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84 DAYS OF SOARING

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31



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Scan QR code for introductory video.



IT IS TIME TO SOAR TOGETHER!

Welcome to 84 Days of Soaring as we journey through the book of Acts with the indestructible hope of Jesus. You will find written daily devotions here and access videos through the QR codes. There are also small group questions and weekend sermons. This is an immersive experience in God's word and presence. We reject the narrative of hopelessness. God is moving in our hearts, homes, churches, and cities. Eagles do not flap their wings repeatedly but harness the power of the wind. The Holy Spirit will empower you to new heights. Crows peck at the eagles, but the eagles respond by soaring higher into altitudes where crows will not ascend. If you have been sensing that God wants to do a new work in you and through you, then you are in the right place.

This hope journey together began with 28 Days of Hope as God ignited a fire in our souls. Then God strengthened our relationships with each other during 12 Weeks of Unity. Those previous series laid a foundation as Jesus set our houses on the rock, not the sand. You can access all the free content on JustChooseHope.org. You will find inspiring interviews and other resources as well. The hope of God is available, relational, and habitual. We are returning to God and His calling on our lives. We are shifting from cultural Christianity to Biblical Christianity. We are overcoming hope thieves. We are abiding with Jesus and receiving God's hope gifts. We are cultivating habits that are saturated with hope. We want to grow and become more like Jesus. God wants to fill us with His overflowing and infinite hope. The hope of God is greater than the challenges we face. Instead of silently retreating in fear and discouragement, we move forward with love and truth to glorify God together.

As we begin this journey of 84 days together, there is a sense of excitement about what God is going to do. If you have a desire to grow in your faith, strengthen your relationships, gain wisdom, cultivate new habits, experience more peace, and live daily with purpose and passion, then you are in the right place. Jesus said that we are the light of the world. It's time that we live as ambassadors of Jesus, because that is who we are. Let's rely on God daily and bring out the best in each other.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

84 Days of Soaring is sequential, as each day builds upon the previous day. Every day is significant, and it is important to take this one day at a time. Incremental leads to monumental. The foundation determines the security and height of a building. The same is true about the content we will cover together. Let the Scripture dwell in you richly for a full day before moving forward to the next passage.

84 Days of Soaring is transformative. This course is designed to change the trajectory of your life in both practical and profound ways. God wants to do a deeper work in our lives. You will not stay the same. The more teachable you are with God, the more you will grow. God's Word and the Holy Spirit work powerfully together to make us more like Jesus.

84 Days of Soaring is restorative. God is a healer and close to the brokenhearted. Abiding with Jesus always bears fruit. Aligning with heaven brings hope. Turning away from sin leads to freedom. Cultivating powerful habits renews our minds and souls. Shalom is a holistic wellness and blessing from Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace. There are no limits to what God can do as we spend time in His presence.

84 Days of Soaring includes reliance. You will feel challenged and stretched as you grow. The Christian life is not a solo endeavor. We cannot save ourselves, and we are not self-sufficient. We need God and each other. It is wise to rely on God. Our weaknesses lead us to His greatness. God is more interested in our availability than our ability. These twelve weeks are primarily about God and what He will do in you, through you, and beyond you. God's goodness, love, and faithfulness will strengthen you daily.

God offers us an indestructible and abundant hope daily.

For each of the 84 days, there are daily written and video devotionals for you as you seek God. In addition to Scripture and prayer, there is a video that covers the Bible passage. The written piece is connected to the video devotional to help you go deeper with God. I challenge you to invest in your relationship with God and take 28 minutes each day to meet with Him over the next 84 days. Yes, 28 minutes a day is my recommendation and challenge. It means you probably need to reduce the time you spend each day on screens. On average, we spend many hours a day watching devices and televisions. Cut down on your screen time daily so you can create time in your schedule. It is more about your priorities because we always make time for what we value. You will not regret this new habit and rhythm. Find others who will do the same. God will encourage and empower you in transformative ways as you seek Him.

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WHY MORE HOPE?

