk about Jesus?
11. In summary, how is the power of the Holy Spirit linked to the truth about Jesus in this passage?
12. The "completely" healed man was a powerful testimony to the power of God and the truth of Peter's words. How have you seen the power of God demonstrated in your life and in the lives of others?

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### Called into Question

#### *Acts 4:1-31*

Disabled person becomes abled! And a one-time burden to society, beggar, becomes functional and a contributing citizen! How do the religious leaders respond to these miraculous events? Instead of expressing gratitude, they become extremely upset. The two men responsible for the healing are arrested.

### Questions

1. When has your faith in Jesus Christ been challenged by others?
  2. Read Acts 4:1-22. What has upset the religious leaders (Vs. 1-2)?  
What action did they take (w. 3-7)?
  3. Just a few weeks have passed since Annas and Caiaphas had been involved in the condemnation of Jesus. In his response to their question, "By what power or what name did you do this?" Peter is forcing them to encounter Jesus again. What does Peter say about him (Vs. 10-12)?
  4. In what ways does the church confront the world with Jesus Christ today?  
How does the church fail to do this?
  5. In verses 13-22 what all made it so difficult for the opposing religious leaders to bring this unacceptable behavior to a halt?
  6. How do these same things, when present in our Christian communities, enhance accomplishing the task of spreading the news about Jesus?
  7. Imagine that you had been in a group of believers John and Peter returned to and told of what had happened. What would have been your reaction?
  8. Read Acts 4:23-31. What was the reaction of the believers to John and Peter's account?
  9. What is the significance of their unity in the midst of their task and power being challenged?
  10. What does their prayer tell you about their faith in the character, power and faithfulness of God?
  11. How does the quote from Psalm 2 clearly demonstrate God's character faithfulness and power?
  12. What did they finally request of God in the last part of their prayer?
  13. "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. In what ways do you need the power of the Holy Spirit to face the world today?
- ❖ Ask God to fill you with the Spirit as you face constant challenge to the power for and the task of experiencing and communicating the gospel.

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### Oneness of Heart

#### **Acts 4:32—5:16**

It was with a heavy feeling of dread and pain that I read name after name engraved on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. Then, I saw that next to the memorial stands a statue of three men—a Black, a Hispanic and a White soldier. They were standing *very close together*. The tour guide, a former soldier who fought in Nam, explained the significance of the statue. He said that there were more minorities fighting for the U.S. than ever before. And the reason that they were standing so close together was that in Vietnam they learned, like never before, how very much they *needed each other*. In this study we will see that when the battle is spiritual, our need for each other is even more critical.

### Questions

1. When have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your own life as a result of being at one with other believers?
2. Read Acts 4:32—5:16. How is oneness of heart and mind demonstrated in 4:32-37?
3. What have Ananias and Sapphira done that is not consistent with Christian community (5:1-2)?
4. Pretend you are watching the interaction between Peter and Ananias Sapphira (5:3-9). How would you report this incident?
5. Verse 11 states that "great fear seized the whole church and all who I about these events." How do you think the church was affected by this ft
6. How does this story demonstrate the high value that God places on truth and unity within the body of Christ?
7. In what ways do we lie to each other today within our Christian communities?
8. How do these practices of untruth bring about death, in a spiritual; emotional sense, within our communities?
9. What are the tangible evidences of the power of the Holy Spirit in this community in 5:12-16?
10. Why do you suppose that no one dared to join the believers when they met together in Solomon's Colonnade?
11. What difference would it make in our witness to the world today if believers were "highly regarded by the people"?
12. What characteristics does your Christian community share with the believers in Acts?  
How is it different?
13. How could you begin to help others in your church or fellowship understand what Christian community is about?

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### Persecution and Expansion

#### ***Acts 5:17— 6:7***

In 1956 tragic news spread across the world. Five American men—sons, husbands and fathers—were massacred by a tribe of Auca Indians. Their purpose was to take the good news of Jesus Christ to the Auca. The opposition to this endeavor cost them their lives. That agonizing loss, which seemed at the time to be such a waste, turned into great fruit for the kingdom of God. Over the years that Samuel of Indians has been transformed by the power of God. The message of God was taken to them by the loved ones of those five young men. Another visible fruit of this great loss is the many that have gone into the world with gospel, having been inspired by the lives and deaths of these missions. The church of Jesus Christ continues to expand today in spite of great persecution, even as it did in the day of the apostles.

