

ACTS ODYSSEY: Discussion Questions

Week 1: Jerusalem

Small group rules to keep in mind:

In your sharing time be as open and transparent as you comfortably feel you can. There is no need to challenge, correct, or give advice unless asked for. Be careful to not in “over share“. Be sensitive to give everyone an opportunity to join in. For each week, start off your discussions with the first two questions. After that choose any of the other questions which you feel best suits your particular group.

1. What insight spoke to you most in the video study today?
2. Open your book. Take turns sharing one major insight you received from any one of the first seven chapters. Take time for other members to turn to each passage being highlighted.
3. In Acts 1:8 Jesus said to his disciples:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

This is part of what has been called “the Great Commission“ which applies to all those who call Jesus their Lord.

How does the idea of that make you feel? Excited? Intimidated? challenged?
Explain

In or video study today Rene gave five characteristics of the early church.

A learning church

A loving church

A worshipping church
A joyful church
A growing church

4. In your own personal experience here at Hope Chapel or with the church you attend, which one do you feel is the strongest quality? Which one needs the most development?

5. Have someone read out loud to your group Acts 3:1-10.

In chapter 7 of Rene's book, he highlighted the story of Peter and John looking intently (fixed his gaze) at this one random man who was begging just before he was miraculously healed. Rene pointed out that in the gospels Jesus was constantly "looking intently" at needy people around him before he ministered to them. Then Rene asked this question. "Do you really look at the people around you? How many times do you perceive people as irritants or sinners or beggars without really seeing them?"

How would you answer that question for yourself?

Here is an idea for action:

Commit yourself during the course of your study of Acts to contribute to those five characteristics of the early church. Learn. Love. Worship. Rejoice. Grow.

Prayer for the journey:

"Lord, as I prepare to go on this journey through the book of Acts, prepare my heart. Change me. Lord help me to not only see, but impact in some way, hurting people around me. I also pray that our church be a learning, loving, worshipping, joyful, growing church. And please dear Lord, let all those qualities begin in me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen"