




◊ TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH ◊
THE BOOK *of* ACTS



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**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**

WEEK 1 (JANUARY 9, 2022)

TEXT: ACTS 1:1-2

Big Idea: Acts is the story of what Jesus is doing in the world.

Application: When you wonder why God isn't doing more, do you think he may be wondering the same thing about you?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How do you feel about such a long series on the book of Acts? What are you most excited or nervous about?
3. What do you know about this book of Acts? What do you hope to learn from this series?
4. Does it change your understanding of Acts to see it as a story of what Jesus is doing in the world?
5. What is Jesus doing in your world?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 2 (January 16, 2022)

Text: Acts 1:1-11

Big Idea: Acts 1:8 is a charge that Jesus is still giving the church today.

Application: The last command Jesus gave was to be his witnesses. How on fire are you to see that command carried out?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Do you agree that Acts 1:8 is a charge that we are supposed to be carrying out today? Why or why not?
3. How well is the Church doing in fulfilling this mandate?
4. How well are you doing in fulfilling this mandate?
5. Would you say you are on fire for seeing other people brought to Jesus? Why or why not?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 3 (January 23, 2022)

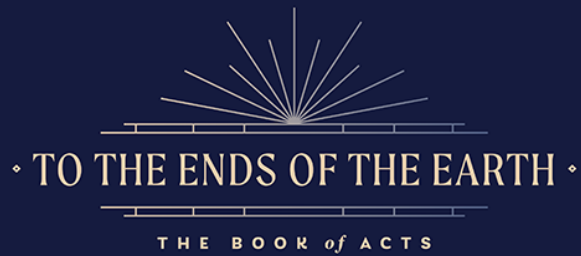
Text: Acts 2:1-21

Big Idea: The church was born out of the creative action of God, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Application Point: Each Christian relies on the Spirit for renewed life, just as we rely on the Spirit to enliven the Church.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What similarities do you see between God creating the world and God creating the church?
3. What are some of the symbols of Pentecost that stand out to you, that confuse you, or that are meaningful to you?
4. How would you describe, in your own words, what happened at Pentecost?
5. Think of a lamp, which needs to be plugged in to a power source to work. In what ways do you "plug in" to the Spirit? In what ways can you grow in this area?
6. How can you, your family, and the Church continue to rely on the Spirit—not human wisdom—for future growth and direction?
7. How can we pray for you?



Week 4 (January 30, 2022)

Text: Acts 2:14-41

Big Idea: When the Church was born through the Holy Spirit, the believers proclaimed the Good News. Over three thousand people were saved, the Church was born, and God's Kingdom began to impact Jerusalem.

Application: We need to share the Good News with our family and all those who are far off. Consider what it means for you to "go!" What is your next small step in believing, repenting, and following God?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What is some good news you just were *not* able to keep to yourself? Tell us the story in detail!
3. What made the story of Jesus's birth, life, death, and resurrection "Good News"?
4. How have you seen the story of Jesus change someone's life forever—either yours or someone else's?
5. Have you turned to Jesus? Have you been baptized? What's the next step for you? Do you feel ready to share the Good News with others? Why or why not?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 5 (February 6, 2022)

Text: Acts 2:42-47

Big Idea: When the Church was born through the Holy Spirit, the believers began to live differently and to devote themselves to God, his mission, and his Church. This is our purpose: to be an alternate community of God's grace in the world.

Application: As we continually devote ourselves to God and to one another, God will draw people into his Kingdom.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. When have you made a huge change in your life? It might be an event (a move, a marriage, a job) or a decision (habits or practices added or eliminated). How did that change things for you?
3. How did love radically alter the way the early believers lived?
4. In this passage, we learn that the four marks of the Church are the apostles' teaching, the common life of those who believe, the breaking of bread, and the prayers. How do these four practices mark your life, your family, and your community?
5. What steps can you take (motivated by God's love!) to live more in step with the Christian way of life together?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 6 (February 13, 2022)

Text: Acts 3:1-4:12

Big Idea: When the Church was born through the Holy Spirit, the believers proclaimed the power of Jesus.

Application: We shouldn't try to sell our faith; instead, we should point people to Jesus and let the Spirit do the rest.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What do we learn about the power of the Holy Spirit in this week's passage?
3. What can we learn in this passage about the right—and wrong—ways to share the Good News with others?
4. How have you experienced the power of God in your life? How does this experience change you and equip you?
5. If someone asked you what power you live your life under, what do you think the honest answer would be?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 7 (February 20, 2022)

Text: Acts 4:13-22

Big Idea: Peter and John found their sense of identity in Christ.