We are designed to receive and give hope daily. It is easy to lose hope or misplace our hope. The God of hope wants to fill us with His presence and an overflowing hope. Hope inspires, motivates, and glorifies God. When we run low on hope, it affects our attitude, relationships, responses, dreams, energy, and countenance, and how we treat our neighbors locally and globally. Churches exist to be the most hope-filled places and communities in our cities. We cannot have hope-filled churches, though, without hope-filled homes. We can't have hope-filled homes without hope-filled hearts. We cannot have hope-filled hearts unless we abide with Jesus, the source of hope.

We are hungry for God and His hope in our souls. We see a deterioration spiritually and morally in our nation. We see churches that are trying to figure out how to be relevant and faithful. We know our families need God's help. It is time for healing in our land. We say, "No" to the status quo. We reject the narrative of hopelessness. Hope is available. Hope is relational. Hope is habitual. The hope of Jesus is indestructible.

Choosing hope does not mean that we stuff or hide our pain. Choosing hope does not send the message that denial is good. Choosing hope does not minimize our suffering. Choosing hope does not lack compassion and understanding. Choosing hope is not forcing or manipulating. Choosing hope is not a trite saying or superficial. Choosing hope is not necessarily easy to do. Choosing hope might be a very different pattern for your family. Choosing hope might be met with opposition. Choosing hope does not mean that life will become easier, and everything will start to become just how you want it. Choosing hope is simply a good decision in every situation because God offers a hope that is both in the eye of the storm and greater than the challenges we face.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

God wants to fill His people with His infinite and indestructible hope. Hope is a confident and joyful trust in someone or something. Your hope is only as strong as the one in whom you trust. How much you trust God is the greatest indicator of the amount of hope you have. There is no shortage of hope in God's presence or kingdom. God does not run out of hope. Hope is a choice. You will be strengthened when you put your hope in God. When we make room for God and give Him full access to our lives, hope overflows. Eagles do not need to flap their wings often; they learn how to harness the power of the wind. Father God is good. Jesus is risen. The Holy Spirit is powerful. It is time to spiritually soar!



**JUST CHOOSE
HOPE**

Day 1

Supernatural Power

Read Acts 1:1-11
and scan QR
code for video.



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But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

God has called you to be His ambassador, minister, priest, and witness who testifies about the love and truth of Jesus. It is a significant and exciting assignment. You cannot successfully carry out this work merely on your own strength. Jesus encourages and empowers His followers to bless people and build up His kingdom daily.

Your ultimate purpose is to know Christ and make Him known.

Serve God and speak about His goodness where you live, work, learn, and play. Jesus does not leave us as orphans. The Holy Spirit dwells in everyone who decides to follow Jesus. Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who comforts and convicts you with a compelling vision until Jesus returns. Our role is to abide with God and respond to His direction. God's role is to lead us and change hearts. We can be faithful and trust God with the results. God's plan is the same for every nation and generation.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: You will never graduate from reliance on God.

- **Reflection:**

1. What is the significance of the resurrection and ascension of Jesus?
2. How can you be filled with the Holy Spirit?
3. Why does God give you His power?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, Thank you for your faithfulness. I need your help every day. I know you will guide and provide as I rely on you. I pray in Jesus' name, amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 2

United in Prayer

Read Acts 1:12-26
and scan QR code
for video.



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They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. Acts 1:14

Prayer is the gateway into all that God wants to do. God is our strength and refuge and helps us when we face various types of trouble. The disciples no longer had Jesus physically and visibly with them. Judas, their treasurer, had betrayed Jesus and died from suicide. They were surrounded by people who had just killed Jesus and were ready to persecute His followers. Life felt discouraging, and they felt trapped.

They made a wise decision to pray.

Not just once or a few times, but continually. It is difficult to mobilize a group of people to commit to prayer. We get distracted easily and our devotion wavers. We often rely on our own strength and answers instead of looking to God. As they prayed, God gave them the next step forward, and they voted to have Matthias replace Judas. It was incremental progress, not monumental initially. The floodgates of heaven would open soon, but they began by being committed to moving forward together on their knees. The need to pray is just as great today. Let's answer that call as one family.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Be intentional to ask God for wisdom as you make prayerful decisions.