### Questions

1. When have you encountered internal and/or external opposition if you have attempted to proclaim the message of Jesus? Which is more difficult for you to deal with? Why?
2. Read Acts 5:17-42. List the expressions of, and causes of, emotion throughout this passage.
3. Describe the apostles' response, motivation and source of strength throughout this whole episode.
4. In what ways do you sense a need for this kind of response, motivation and drawing upon the strength of the Holy Spirit in your life?  
in the life of your Christian community?
5. What was Gamaliel's message to the religious leaders (v. 34-39)?
6. How was his influence in saving the apostles' lives an example of that truth which he spoke?
7. Read Acts 6:1-7. As the number of disciples increased, what practical) began to present themselves?
8. How did the Twelve respond to these needs (6:2-6)?
9. How does this response demonstrate sensitivity to these needs, and commitment to God's primary direction to them?
10. How does this response to need compare and contrast to your Christian community?
11. What is the spirit of those who are involved in the work of God throughout this passage?  
What is the response to the truth that is being lived and proclaimed?
12. As you observe the work of the Holy Spirit throughout these passages what actions do you think you and/or your group should take to insure ministry among you?

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### Stephen, Full of Spirit and Wisdom

#### ***Acts 6:8— 7:60***

I'm glad for those people in my life who make me long to know God better. God's character in them makes me hunger and thirst for him. That is what happens to me when I am exposed to Stephen. I read about him and I want to know God. Stephen is described as "full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, full of God's grace and power." He was a gift to the early church but could not be tolerated by her enemies.

### Questions

1. Think of a person that makes you want to know God better. What is that person like?
2. Read Acts 6:8—7:60. What do you learn about Stephen throughout this passage?
3. What do you think it was like when the religious leaders could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke?
4. What do the accusations against Stephen tell us about why the Jewish religious leaders were so upset (6:13-14)?
5. Sometimes the speech in chapter 7 is called "Stephen's defense," although it is actually a defense of pure Christianity as God's appointed way to worship. What are the main points of this defense?
6. What did God tell Abraham would happen to his descendants, the Jews (7:1-7)?
7. How are you affected when you see all that God told Abraham would happen to the Hebrews, years before it happened, even before he had unfolded in history?
8. What implications is Stephen making about where God can be worshiped in 7:44-50?
9. What direct application does Stephen make concerning the religious leaders from 7:39-43 (see 7:51-53)?
10. How did God directly minister to Stephen as he faced the angry leaders and his own death?
11. Throughout this whole passage, we see in Stephen the evidence of being full of Spirit and wisdom. What are the evidences today of being full of Spirit and wisdom?
12. In what aspect of your life would you like to reflect more Spirit and wisdom?

❖ Ask God to fill you with Spirit and wisdom.

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### The Power of Suffering

#### *Acts 8:1-40*

Stephen is dead. When he is buried, the people mourn deeply. The church has experienced the tragedy of her first martyr. In this study we meet Philip and Saul. Saul approves of Stephen's death. He is putting all his energy into destroying the rest of Jesus' followers. In contrast, Philip is one of the seven, full of the Spirit and wisdom. His era goes into the proclamation of the truth about Jesus. People respond. And so both the persecution and the expansion of the church continue.