Application: Resist letting cultural pressure, politics, finances, popularity, or success become the source of your identity.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Have you noticed that you act a little differently based on who you're with? Why do you think this is the case?
3. How is following a GPS or using the rusty yet reliable atlas like finding our identity with God? How is it different?
4. How does our culture influence our identities?
5. Is there a specific aspect of culture that is harder for you to ignore or that proves to be a bigger distraction than others?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 8 (February 27, 2022)

Text: Acts 4:23-31

Big Idea: As the early Church moves forward, challenges from outside and within will occur to hinder God's Kingdom.

Application: We must stand strong against any attempts to keep the Kingdom from moving forward—and remain humble enough to confess our fears and sins.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What challenges, problems, and troubles do you remember from this week's Scripture?
3. What challenges, problems, or troubles have you encountered as part of your Christian life?
4. Have you had to choose between greed and generosity? Which was ultimately more life-giving?
5. What do you think of the idea that saying no to temptation is really a chance to say yes to God? In what ways is this true or not true, in your experience?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 9 (March 6, 2022)

Text: Acts 4:32-37

Big Idea: Our priorities change once we know Jesus.

Application Point: A Christian community should reflect Jesus's priorities for this world. Whose priorities does your community reflect?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. If you were to list the priorities in your life, what would they be?
3. Where does your faith fall on that list? How does your faith shape that list?
4. What priorities do you think need to be reordered or removed from your life?
5. What priorities do you want to add or reorder in your life?
6. How well do you feel this Christian community reflects Jesus's priorities for the world?
7. How can we pray for you?



Week 10 (March 13, 2022)

Text: Acts 5:1-11

Big Idea: God does not want us to use Him for our own gain.

Application: Do you treat God like a person you have a relationship with or like a power you take advantage of?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Which do you think more accurately describes your view of God: a loving parent or an Amazon delivery truck?
3. Do you think people try to use God for their own personal gain in the Church? Why or why not?
4. How is dishonesty or hypocrisy a dangerous sin for the Church?
5. How hard is it for you to be honest with others in the Church? Why?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 11 (March 20, 2022)

Text: Acts 6:8-7:60

Big Idea: As the early Church moves forward, it will encounter persecution. We see this early in the first known martyr, Stephen.

Application: Our call is to follow the example of Stephen: to stay faithful until the end, using every opportunity to witness to the glories of Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. When have you experienced the highs and lows of life occurring together? How is that happening in the story of the early Church?
3. What can we learn from Stephen's life and death as we learn to follow Jesus together?
4. What are some dangers of focusing too much on martyrdom in our own context?
5. Was there ever a time when you felt like you were being persecuted for your faith? Looking back now, do you think that was what was happening?
6. Who do you turn to in times of suffering and darkness?
7. How can we pray for you?



Week 12 (March 27, 2022)

Text: Acts 8:1-40

Big Idea: As the early Church moves forward, it must share the Good News with the excluded and outcast.

Application Point: The kingdom advances not by extraordinarily gifted and talented people but by ordinary people who follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and share their joyful Good News.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. God promises to work all things for good. How does God bring good even from Stephen's death?
3. How does the illustration of a child blowing dandelion seeds help you understand how the Gospel spreads around the world? (Have you made a wish on a dandelion yourself lately?)
4. Has a so-called "chance encounter" ever changed your life?
5. In what ways was Philip's conversation a game-changing moment for the Church?
6. Who in your community would feel unwelcome in our church? What steps can you take to change that?
7. How can we pray for you?



Week 13 (April 3, 2022)

Text: Acts 9:1-31

Big Idea: As the early Church moves forward, the persecutor Saul is dramatically converted by the power of Jesus Christ.

Application: In God's kingdom, enemies become brothers and sisters. Regardless of our history, God's grace has brought us salvation—and we have a story worth telling!

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What dramatic touches do you notice in Luke's choice of words for this oft-repeated story?
3. Can you put yourself into Ananias's shoes? How would you have felt when God told you to visit Saul?
4. Do you have a story of God changing your life? Would you share it, if so?
5. Do you have a story of God moving you to love your enemies? Or perhaps you were an enemy who received loved. Share this story too!
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 14 (April 10, 2022)

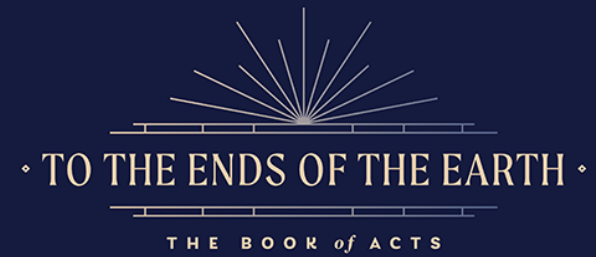
Text: Acts 9:32-43

Big Idea: Jesus demonstrates his presence through his people's faith.

