

# Bible Experiment:

## Acts of the Apostles



### Welcome

This Bible Experiment is unique to our other studies in that this is a single presentation that is about two hours in length. The study will lose its impact if split up over multiple weeks, so we have provided you two suggestions for how you can best use this Bible experiment for your group:

#### ***Make a night of it!***

*Plan an evening with your group and encourage everyone to bring snacks and be ready to watch the video and allow space for reflection and discussion questions afterward. This will be a great opportunity for your group to process the experiment together and enjoy an evening of community!*

OR

#### ***Turn this into a two week experience.***

*Watch the entire video together week one. Encourage your group to spend some time reflecting on the content throughout the week and journaling what stood out to them from the video. On week two, use the curriculum to share and discuss what stood out to the group.*

### Bible Experiment Overview

*This Bible experiment is a performance of the book of Acts. Many of us know of the Apostles and the obstacles they faced as they began to share the good news of Jesus, but this performance of the scriptures will allow you to experience the book of Acts in a unique way that allows us to see how God uses humanity to write his story!*

### Discussion Insights

How did this presentation of Scripture compare to your prior experience with the text? Was there anything that stood out to you this time that you hadn't noticed before?

*There may be some in your group who are challenged by the elements of humanity this presentation highlights in the text. Take a moment to acknowledge the humor and quirks that you noticed throughout the presentation. Affirm in your group that God loves when we engage Scripture and is always willing to meet us where we are at so that we can better enter into relationship with Jesus.*

Make a list of all the characters you remember in Acts. Who do you identify with most?

Can you find in Scripture the account of Stephen as he is brought before the Sanhedrin council? Read the passage aloud to the group. How does reading the text compare to hearing it?

*Recall in the video (-72:00) when the presenter begins his interpretation of Stephen as he is brought before the Sanhedrin council. Challenge your group so reflect on why this angered the council to the point of stoning Stephen to death. Why might this narrative be included in the scriptures? What can we learn about ourselves from the response of the Sanhedrin council? Finding and reading through the scriptures is a great way to be owners of the Mark of Ownership: Passionately Pursuing Jesus.*

Is it easier (more impactful) for you to read the Bible or to hear the stories? Would you like to make any changes to the way you typically engage the Bible in light of your learning style?

*Note the responses of your group. This will provide you with some key information to help you better lead your group!*

How do we as Christians still fail to welcome and accept those who are different than us? *Remind your group of Saul and how the disciples rejected and isolated him. How does this type of behavior still present itself today? What role do we play in this?*

What can we learn from the example set by Paul? How might God be challenging you to use your privilege and influence to bring His kingdom in the lives of those around you? *Discuss with your group the differences between the poor and underprivileged people we read of in the Bible and people of similar circumstances in modern day society. Reflect on how Paul leveraged his socio-economic status to influence those around him. Charge your group to step into ownership in a new area of their life, such as **Generosity Builds God's Kingdom** (praying through how God might be asking you to use your finances) or **Found People Find People** (looking for opportunities to bring others into the beauty of Jesus that you have come to know).*