### Questions

1. What do you feel you need to become a more effective witness for Jesus?
2. Read Acts 8. In this passage the command to be witnesses in all of Judea and Samaria (Acts 1:8) is fulfilled. What are the causes and extent of the spread of the gospel at this time? How does the power of the Holy Spirit continue to be demonstrated?
4. Look at the story of Simon the Sorcerer (vv. 9-25). How does he attempt to get spiritual power? What is his motivation for wanting this power (vv. 18-19)?
5. In contrast, what is God's way for his people to receive spiritual power (vv. 20-23)?
6. The story of Simon the Sorcerer demonstrates that becoming a Christian does not instantly resolve all problems and character flaws. What do you learn from Peter concerning nurturing young believers? What results do you see in Simon?
7. What are the factors involved in the eunuch's coming to know the truth (vv. 26-39)?
8. How was Philip's ministry to the eunuch the beginning of the witness "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8)?
9. Today we refer to different kinds of evangelism, such as friendship evangelism, mass evangelism, door-to-door evangelism and literature evangelism. What kinds of evangelism do you see in this passage?
10. What principles of evangelism have you observed throughout the Bible?
11. What have you learned from this passage that might make you a more effective witness for Jesus?



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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### Saul's Conversion

#### ***Acts 9:1-31***

When Chuck Colson became a Christian in prison, the whole nation reacted with skepticism—Christians and non-Christians alike. Of all the leading characters in the Watergate scandal, he was one of the most notorious. Could such a calculating man sincerely come to God?

### Questions

1. Whose conversion to Christianity has been most astonishing to you? Why?
2. Read Acts 9:1-31. Review what you know about Saul (7:58—8:3). What further insights do you get about him from 9:1-2?
3. Describe Saul's encounter with Jesus Christ in verses 3-9. What is the emotional, spiritual, physical and social climate?
4. Ananias is the second person within three days to have a direct encounter with the Lord. Compare and contrast his encounter (v. 10-16) with that of Saul's.
5. What is the significance of Ananias addressing Saul as "Brother" (v. 17)?
6. What do you learn about obedience to God through Saul and Ananias?
7. What does Saul's conversion teach us about those in our life who are likely *not to* believe?
8. Consider the people in your life who are most antagonistic to Christ. How might God use you to bring them to Christ?
9. What is the response of both believers and non-believers to Saul's ministry (vv. 19-30)?
10. What role does Barnabas play in Saul's life and ministry?
11. Barnabas means "Son of Encouragement" (4:36). When have you experienced someone's being a Barnabas to you and/or you to another?
12. How would you like to grow as a person who communicates the gospel to those who are antagonistic to it?

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### Salvation for Every Nation

#### ***Acts 9:32-10:48***

Once the Berlin Wall seemed impenetrable, and communism powerful and indestructible. For seventy years, Christians wondered if Christmas would ever again be openly celebrated in Russia.

Then, dramatically, the wall fell. Communism collapsed. Nations that had been closed to the gospel for years began to welcome Christians, their help and their message with open arms.

The historic breakthrough was like the one the early Christians experienced in this passage. A seemingly impenetrable spiritual wall was broken down. In both situations we see that from God's perspective there is always the potential for reaching every person in all the corners of the world with the wonderful news of Jesus Christ.

### Questions

1. When have you felt separated from people because of cultural or racial differences?
2. Read Acts 9:32—10:48. How is God's power demonstrated in 9:32-43?
3. This is the first time Peter has been involved in raising someone from the dead. How might this help prepare him for what happens in chapter 10?
4. How did God prepare Cornelius for Peter (10:1-8)?
5. According to 10:4, what caused God to take notice of Cornelius?
6. To what extent are prayer and giving to the poor priorities for you?
7. In what ways did God prepare Peter for Cornelius (10:9-33)?
8. What evidence is there that Cornelius expected God to work (10:24-1)?
9. What lessons do we learn from Cornelius' life?
10. Throughout the chapter, we see Peter in process concerning God's desire for him to take the gospel to the Gentiles. Trace the process of Peter's understanding.
11. What would have been the consequences if Cornelius or Peter had not obeyed God?
12. In summary, how do you see God's purpose, as stated in Acts 1:8, '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,' being fulfilled in this passage?
13. In what ways do you need to grow in relating to people of other cultures and races?