- **Reflection:**

1. What are some of the decisions that were made in this passage?
2. How does pride block prayer?
3. Who would pray with you more often during the week if you asked them?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, we surrender to You because we trust You. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Lead us, we pray, as we desire Your plans and purposes. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 3

A New Fire

Read Acts 2:1-13
and scan QR
code for video.



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All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

Pentecost is a name that we should all celebrate. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was the best gift the church could have desired. God's presence makes the difference in our lives. Our greatest need today is to be filled with the Holy Spirit and God fills His people.

Without the Spirit, we walk in the flesh and the church flounders.

Theologians discuss this passage, and there are debates about what is descriptive of what happened and what is prescriptive and should always happen. The Holy Spirit consequently has become a controversial topic in many churches and sadly is avoided or very limited in terms of a welcome. Let us let God be God and let God lead. Jesus was filled and led by the Spirit, and we need the same. We need a fresh fire in our souls that the world cannot contain. The disciples were accused of being drunk, but the truth is they were full of God's joy and hope.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: The Spirit-filled life is our calling and is essential for every follower of Jesus.

- **Reflection:**

1. What does a church look like without the Holy Spirit?
2. What happened on the day of Pentecost?
3. How does this passage inspire you today?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, thank you for empowering us daily. We worship You, Holy Spirit. Without you, we struggle and choose sin again and again. With you, we are overflowing with hope, power, and love. We live and pray for Your glory, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 4

The Gospel

Read Acts 2:14-35
and scan QR code
for video.



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But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. Acts 2:24

The gospel is for everyone. There is no better news than the gospel. There are two parts of the gospel: Christ died for our sins, and He is risen. God's grace is the core of the gospel because the forgiveness of sins and eternal life is received, not achieved by us. How you share the gospel and how many times you share the gospel are both significant. Communicate clearly and lovingly.

Use language that people understand.

Peter shared from the book of Joel and Psalms in pointing out how God has fulfilled His promises. These passages would connect well with a Jewish audience. The real gospel is drenched with power. Popular false gospels include earning your way to heaven, and if you follow Jesus you will always be wealthy and healthy. Reject gospel lies. Our role is communication, then God's role is to bring salvation. Like Peter, stand up and find your voice. God has empowered you to take gospel risks for the glory of Jesus.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Tell people that Jesus died for our sins and is risen!

- **Reflection:**

1. What is the gospel?
2. Why do we need to share the good news about Jesus?
3. How can you lead people to Jesus?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, we know heaven and hell are real. Jesus, we know You are the way, the truth, and the life. Forgive us for being fearful and silent. Help us to love people more than being comfortable. We pray in Your name, Lord. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 5

New Believers

Read Acts 2:36-41
and scan QR code
for video.



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Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts 2:41

What a glorious day as about three thousand people decided to follow Jesus. These are disciples, not merely decisions. When there is a harvest of souls, follow up can be messy and complex. The church was devoted to both leading as many people to Christ and helping them connect with the community of faith as they take the next steps spiritually.

May we be committed daily to do the same with sincere passion and courage.

Imagine the scene as all of them were also baptized in water. There have been recent baptisms in California with about the same number of people, and it is incredibly inspiring. Notice water baptism in the Bible happens with joy and urgency. If someone puts their trust in Jesus, water baptism is the next step. Do not delay what God has made clear to do. Baptism does not save you. It is part of growing in your faith and publicly declaring that Jesus is your Savior.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Be faithful and trust God with the results.

- **Reflection:**

1. Have you ever led someone to Jesus?
2. How do you disciple new believers?
3. How can we lead a city to Jesus?

- **Prayer:**

Gracious God, I pray for open doors and boldness to share my faith. It is difficult for me, but I want to do what You have asked me to do Jesus. I choose Your word over the world. May You be glorified. I ask this in Your mighty name, Lord. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 6

Fully Devoted

Read Acts 2:42-47
and scan QR code
for video.