Application: Are you a restorative agent in the lives of those around you?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. If you came to faith later in life, would you be willing to share your story?
3. Is there someone who played a role in your coming to faith?
4. When it comes to your relationships with others, are you bringing the presence of Jesus with you? Why or why not?
5. What is a tangible goal for us as a group to work toward in bringing the presence of Jesus to someone else?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 15 (April 24, 2022)

Text: Acts 10:1-48

Big Idea: As the early Church moves forward beyond the Jewish community, God shows Peter that he is doing a new thing in the world through the Gospel.

Application: Ask yourself, "What cultural rules guide my acceptance and interaction with others whom I see as 'unclean'?"

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Are there people whom you struggle to love or think of with kindness and grace?
3. If the Gospel had not spread from the Jews to include the gentiles, how many of us here would not be included in the family of God? Praise God for opening the door wide enough for us all!
4. What cultural rules and norms have you added to the Gospel, such that some people seem unworthy of the title *child of God*?
5. What things can you, your family, and your church community do to demonstrate to your city or town—including those who might be considered enemies or undesirable—that the door to your church and to God is open wide?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 16 (May 1, 2022)

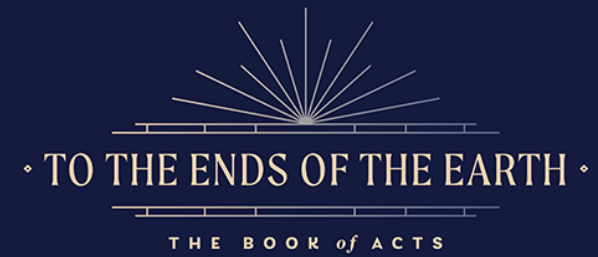
Text: Acts 11:1-18

Big Idea: When faced with criticism, stand firm on the truth.

Application: When you receive criticism from within the Church, how you respond could very well lead to praise of God—or the opposite.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Have you ever faced some particularly harsh criticism? How did you respond?
3. Where do you experience harsher criticism: in the Church or in the world? Why?
4. What is a way to turn criticism into something that glorifies God?
5. How can we as a group keep one another other accountable in not lashing out when we are attacked or criticized?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 17 (May 8, 2022)

Text: Acts 11:19-30

Big Idea: God's grace is for everyone.

Application: Who is God calling you to be a Barnabas to in your community?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What do you know about Barnabas?
3. What other biblical people have you enjoyed being introduced to in this series?
4. Do you remember what Barnabas did when he first showed up in Acts 4:36-37? If not, revisit the text.
5. Whom do you know who is a Barnabas and why? Have you shared that observation with them?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 18 (May 15, 2022)

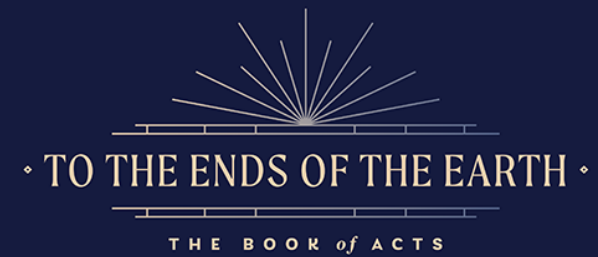
Text: Acts 12:1-19

Big Idea: Prayer is a powerful gift God has given the Church.

Application: Do you believe God can answer the prayers you petition Him with?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What does prayer look like for you?
3. Would you describe North Haven as a praying church? Why or why not?
4. Do you believe in the power of prayer? Have you seen it in action? Please share how.
5. Have you ever prayed, received an answer, but like the characters in this story, not believed it? Why do you think that is?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 19 (May 22, 2022)

Text: Acts 12:20-25

Big Idea: We have hope that God's Kingdom will triumph over forces of darkness.

Application: Do you fear political powers, or do you trust in the timing of God?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Can you recall a time in your life when you felt hopeless? How did you get through that?
3. Do you feel we are living in dark times? Why or why not?
4. What encouragement do you find in a text like this? Why do you think God put it in the Bible?
5. How well do you trust God when it seems like the world is against goodness?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 20 (May 29, 2022)

Text: Acts 13:1-52

Big Idea: The Church proclaimed that Jesus was the Messiah—first at home, then throughout the world.

Application: Jesus the Messiah fulfills our deepest needs. This Good News is worth hearing, considering, and sharing!

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What cultural messiah stories can you think of? What is powerful and compelling about these stories?
3. What did the Jews expect the Messiah to be?
4. In what ways did Jesus fulfill the ancient longing for Messiah?
5. What are you yearning for that Jesus alone can satisfy?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 21 (June 5, 2022)

Text: Acts 14:1-28

Big Idea: Paul and Barnabas provide us with a model of healthy evangelism.