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### The First Jewish-Gentile Church

#### *Acts 11*

Luke set up the stories of Peter and Cornelius and Ananias and Saul amazing symmetry. The Holy Spirit simultaneously prepared the heart of Ananias and of Saul—as he simultaneously prepared those of Peter and Cornelius. Peter questioned and hesitated, as did Ananias. Peter doubted whether he could be friends with the Gentiles. Ananias whether he could approach the enemy of the church. Both obey without hesitation when God makes divine will known. These stories come together in today's study. Peter defends his ministry to Cornelius to the church at Jerusalem. He convinces them of God's works in the Gentiles. It is also here that Saul, that one-time enemy of the church reappears as a *minister* to the church in Antioch, a church filled with both Jew and Gentile Christians.

### Questions

1. When have you been criticized by other Christians for doing what was right?
2. Read Acts 11:1-30. What kind of reception was awaiting Peter when he went back up to Jerusalem? 3. What are you like when someone criticizes you?
4. What can we learn from the way Peter responded to his critics?
5. What seemed to be the final and most convincing proof to Peter of God's working in the Gentiles (v. 15-17)? Why?
6. What kinds of evidence of new life do you look for in new believers?
7. In the meantime the gospel is spreading to Gentiles at a tremendous rate in Antioch. What kind of care is provided for new believers (vv. 22-30)?
8. What was the reason for, and the results of, Barnabas's trip to Antioch (v. 22-30)?
9. How does our care for new believers compare and contrast to the care given here?
10. How do you see in this passage the true meaning of "Christian" being more fully discovered and lived out in a multicultural church?
11. How does your church and Christian community need to experience more?

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### Miraculous Escape

#### *Acts 12*

Hudson Taylor, **famous** missionary to China, said, "Man is moved by God through prayer alone." We see the power of God demonstrated in **this** passage in response to the prayers of his people.

### Questions

1. How have you seen God respond to a group of people who were earnestly praying?
2. Read Acts 12:1-25. Describe the main characters in this passage.  
How do they each respond to what is happening to and around them?  
. What seems to motivate Herod's actions (w. 1-5)?
4. What does the church's response to James's death and Peter's being in prison (Vs. 5 and 12) demonstrate about prayer?
5. Think about Peter's escape from prison. How would you have been affected if you were Peter?
6. Why do you think the praying Christians reacted as they did to fit return?
7. When have you been like those who told Rhoda, 'You're out of; mind" (Vs.15)?
8. Why was Herod struck down (w. 21-23)?
9. Contrast Herod's end with what happened with the Word of God (Vs. 19-24).
10. The earnest prayer of the church significantly affected the outcome of events in this chapter. How is your motivation to pray influenced by truth ?
11. Summarize chapters 1—12 by listing the themes that have run through-out the chapters and what you have learned about these themes.

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### Paul's First Missionary Journey

#### *Acts 13—14*

Peter has disappeared. We do not know where he is hiding. Luke ushering Peter from the stage, while Paul steps to the forefront. Peter, apostle to the Jews, has played his part well and prepared the way for the apostle to the Gentiles. Paul and Barnabas have completed their mission of mercy in Jerusalem behalf of the church at Antioch (11:29) and have returned to Antioch with John Mark. In this study we will look at Paul's first missionary journey—beginning of his master plan of evangelism.

### Questions

1. Think of someone you know who effectively shares the gospel. What qualities do you see in that person?
2. Read Acts 13—14. Antioch was the second great metropolis of the church and the mother of Gentile Christianity. What role did the church of Antioch play in Paul's first missionary journey (13:1-3; 14:26-28)?
3. In missionary outreach how do churches today compare and/or contrast with those of Antioch?
4. Review Paul's message in the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch (13:16-41). What truths of the gospel are communicated?
5. How does Paul's message show sensitivity to his audience and the context?  
In what relationships and situations do you need this same sensitivity?
6. List the different responses to the gospel (13:7-8, 13, 42-45, 48, 52; 14:1-5) that you see throughout this passage.
- 7- How did Paul respond to those who rejected the gospel (13:9-11, 46, 51)?  
to those who believed (14:9-10, 21-23)?
8. In this passage the response to the gospel by believers was to be filled with "joy and the Holy Spirit" (13:52). How prevalent is this in the life of church today? Explain.
9. People today are not apt to offer sacrifices to those who bring the good news of Jesus. However, in what ways are we faced with the temptation to be "god" in another's life or to take credit for what God has done?
10. How can we help one another when in the midst of such temptation?
11. As you look over these two chapters and Paul's first journey, what qualities do you see in him and in Barnabas that made them effective in ministry?
12. Which of these qualities do you want God to develop in you to make you more effective in communicating the gospel?