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They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

In life, you decide what you are going to do in all settings and situations. You decide what your top priorities are. You decide what hills you are willing to die on too. The followers of Jesus had a shared purpose and passion. Worship, Scripture, prayer, fellowship, and outreach marked their lives. It didn't ultimately matter which location or the amount of persecution, these choices were consistent. Let's move past shallow commitments and good intentions.

A devoted church is a faithful and dangerous church in the best sense.

The world is often influencing the church today more than the church is influencing the world. Following Jesus should never be compartmentalized to the four walls of the church or a half-hearted endeavor. Meditate on this passage and make the shifts God is leading you to make.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Commitment is at the core of your relationship with God.

- **Reflection:**

1. What are you devoted to daily?
2. What shifts would strengthen your walk with God?
3. What habits does God tell us to cultivate?

- **Prayer:**

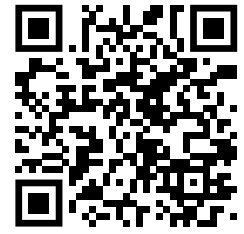
Father, I want to slow down and listen to You more closely. Jesus, I want to take up my cross daily to follow You. Holy Spirit, please help me to live courageously and faithfully, no matter what the cost. I am deciding to find and join teams of people with a shared purpose and passion. With gratitude and clarity, I pray in Your name Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 7

Love Like Jesus

Read Acts 3:1-10
and scan QR
code for video.



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Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Acts 3:6

What people need is often deeper than what people want. This crippled beggar asked for money but received so much more. Money can be a blessing and meets practical needs. In the name of Jesus, Peter healed the man, and he experienced the joy of the Lord. Physical healing is a blessing too, but the greatest need of the man was to experience and worship Jesus. Peter led with compassion and took action. God works on many levels at the same time.

Caring for people includes their souls.

Through the Holy Spirit the disciples were going to change the world. Do not despise small beginnings. Peter started where he was, used what he had, and did what he could. Go to people where they are. When you serve, you will meet many needs. Remember our greatest need is a relationship with God. The power of God leads to healing.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Give what you have to glorify God.

- **Reflection:**

1. What was Peter's response to the beggar?
2. What do beggars need most: your time, love, money, or relationship?
3. What are the ways God physically heals people?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, please help me to see people the way You see them. Break my heart for what breaks Your heart. All I have belongs to You. I want to be generous, instead of hoarding and playing it safe. I want to bless people every day. In Your name I pray, Lord. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 8

It is Time to Repent

Read Acts 3:11-26
and scan QR code
for video.



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Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. Acts 3:19

Repentance is a 180-degree turn from sin to the Savior. It is far more than just a few behavior modifications. It is a change of mind and beliefs about God, sin, and hope. Repentance is unfortunately often viewed as an outdated, negative, stained-glass word. The truth is repentance is wise, relevant for today, a new start, and a fountain of hope. God's kindness leads us to repentance.

The fruit of repentance is the abundant life Jesus offers.

Peter's call to repentance in this passage was to many strangers. It is loving to invite people to turn from their wicked ways to the life that is truly life. There is no salvation without repentance. There is no revival without repentance. There is no restoration without repentance. It is time to come home to God with all of our hearts.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: There is refreshment for your soul when you turn from sin to the Savior.

- **Reflection:**

1. What is repentance?
2. What have been some of your blind spots?
3. Who holds you accountable?

- **Prayer:**

Holy God, may the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight. My goal is to walk humbly with You in all situations. Nothing is more important in my life than honoring You. I pray all of this sincerely in Your unrivaled name, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 9

Facing Opposition

Read Acts 4:1-11
and scan QR
code for video.



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They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. Acts 4:3

The greatest causes often include the biggest opposition. There is light versus darkness, good versus evil, God versus the devil, and hope versus despair. Whoever lives fully for Jesus will experience persecution for their faith. Peter and John were proclaiming Jesus, and many believed. As a result, the religious leaders seized them and put them in jail. Believers around the world currently face this pressure and reality. If Peter and John had remained quiet, the conflict would have disappeared, but they refused to be silent or give into fear.