Application: What is your model for evangelism? Does it line up with what Scripture presents?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Do you think evangelism and missions should rely on a "one size fits all" approach? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever thought that adversity could be a sign that you are doing the right thing? Why or why not?
4. Why is it important for our words to be backed up by our actions?
5. Have you ever seen or experienced a miracle, or do you know someone who has? What affect did that have on the faith of others?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 22 (June 12, 2022)

Text: Acts 15:1-21

Big Idea: The Church proclaimed that Jesus was the Savior as it expanded into the gentile world.

Application: There is no power so life changing as grace! We cannot change ourselves, but we can submit to God's grace and be made new.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. In what ways were the Jewish expectations for "Messiah" and "Savior" the same? Different?
3. How would Jesus's identity as the Savior of the whole world be hard for the early Jewish believers to accept?
4. How is salvation in Jesus challenging for us to accept today?
5. When did someone show you grace you did not deserve?
6. Does the grace of God mean we don't need to set boundaries or experience consequences for our sins in our relationships? Why or why not?
7. How can we pray for you?



Week 23 (June 19, 2022)

Text: Acts 15:22-35

Big Idea: The Holy Spirit led the early Church to seek Christian freedom—and that freedom brought reconciliation across division in the Church.

Application Point: Our unity was already made possible by Christ's death, so seek unity where there has been segregation.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Where do you most often see division in the Church? Where do you think it is the biggest problem in our church?
3. Where have you seen diversity and unity coexist, whether in the Church, in your community, or in your family?
4. How can you show care or concern for the wider Church around the world (or even Christians from different backgrounds at North Haven or its community)?
5. How have you seen the Holy Spirit move in bringing unity?
6. Why is it important not to demand reconciliation from the person you or those associated with you have hurt?
7. How can we pray for you?



Week 24 (July 3, 2022)

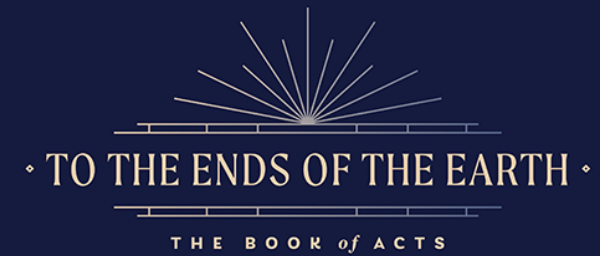
Text: Acts 15:36-41

Big Idea: God remains sovereign even in our disagreements, and He will always work for the ultimate good of His people and His glory.

Application: Stay on mission amid disagreement—and trust God to bring ultimate reconciliation.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. When have you experienced needing community but also been hurt by it?
3. Have you ever seen interpersonal disagreements derail a ministry, even when no one was engaged in blatant sin?
4. Is there someone in your life for whom there is good reason to risk giving them your trust again? How do we know when this is something we should do and when it is unwise?
5. How has God used mistakes or accidents in your life for your greater good or the greater good of others?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 25 (July 10, 2022)

Text: Acts 16:1-12

Big Idea: As the Church brought the Gospel to the ends of the earth, they relied on God for direction when the way was unclear.

Application Point: God is leading and directing us, even when the path is hidden from us. We can trust God to see us through, even when our plans fall apart.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Think about a time you had a chance to visit old friends, as Paul is doing in this passage. How did that encourage you both?
3. Do you wonder about God's will for your life? How do you seek God's will?
4. When have you felt like the future was in a cloud and you could only walk in the present moment? Was that stressful or peaceful?
5. How can faithful friends help each other see God when the way ahead is unclear?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 26 (July 17, 2022)

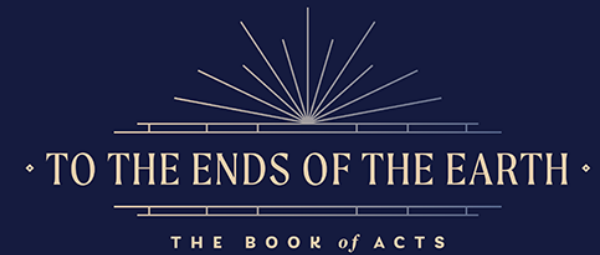
Text: Acts 16:13-34

Big Idea: As the Church brought the Gospel to the ends of the earth, salvation in Jesus changed entire communities.