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### Conflict in the Church

#### *Acts 15*

In most areas of life, I think I am pretty realistic. When it comes to conflict among believers, however, I tend to be an idealist. I believe that unity is something that God requires of us. Believers should be able to talk, pray and work through conflict—just the way it was worked through by the church at Jerusalem. However, I am becoming a little more realistic about this. I have experienced several situations in which I felt like I did everything within my power to bring about reconciliation—but failed. This seems to be the case with Paul and Barnabas. These two men who were used by God to keep a church from splitting could not resolve their own differences and ended up going separate ways. The late Kenneth Strachen, of Latin American Mission said, "We all need to live and serve in the constant recognition of our own humanity."

### Questions

1. What are you like when you are in strong disagreement with others?
2. Read Acts 15:1-35. Describe the conflict that arises between the Christians in this passage.
3. Describe the spirit of those involved and the steps that were taken to resolve this conflict.
4. What were the results?
5. What principles do you observe that are vital to follow as we face conflict with others in our Christian community?
6. Which of these principles do you struggle with implementing the most?
7. Read Acts 15:36-41. In what ways do you see (or can you assume) unity between Paul and Barnabas?
8. What was the cause of their conflict?
9. Paul and Barnabas came to the point of "agreeing to disagree" and going their separate ways. What were the benefits of this temporary solution?
10. Both Paul and Barnabas seemed to have strong cases for their points of view. Under what kinds of circumstances should we surrender deep convictions when they are challenged by another?
11. No matter how strongly we feel about an issue, we do not see the whole picture. How should that fact affect the way we respond to people with whom we are in conflict with?
12. When you are in conflict with others how does your response compare or contrast with that of Paul and Barnabas? How does your response compare or contrast with that of the leaders of the church (vs. 1-35)?
13. How would you like to become more like them in your responses when in conflict?

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### What Must I Do?

#### *Acts 16*

The memory is still vivid. The event was InterVarsity's Urbana Missionary Conference. The place—a dormitory room. The person, a young lady from Bible study group I led.

I sensed the prompting of the Holy Spirit to stop by Susan's room, walked in to say "hi" she looked up from the booklet she was reading said, "I would like to become a Christian. Will you help me?"

This dormitory setting was not quite as dramatic as the Philippian jail it was just as exciting to hear Susan's words, as it was for Paul and Silas hear the jailer's cry, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

### Questions

1. What makes it easier for you to obey God?

What makes you hesitate?

2. Read Acts 16:1-10. In verses 6-10 how is Paul directed concerning where he should go?

3. What principles of guidance do you see here?

4. When have you experienced God's leading in this way?

5. Read Acts 16:11-40. Paul responded immediately to God's message. How was his obedience confirmed on arriving in Macedonia?

6. There are many reasons that people reject the gospel. Material gain is the reason for the opposition to the gospel on the part of the owners of the slave girl in verse 19. What are reasons that you see today for rejecting the truth?

7. The slave owners had Paul and Silas jailed. Their response to being in jail and being beaten was to pray and sing hymns. Describe the events of the night that led up to the jailer's question "What must I do to be saved?" (w. 23-30).

8. How does your response to opposition to and suffering for the gospel compare and contrast to that of Paul and Silas (v. 25)?

9- Paul and Silas speak the truth of the gospel as well as living it out. How do you give both a verbal and a living witness to Jesus?

10. It is clear in the book of Acts that God is concerned about the world and the nations being reached with the gospel. But he is also concerned about reaching individuals. What individuals were affected by Paul's obedience to God's leading (w. 14, 18, 30-31)? How?