The good news about Jesus is like a fire in our bones.

God does not call us to play it safe. The goal of our lives is not to be comfortable. That is cultural Christianity that caters to the flesh. Biblical Christianity nudges us out of the nest, relying on the Holy Spirit, so that we can soar together.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Your faith will be tested when people are against you.

- **Reflection:**

1. What happens to Peter and John and how do they respond?
2. How can injustice fuel your passion for Jesus?
3. What truth is not popular today?

- **Prayer:**

God, we worship You in spirit and in truth. We will live truth and speak truth for Your glory. The truth sets people free. Forgive us for shrinking back in the difficult moments. With love and humility, we stand on Your word. We ask this in Your mighty name Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 10

With Jesus

*Read Acts 4:12-22
and scan QR code
for video.*



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When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

Your primary calling is to be with Jesus. When you abide with the Savior, courage, love, and peace will be the fruit. Closeness to Jesus is more important than your education, experience, and environment. Abiding works in every situation. God chooses what the world says is foolishness.

God chooses everyday people who want to honor the Lord.

God chooses us more on availability than ability. The determination to obey and be faithful to God stands out in this passage. There is no wavering or shrinking back. Deep conviction leads to perseverance and freedom. We tend to overmeasure and overvalue our reputations and what people want us to do. All that mattered to the disciples is what God wanted them to do. It is great to do ministry for Jesus, but make sure you are doing ministry with Jesus.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Before you do things for Jesus, spend time with Jesus.

- **Reflection:**

1. What examples of courage do you see in this passage?
2. Why does Jesus select everyday people as His followers?
3. How would you live for Jesus if you stopped fearing people's reactions?

- **Prayer:**

Father, please free us from trying to keep everyone happy instead of saying and doing what we know is right. Thank You for the conviction of the Holy Spirit. May we be secure in You as we live counter-culturally. Forgive us for lukewarm faith. Revive us, Lord, we ask. In Your holy name, amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 11

Overcomers

Read Acts 4:23-31
and scan QR code
for video.



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Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Acts 4:29

When life became more difficult, the followers of Jesus chose prayer. Reliance on God is always a good decision. There are many challenges out of our control, but we can always seek God. As they cried out to God, their request was not to have an easy path. Instead, they asked God for more boldness. They did not want to shrink back from the need or the call. The Holy Spirit gave them boldness beyond their fears.

We are more than conquerors through Jesus who loves us infinitely.

Your identity in Christ is significant because when you know you are, you act like it. A secure identity gives you freedom to persevere in faith. In the rearview mirror, we will see many obstacles, but God's hope drives us forward. Our deep desire is to align with heaven. The hope of Jesus is rugged and inspiring.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God can turn your greatest tests into testimonies.

- **Reflection:**

1. How does God increase your perseverance, hope, and capacity?
2. What do you observe about the prayers in these verses?
3. How could prayer become your primary option instead of just a last resort?

- **Prayer:**

Gracious God, may our trust be greater than our trials. We cannot face the battles alone. There is a spiritual war between light and darkness, good and evil. In this reality, we are more than conquerors through Jesus. You are the hero of our stories. We walk in the victories You give, Jesus, and pray in Your matchless name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 12

Unity and Generosity

Read Acts 4:32-37
and scan QR code
for video.



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All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. Acts 4:32

The resurrection of Jesus was core to the community of Christians. Far more than a theological fact, it propelled their decisions and actions daily. When the resurrection is the foundation of your relationships, you become unselfish, have the right perspective about material possessions, live with compassion, display unity, live counter-culturally, and lead many to Jesus. You simply won't have those results from independence, isolation, or selfishness. The materialistic dream is often described as more for me, but the vision of Jesus is to lay down your life for His glory with real love.

The root produces the fruit.