Application Point: We can receive the gift of salvation in Jesus today! And then let's get to work, together, blessing those around us by serving as Jesus's hands and feet.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. When has *nothing* gone the way you expected? Did anything surprising or good come out of it?
3. Why did the jailer feel that all was lost? What happened to make him rejoice instead of taking his life?
4. When have you gone from despair to joy in a surprise twist? What was that feeling like?
5. Who in your community is hungry, in need of shelter, or in prison that we could visit? How can you live out your salvation by blessing your city?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 27 (July 24, 2022)

Text: Acts 17:1-9

Big Idea: The proclamation of the coming Kingdom will cause some chaos—Christ's rule always confronts earthly rulers, and that confrontation can bring suffering.

Application: Count the cost. Proclaim the coming Kingdom with full awareness of the consequences.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. When do you feel the tension of competing authorities in your life?
3. Can you think of other examples in Scripture or in history when the Gospel disrupted the normal operations of things, causing a little chaos?
4. How can we declare our ultimate allegiance to Christ in a practical way? Are there other authorities in your life that need to be demoted?
5. What are some concrete ways we can serve our community this week, showing that our ultimate allegiance is to Christ, who also served people's material needs?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 28 (July 31, 2022)

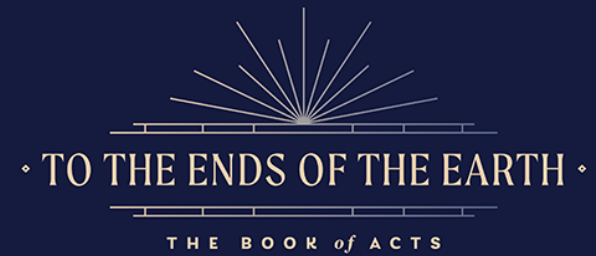
Text: Acts 17:10-34

Big Idea: God is faithful to speak to his people.

Application: Listen to what God is saying in Scripture and in the moving of the Holy Spirit in your community and follow where He leads.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Can you remember a time in your life when you most hungered for Scripture? What was going on that made that happen?
3. What habits or practices of reading Scripture can you start? How can your community be involved?
4. What does it look like to listen to God?
5. How can you trust God with the "highs" and the "lows"?
6. What life decisions do you need guidance in right now? How can Scripture, your community, and the Holy Spirit guide you?
7. How can we pray for you?



Week 29 (August 7, 2022)

Text: Acts 18:1-17

Big Idea: God provided for Paul's witness to the city of Corinth: fellow workers, encouragement in the face of difficulty, and protection from harm.

Application: Be a witness for Christ in your city with your whole life.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How do you tend to think about your job? Are there ways you can think about your vocation more like Paul and Priscilla and Aquila did?
3. Whom are you partnering with in ministry right now? Do you need to seek out more community?
4. Does the Church sometimes focus more on the act of witnessing out loud to the exclusion of the witness of life? Which have you erred toward?
5. What does it look like, in all the specific details of your life, to share the Gospel with your whole life?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 30 (August 14, 2022)

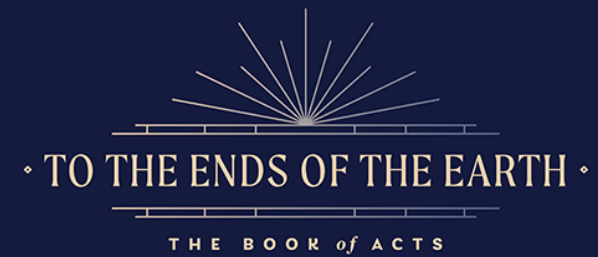
Text: Acts 18:18-23 (part 1)

Big Idea: Paul shows us a life lived entirely for God.

Application: What sacrifices are you willing to give to put God first?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. When have you said no to something because of your faith? Was it hard?
3. What does it mean to live a sacrificial life? Do you think it is important? Why or why not?
4. Have you ever made a vow to God, and if so, would you share what it was and why you made it? Do you think it can be useful to fulfill a vow like the Nazirite vow in our modern day and age? Why or why not?
5. What does a life lived entirely for God look like?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 31 (August 21, 2022)

Text: Acts 18:18-23 (part 2)

Big Idea: Paul shows us a life lived entirely for God.

Application: What sacrifices are you willing to give to follow God's will for you?

Discussion Questions:

7. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
8. Who is someone in your life or in your past (other than God) that if they told you to do something, you wouldn't hesitate? Why was that?
9. Why is it hard to leave a place or situation that you're comfortable in?
10. Do you truly trust God to provide no matter where He sends you? Why is it so hard to trust?
11. Where might God be leading you that you've either been ignoring or wrestling with?
12. How can we pray for you?



Week 32 (August 28, 2022)

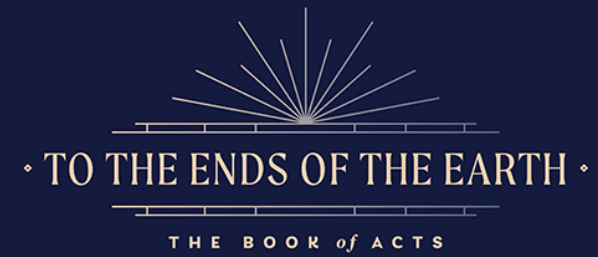
Text: Acts 18:24-28

Big Idea: Humility is a necessary component of a growing church.

Application Point: Do you have the humility to receive correction from your brothers and sisters?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How would you define humility?
3. Is it possible to have a social media presence and still be humble? If so, how?
4. Do you think we live in a society that encourages humility?
5. How can our faith speak confidently about the virtue of humility in our day and age?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 33 (September 4, 2022)

Text: Acts 19:1-10

Big Idea: When we face opposition because of our faith, we can trust in the sovereignty of God.

Application: Do setbacks and disappointments inspire you to trust God even more, or do you become discouraged and give up?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Have you ever experienced opposition because of your faith? What happened?
3. Do you know of anyone, perhaps an immigrant from another country, who has experienced persecution? What happened?
4. When you encounter a setback in your life, does this create disappointment in God or trust in God for you?
5. What steps can you take, and the group take collectively, to help us develop the ability to trust God when we hit a setback?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 34 (September 11, 2022)

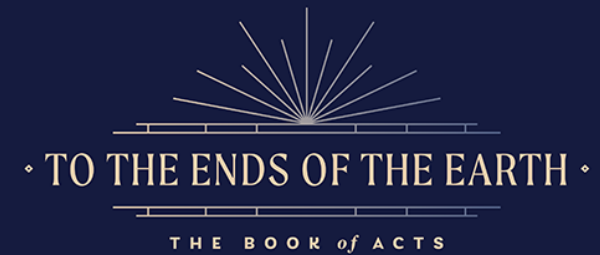
Text: Acts 19:11-20

Big Idea: The Gospel is far more powerful than magic.

Application: Jesus is not a magic genie in a bottle. He comes to transform our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Do you believe in spiritual warfare? Why or why not?
3. Does anyone here have an experience of something that seems hard to explain?
4. Do you feel that your faith reflects belief in a powerful God or in a genie in the bottle?
5. Why do you think it is important to be aware of spiritual warfare?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 35 (September 18, 2022)

Text: Acts 19:21-41

Big Idea: Christianity is a way of life that can impact the world for good.

Application: Does your faith in Jesus translate into a way of life that unsettles the forces of darkness?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Sometimes our faith can have an intangible but important effect on the lives of those around us, and sometimes something measurable happens. Can you share a story about something or someone that has been changed because of your faith?
3. Do you think Christianity should influence the world? Why or why not?
4. What examples can you think of in your community that could use the light of Jesus? (Be careful not to use this as a session for gossip or judgment).
5. Do you think Christianity should be a way of life, or just one more thing you do? Why or why not?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 36 (September 25, 2022)

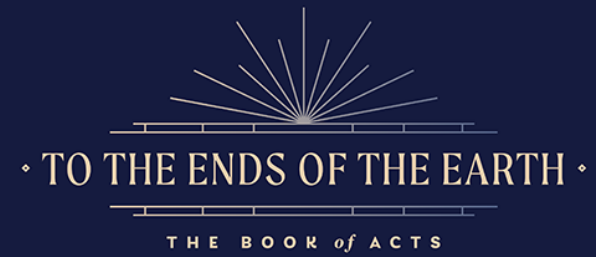
Texts: Acts 20:1-38

Big Idea: Nearing the end, Paul determined to finish well, keeping his eye on the goal of his faith and mission.

Application: Whatever our calling might be, we too are called to be faithful to the end, keeping our eyes on God and the people we serve, not on our difficulties or detractors.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How do you feel about endings? Think of an example if you can.
3. What steps does Paul take to finish well—both before God and before his ministry partners?
4. What parallels do you see between Jesus and Paul at this stage of their ministries? Why do you think Luke wrote the stories this way? Why do you think this is important?
5. What work has God given you to do?
6. What are you doing now to ensure a solid foundation for the future when you move on to a new season? How can you keep your eye on the goal, both now and going forward?
7. How can we pray for you?



Week 37 (October 2, 2022)

Text: Acts 21:1-16

Big Idea: The Church was built through ordinary and extraordinary moments.

Application: What is God doing in your life in the normal, unremarkable moments?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. When you look back over your life of faith, what ordinary moments ended up having a significant effect on you?
3. Anyone have any stories of extraordinary moments (miracles or near miracles) that changed your life or faith?
4. Do you think there is such a thing as an "ordinary" moment if God is sovereign over everything?
5. Why does it matter how God builds His Church, so long as it gets built?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 38 (October 9, 2022)

Text: Acts 21:17-26

Big Idea: For a diverse church to succeed, its members must be selfless.