11. What might have been the consequences of Paul's ignoring God's call to Macedonia?

12. Is there a person or task to whom God is calling you?

What steps do you need to take for immediate and unreserved obedience

# ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INT.

*"Study to show thyself approved unto God..." 2 Timothy 2:16*

## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### An Unknown God

#### *Acts 17*

Only a few short decades ago, Christians in the West could assume that most people they met belonged to a church or at least based their lives on Judeo-Christian values. Today, Christians in the West face what Christians in the East have had to cope with for centuries—a wide variety of religious beliefs and practices that often have little in common with Christianity. The world's major religions, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam, are making inroads as are a variety of cults, New Age philosophies, occultic activities and even traditional paganism. How do we cope with a world that knows or cares so little about the truth of Jesus Christ? Paul left us a helpful model when he visited the world center of pagan philosophy and religion—Athens.

### Questions

1. What kinds of philosophies do you encounter as you attempt to communicate the gospel in our modern world?
2. Read Acts 17:1-34. In this chapter Paul interacts with three cities and three different cultures. Compare and contrast Paul's ministry in Thessalonica and Berea. (What approach did he take? How was his message received by the people? What kinds of results did he have?)
3. In Thessalonica and Berea, as in most places, Paul makes his contacts in the synagogues and speaks almost exclusively from Scripture. How does ministry in Athens differ from this?
4. How do the people respond to his teaching in Athens?
5. In his lecture in Athens Paul mentions "the objects of your worship."! are some of the objects of worship for people in our culture?
6. How does the message of Christ speak to these objects of worship?
7. In Athens Paul begins to tell them about the living God with an inscription from one of their altars—"to an unknown god." What are "points of truth from which you can start from to communicate the gospel to those in] world?
8. Paul's different approaches show his understanding of the culture an willingness to communicate with people where they are his of approaches are needed to touch those God has placed in your world with the gospel?
9. Though Paul approaches people differently, some points in the content of his message are very consistent. Identify these (w. 3,18, 24-28, 30-31).
10. What are ways that you might be tempted to compromise the message of the gospel as you communicate it to certain people?
11. How do you need to better prepare yourself to effectively communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to those to whom God has called you to minister?



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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### Companions in Ministry

#### *Acts 18*

Just recently, I visited my childhood pastor and his wife. As I left the , my heart was full of gratitude. Gratitude not only for the Wrights, but also for the others past and present who have prepared me for outreach. I am thankful for those who have prayed for me, been my friends, walked along with me. listened to me, loved me and cared about my walk with God and my s to others, who have encouraged me and corrected me. I enjoy thinking the people who have touched my life and who have been companions in ministry. I am not alone in this need for companionship. In this study we will look at some of the people in Paul's life who were his companions in ministry.

### Questions

1. When have you felt alone in the ministry of bringing others to Christ? What makes you feel alone?
2. Read Acts 18:1-28. List the people in Paul's life that you see in this passage.
3. Let's look more closely at some of these relationships. What was the significance of his relationship with Priscilla and Aquila (v. 2-4,18-19)?
4. What did Silas and Timothy contribute to Paul's life and ministry?
5. When have you been sustained by someone's bringing you good news of God's work elsewhere, entering into your ministry, sharing themselves or their home with you or supporting you financially or in other ways?
6. What keeps you from allowing others to enter into your life and ministry in such ways?
7. Contrast the response of the Jews in Corinth (v. 4-6) to that of Crispus and his household (v. 7-8).
8. Why do you think God chose to speak to Paul with words of comfort at this time (v. 9-11)? How was his ministry affected by **God's** words?
9. In verses 18-23 what do you learn about Paul's relationships?
10. Describe Apollos (vs. 24-26).
11. What did he need that Aquila and Priscilla were able to give to him?
12. How was Apollos' ministry affected by his relationship with them (27-28)?
13. As you review this passage, what ways do you recognize in which you need to develop, build and nurture relationships that will contribute spiritual growth and outreach?

