

Facilitator Guide: Week 1

Jerusalem

(Remember this is 2nd week of meeting, last week was introduction night. This guide is for Video 1 & chapter 1 of book)

Before you meet:

Test out the video from the Facilitator Webpage, by playing it and making sure all is working well. Print out any of the resources you need for the night. For tonight you will need to print out “Discussion Questions Week 1” one per-person.

Testimony Time

(more in-depth personal sharing) Have selected members share each week. Depending on the size of your group, you will probably only have time for two people to do a little more in-depth sharing (2 singles...or a married couple and a single). Try to have as much fun as you can while learning more about those in your group. Keep it as light as you can, but it can get a little intense with some gnarly backgrounds. Be sensitive as you lead this sharing. To set the pace, start with yourself as the facilitator or with someone you feel can be transparent with sharing.

Book Check

Ask... “How is everyone doing with their reading assignment last week? How do you like Rene’s book so far?” Ask if there are any questions.

Read and Pray

Have someone read out loud Acts 1:1-12. After that have another person read Acts 2:1-8. Then have another member read Acts 2:14-41. After that have someone open today’s video study with a prayer for God’s blessing on your time together.

Play video Week 1 Jerusalem (12 minutes)

Group Discussion (30-40 minutes)

Pass out Discussion Question Handouts (*You can have members look this up on their phone, or you can pre-print them off the facilitator webpage*)

Leader Note: If you break up into 2 or more groups it is good to pick out your leaders ahead of time and ask them to lead a small group sharing for the whole series, or at least the first few. After a couple of weeks you may ask other leaders to lead some of the sessions. The key thing you want to remind your people each week is to “get to business”. Don’t take too long getting refreshments and chatting along the way, or taking a lot of time just talking story among the members in the small group sharing. Have your leaders get their members sharing the insights they got from the week’s reading. Believe it or not, 30 or 40 minutes goes really fast in these small groups!

Rules of the road It’s important to remember your group does not have to do all the questions. Just go as far as you can with the time you have. Watch out for tangents, but allow the group to spend more time on a question if it is “hitting a nerve” and there is meaningful discussion. Keep in mind there is no need to challenge, correct, or give advice unless asked for. Be careful to not over share, allowing everyone a chance to join the conversation. Do your best to leave time to pray for one another.

Homework assignment and 50 day challenge (3 minutes)

Read, study, highlight, and pray about the insights from the next seven daily readings (Part 2, Chapters 8-14) Mark up and highlight insights that stand out in each chapter before coming back the next week. Select 2 of your main highlights to share with the group.

Acknowledge your appreciation to all those who did last week’s reading assignment. Emphasize again that the success for this

group, and each one of us personally, will depend on each member's commitment to do our reading assignments and faithfully attend your small group.

Prayer requests (10 minutes)

Begin to close your night together by taking prayer requests and pray together. Just remember to keep prayer requests short and avoid giving advice, but rather bring it before Jesus in prayer. Another option for each week is to have the prayer requests take place in the small groups of 4-5. Just keep in mind not everyone may feel comfortable praying out loud.

The leader again is encouraged to write down the prayer requests, and pray for them during the week. If appropriate and needed when your group gets back together next week, follow up the requests to see how God answered and if further prayer is needed.

Closing Prayer for the journey: Have everyone close this session together praying out loud this prayer found at the bottom of the Discussion Questions.

"Lord, as I prepare to go on this journey through the book of Acts, prepare my heart. Change me. 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, worshiping, joyful, growing church. And please dear Lord, let all those qualities begin in me. In Jesus name I pray, Amen."