Application: When was the last time you made sacrifices of your own comfort or customs for the sake of strengthening someone else's faith?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How would you define selflessness?
3. Do you think selflessness is a virtue? Why or why not? How might it be important for the Church?
4. Think back over some hard or disappointing moments in your life or in the life of the Church. How would selflessness by one or both parties have changed the outcome?
5. How do you think Paul found the strength to be so selfless?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 39 (October 16, 2022)

Text: Acts 21:27-22:21

Big Idea: We are called to love others—no matter what.

Application: What is the highest priority for you when you are attacked: defending yourself and your faith, or sharing the Gospel?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What do you think are the hardest commandments in the Bible? Why?
3. Do you think loving others is easy or hard? Why?
4. Why do you think it's important to Jesus that we love others?
5. When you are attacked, what's the hardest commandment in the Bible to follow?
6. How can you cultivate a life of love?
7. How can we pray for you?



Week 40 (October 23, 2022)

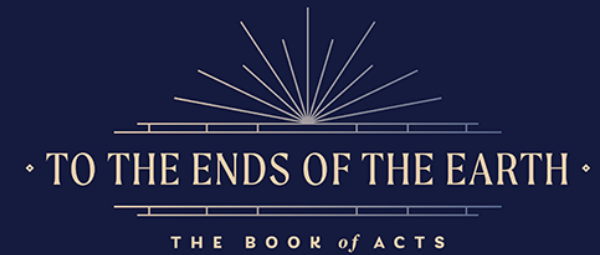
Text: Acts 22:22-29

Big Idea: We are saved by grace alone.

Application: God's Gospel is good news for everyone, not just some people. Are you prepared to accept that?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What is the Gospel?
3. Why can't we be saved by doing good works or being a good person?
4. Do you think this message is harder for people in the world or people in the Church to accept?
5. How would your relationship with everything and everyone change if you lived out the Gospel?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 41 (October 30, 2022)

Texts: Acts 22:30-23:35

Big Idea: Nearing the end, Paul's story is full of intrigue—yet God's plan is over all of us.

Application: We can rejoice, for God's plan has persisted through thousands of years, even during times of great hardship.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Do you enjoy mysteries when the truth comes out bit by bit? Or does that sort of storytelling annoy you?
3. What were some of the goals and motivations among the various people in this Scripture?
4. In what ways were God's goals at play amid them all?
5. Paul had peace, knowing that whatever evil conspiracies were aimed at him, God was in control. When have you felt this same conviction and peace?
6. Are you able to trust God's plan even during times of hardship? When have you been called upon to do this?
7. How can we pray for you?



Week 42 (November 6, 2022)

Text: Acts 24:1-21

Big Idea: The book of Acts is the story of the resurrection from the dead.

Application: How important is it to you that Jesus rose from the dead?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How does Paul home in on the real issue of his conflict with the religious authorities in verse 21?
3. Do you believe in life after death? Why or why not?
4. Why does it matter that Jesus rose from the dead?
5. What difference would it make to what it means to be a Christian if Jesus was a nice teacher who had a tragic end and that was all there was to it?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 43 (November 13, 2022)

Text: Acts 24:22-27

Big Idea: The way of the world and the way of Christ are incompatible: one is motivated by power and wealth, the other sacrifices for the sake of the truth.

Application: We can play by the rules of the world or live lives motivated by the truth of the Gospel.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What do you think most unites people in our church?
3. Which of the themes in Paul's teaching—justice, judgment, and self-control—would make you most uncomfortable if you were listening?
4. What parallels do you see between this story and the "ways of the world" that still exist today?
5. What rules of the world do you feel exerting pressure on your life? How can you choose to follow the way of life of the Kingdom of God?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 44 (November 20, 2022)

Text: Acts 25:1-12

Big Idea: Paul spoke truth in a place of lies because he was unafraid of death.

Application: We must cultivate a willingness to do the right thing, no matter the cost.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. When has fear prevented you from doing something important?
3. What can we learn from this story about the way zealous faith, when misdirected, can go wrong? Do you see any examples of that currently?
4. What could you do out of faithfulness to God if you were not afraid?
5. How can you practice doing the right thing under pressure, even in a small way, this week?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 45 (November 27, 2022)

Texts: Acts 26:1-32

Big Idea: Nearing the end, Paul summarizes his life story. God has worked all things together for good—not only for Paul but also for the hundreds he has served.