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

In the Name of Jesus

### *Acts 19:1—20:12*

We left Paul in chapter 18 traveling throughout Galatia and Phrygia "strengthening all the disciples." In this chapter he returns to Ephesus, where he settles for two and a half years. Great work is done there during this time, and it radiates out to other cities in the province of Asia. Luke vividly portrays the effect of Paul's ministry in just a few scenes in this chapter.

1. How would you like to see the power of God revealed in your Christian community?
2. Read Acts 19. Scan the passage and describe the incidences where you see God's power revealed.
3. Whenever the gospel is communicated with effectiveness there will be both positive and negative responses. What are the negative responses?
4. In 19:1-7 Paul encounters some disciples. What is his concern for!  
What did he do to interact with them effectively?
5. What do you see in Paul's relationship with the disciples that might you in relating to young Christians or your non-Christian friends?
6. Throughout this entire passage it is evident that Paul has a strategy for communicating the gospel. Specifically, what strategy does Paul have ministry in Ephesus (19:8-10)?
7. What kind of plan for communicating the gospel would be helpful world?  
What would you like to see happen?
8. What happened with the Jews who were driving out evil spirit in the name of Jesus (19:11-14)? Why?
9. How did this become a testimony to the power of God (19:15-20)?
10. What is the cause of the riot in Ephesus (vs. 23-41)? How was it settled?
11. Read Acts 20:1-12. Paul continued to travel and encourage believers as he preached the gospel. What effect did the episode in 20:7-12 have on the crowd?
12. What "modern day" positive responses have you seen as a result of the gospel being communicated with power? How about negative responses?
13. How can you prepare yourself for both positive and negative responses as you are a part of communicating the gospel of Christ?

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### Paul's Farewell

#### *Acts 20:13-38*

I will see you in heaven." I nodded, gave him a hug and a kiss and away from his bedside. When I left the room, I wept. Although it was twenty years ago that I said goodbye to Pop Z, the memory is still deep in my heart. In this chapter we will enter into weeping as Paul says his final go the elders at Ephesus. He knows that more hardship and prison *a* in Jerusalem. And he will never see the faces of these elders again.

### Questions

1. Imagine what it would like to say goodbye to someone knowing you would never see them again. Describe your thoughts and feelings.
2. Read Acts 20:13-38. What do you feel as you read through this passage?
3. What does Paul say about his ministry to the Ephesians (w. 18 2 31, 33-35)?
4. Which of these do you want to be able to say at the end of your own life? Why?
5. What steps do you need to take now in order to be able to do so?
6. What are Paul's priorities (w. 22-25)?
7. How do your priorities compare and contrast with his?
8. What instructions did Paul give to the leaders of the church at Ephesus (w. 28-3D)? According to verse 32, why can Paul leave them with confidence?

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## BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

### Facing Opposition

#### *Acts 21:1—22:21*

Five young men sang: "We rest on Thee—our Shield and our Defender! We go not forth alone against the foe; Strong in Thy strength, safe in Thy keeping tender, We rest on Thee and in Thy name we go. "Yea, in Thy name, O Captain of salvation! In Thy dear Name, all other names above; Jesus our Righteousness, our sure foundation, Our Prince of glory and our King of love. "We go in faith, our own great weakness feeling, And needing more each day Thy grace to know: Yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing; We rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go. "We rest on Thee our Shield and our Defender! Thine is the battle, Thine shall be the praise When passing through the gates of pearly splendor, Victors—we rest with Thee, through endless days." as they went to their death, taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Auca Indians. Like Paul, knowing that death was a very real possibility, they did not turn aside from what they knew God wanted them to do.

### Questions

1. When have you been warned that something you were about to do could be dangerous? How did you feel?
2. Read Acts 21:1-26. Describe the warnings to Paul concerning Jerusalem (v. 4, 10-12).
3. How did Paul respond to these warnings (v. 5, 13)?
4. How do you think those observing Paul were affected by his mindedness?
5. Think of a person you know who is focused on obeying God. How are you affected by his/her obedience?
6. Paul arrives in Jerusalem, is greeted by the elders and reports what he has done through his ministry. What are the elders concerned about for Paul (v. 20-25)?