

# BOOK OF ACTS // WEEK 35

## *(FINAL WEEK OF ACTS)*

Mike Drummond - 6/1/24

### GROWING TOGETHER

Acts frequently highlights the work of the Holy Spirit in guiding and empowering believers. Can you recall a moment when you felt the Holy Spirit leading you in a specific direction? How did you respond, and what was the result?

### GROWING WITH GOD

Read [Acts 28:1-10; 21-24; 30-31](#) aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

This week's BIG Idea: Just as Paul remained a faithful servant in all circumstances to advance the Gospel, we too are called to serve and witness for Christ, trusting in God's promises and faithfulness."

In Acts 28, Paul, the other prisoners, and Roman soldiers find themselves shipwrecked on the island of Malta. After surviving the storm, they face new challenges, including cold, rain, and even a snake bite. But through it all, God is at work. As we look at this passage, let's think about how God moves in our lives during tough times. We'll see how Paul's faith and actions can inspire us to trust in God no matter what we face.

- **Paul remained calm and shook off the snake into the fire, suffering no harm. How do you typically respond when faced with unexpected challenges or dangers?**
- **How can we better respond to misunderstandings or false judgments, keeping our focus on God's truth and purpose for us despite people's ideas about us?**

We see Paul and his fellow travelers shipwrecked on the island of Malta. The locals, showing great kindness, built a fire to help them warm up. Despite being shipwrecked, cold, and tired, Paul immediately started serving others by gathering wood for the fire. He didn't sit back and rest, even though he had every reason to. Paul's actions remind us of the importance of serving others, no matter our circumstances. His motivation came from knowing all that Jesus had done for him.

- **What motivates you to serve others, especially when you feel you've already done enough?**
- **How difficult is it for you to serve others when the serving isn't done inside the church walls?**
- **How can we remind ourselves daily of God's grace to keep our hearts focused on serving?**
- **What challenges do you face when you choose to serve?**

For this final week of the Acts series, we took a closer look at the life of the Apostle Paul and the profound lesson he offers about being a “faithful servant.” Despite facing constant challenges and attacks, Paul remained steadfast in his mission to glorify Jesus. We saw how his unwavering faith and commitment to serving God enabled him to overcome obstacles and demonstrate God’s power to those around him.

- **Paul consistently chose to serve others despite his circumstances. Can you share a time when you felt called to serve, even when it was difficult? The difficulty could be due to time, physical exhaustion, scheduling conflict, etc.**
- **Can you share an example where your actions pointed someone towards Jesus?**

We witness Paul’s continued dedication to sharing the Gospel, even amidst skepticism and opposition. Despite the varying responses he receives, Paul remains steadfast in his mission to proclaim the kingdom of God and teach about Jesus. As we explore these verses, we’re invited to reflect on the challenges and triumphs of sharing our faith with others, recognizing that the outcome is ultimately in God’s hands.

- **The book of Acts concludes with Paul welcoming all who came to see him, proclaiming the kingdom of God with boldness and without hindrance. In what ways can we emulate Paul’s example of unwavering dedication to sharing the message of Jesus in our own lives and communities?**

Acts reminds that the story of God’s work among His people is far from over. The responsibility now falls on us, the church, to continue the mission that began with the early disciples. In reflecting on this passage, we’re challenged to consider what the world sees when they look at us as Christians and as the Church. Will they witness a vibrant community engaged in serving and witnessing for Christ, or will they find complacency and inaction? Just as Paul faced a decision on the beach in Malta, so too do we face a choice: to enjoy being served or to rise up and witness through serving.

- **Reflecting on the analogy of the church as an aircraft carrier, a battleship, and a luxury cruise ship, which ship do you see yourself on and why?**
- **Consider the challenges of actively engaging in outreach and serving others within the church community. What obstacles or fears might prevent individuals from fully embracing their role as active participants in God’s mission? How can we overcome these barriers?**
- **The sermon emphasizes the importance of witnessing through serving. Can you share a personal experience where serving others became a powerful form of witness for Christ?**

As we wrap up our series on the book of Acts, let’s take a look at the early church and compare it to how we’re living out our mission today.

- **What were the key things that mattered most to the first-century Christians, and do those things still matter to us now?**
- **What was their main focus, and how does that compare to the focus of the church today?**

Pastor Mike points out that the story of Acts isn’t over. The rest of the story is up to us.

- **How does your story fit into God’s story and His Kingdom purposes here in Jacksonville and the world?**

# GROWING IN OBEDIENCE & SCRIPTURE

The book of Acts, written by Luke, chronicles the early history of the Christian church following Jesus Christ's resurrection and ascension into heaven. It highlights the spread of the Gospel through the Apostles' ministries, particularly focusing on Peter and Paul, as they face various challenges, persecution, and miraculous events while spreading the message of Jesus. Acts documents the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the establishment of the first Christian communities, and the missionary journeys that expanded the church across the Roman Empire.

- **What has been your favorite lesson or story, and why did it resonate with you?**
- **What are some takeaways you have implemented in your walk with Jesus?**
- **How can we use what we have learned to be the church in our community?**

# GROWING IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP

This week's song list if you'd like to worship with your group.

[Christ Be Magnified](#)

[Touch of Heaven](#)

[The Dove](#)

# GROWING WITH CATALYST PEOPLE

Be sure to follow Catalyst Church on all the major social media platforms for the latest information and words of encouragement.