Application: We, too, should be ready to give an account of how God has changed our lives. This will encourage not only our own faith but also the faith of others.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. What grabs your attention in Paul's summary of his life?
3. How would you summarize your own life? Try it! Where does God show up in the story?
4. Have you tried using your life story to share the Gospel? How might you do so?
5. When has God "caught you" or changed your life? How has salvation saved you? How has salvation saved your community?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 46 (December 4, 2022)

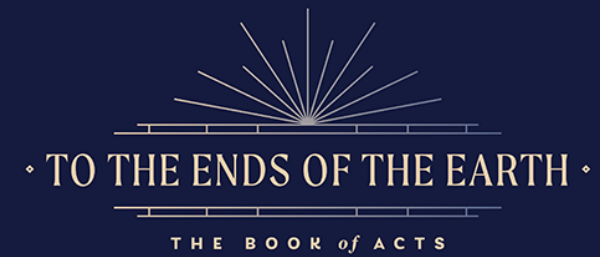
Text: Acts 27:1-12

Big Idea: God is faithful—even when we are subjected to other people’s bad decisions.

Application: Tell the truth, even when it won’t be well received, and then trust God for the results.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week’s message?
2. When have you felt that your words were ignored, or your pointing to God’s wisdom was ignored?
3. When have you felt the leading of the Holy Spirit in everyday decisions?
4. When have you ever felt negatively affected by the choices of others? How can this story teach us to respond?
5. What stories of God’s providence or protection can you share that might encourage each other in trusting God?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 47 (December 11, 2022)

Text: Acts 27:13-44

Big Idea: We have no solid ground but God. He is faithful to provide for and protect His people.

Application: Practice small acts of faith amid storms.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week’s message?
2. How do you typically respond to chaos in your life? What are your strategies for gaining control?
3. How can we (in practical ways) rely on God in moments of chaos instead of only on ourselves?
4. What habits can you start to form this week that will sustain you in moments of disaster or difficulty?
5. How can we advocate for vulnerable people, like the centurion did for Paul and his fellow prisoners?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 48 (December 11, 2022) HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

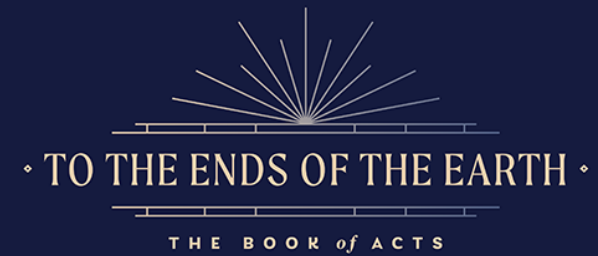
Text: Acts 28:1-10

Big Idea: All healing and protection come from God, who uses our perseverance in trial to share the truth of the Gospel for His glory.

Application: We can share the Gospel with our whole lives, through hospitality and community.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How do you tend to imagine God's sovereignty? Is it more like the impersonal "justice" that the Malta natives believed in, or more like the personal God?
3. Why do you think Luke told this story the way he did, focusing on the healing and the snake instead of the words of the Gospel?
4. How do you tend to think about hospitality? How do you need to think about it differently to have a more biblical picture?
5. Whom can you extend hospitality to this week?
6. How can we pray for you?



Week 49 (December 18, 2022)


Text: Acts 28:11-31

Big Idea: The book of Acts ends with Paul imprisoned, yet joyfully preaching the Good News of the Kingdom.

Application: When we are changed by the risen Lord, filled by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, built up by the body of Christ, and living on mission for the Kingdom, we can find God's joyful presence even in the face of suffering.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. In what way has the entire book of Acts been about proclaiming the Kingdom of God?
3. In what ways is North Haven part of the next chapter? How are we still orienting our lives around proclaiming the Kingdom of God?
4. Paul continued preaching during times of joyful fellowship as well as devastating persecution. When have you encountered either or both in your Christian life?
5. Do the hardships in life point you to God, or cause you to look away from God? Why do you think that is? How can you learn to look to God during times of trial?
6. How can we pray for you?



♦ TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH ♦
THE BOOK of ACTS

Week 50 (December 25, 2022) **Text:** Acts 1:1-14; 28:30-31

Big Idea: The book of Acts ends with Paul in Rome, but the mission of God and the advancement of Jesus's Kingdom continue today.

Application: As the Kingdom continues to expand, you and I can impact our world by living the Gospel, connecting with others, sharing the Gospel, and living on mission.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How have you encountered the presence of the resurrected Jesus in your life? This is where it all begins!
3. In what ways can you live the Gospel in your circles? How does the Kingdom come to life in your body?
4. In what ways can you connect with others who could use a friend or a conversation?
5. In what ways can you share the Gospel? Do you know how the Good News of the Kingdom fits into your life story?
6. In what ways can you be on mission? Remember: live normally but think missionally!
7. How can we pray for you?