Those who abide with Jesus are overflowing with encouragement and hope. Let us move together towards generosity. Faithfulness to Jesus as we love one another is our ultimate goal. "God's grace was powerfully at work in them all" is a beautiful testimony to a stingy world.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Real community is built with humility, and no one walks alone.

- **Reflection:**

1. Why do we live such independent and isolated lives?
2. How can we become more like Jesus in our relationships?
3. What are you willing to sacrifice to be united with your brothers and sisters?

- **Prayer:**

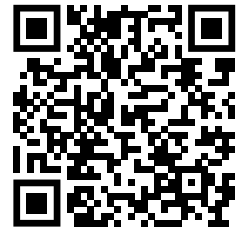
God, in the Trinity we see unity that inspires. We are made in Your image. Forgive us for our hatred, division, strife, resentment, and bitterness. How will people see Jesus in us when we are in petty conflict? We repent. Please heal our families and churches. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 13

The Fear of God

Read Acts 5:1-11
and scan QR
code for video.



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Then Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?' Acts 5:3

People who fear God do the right thing even when no one is watching. People who fear God do not go to bed at night with lies in their hearts and mouths. People who fear God confess sin quickly and fully. People who fear God walk in the light and hate what is evil. If you lose the fear of God, darkness becomes your dwelling and deception becomes palatable.

Integrity is oneness, but compromise leads to a double life.

A husband and wife can drift into sin together, wandering away from God. Or a husband and wife can bring out the best in each other and spur each other on to great deeds of faith. Compromise is never worth it. Part or all of you will die. Be intentional with your standards. Honor God, and He will honor you.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Your integrity is worth more than your possessions.

- **Reflection:**

1. What stands out to you in this story?
2. When has greed crept into your heart?
3. Why is holiness a big deal in our homes and churches?

- **Prayer:**

Holy God, Your thoughts and ways are above our thoughts and ways. We know You will not be mocked. We respect You like no other. We want You to be glorified. We belong to You. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 14

God Delivers

Read Acts 5:12-16
and scan QR code
for video.



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Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed. Acts 5:16

Spiritual momentum is thrilling. When God is moving supernaturally in a community of people, hope is multiplied. There will be seasons when the floodgates of heaven are opened, and the power of God is evident in amazing ways. Our faith is not based on how many blessings we see, but blessings are to be celebrated.

More and more people are deciding to follow Jesus.

Faith is growing and expanding. People who have been suffering are being healed. Areas of darkness are being transformed. Cities of despair find hope in the Lord. Families who are afflicted and oppressed are set free. Believers who denied Jesus or were quiet about their faith become on fire for God. Abiding with Jesus leads to healing as the Prince of Peace brings shalom. Dream again what God can do in your church and community. Jesus is the deliverer who still sets captives free. There are no limits to what God can do.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God's people drive out the darkness in the name of Jesus.

- **Reflection:**

1. When have you seen the power of God in dire situations?
2. How can you have more confidence in God?
3. What does God want to do through you in your city?

- **Prayer:**

God of hope, we praise You with all of our hearts. You are worthy. Thank You for all of the ways You are in control and will prevail. We meditate on Your word and walk by faith. May strongholds be broken in the name of Jesus. We ask for freedom in healing for the glory of our Lord. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 15

God Sends Angels

*Read Acts 5:17-26
and scan QR code
for video.*



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But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. Acts 5:19

Angels are God's messengers who protect and rescue. Angels are always working in the unseen realm. Angels are not wimpy, they prevail in spiritual battles and overcome dark forces. Demons battle against angels. Satan, who is a fallen archangel, wages war against heaven. God sends angels to accomplish His will and plans.

Angels serve us as they serve God, and as we serve God.

When your heart is fully committed to God and leading people to God, God will strongly support you. The armies of heaven will be dispatched so that the people of God can walk through open doors that the world cannot close. People are not angels. Those are two different types of beings, yet angels can look like people. Sometimes angels are visible, and their work is obvious. When people see angels, they are often overwhelmed. God is praised by the angels continually in heaven. On earth, we thank God for the ways His angels are at work in our midst and are among us.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Thank God for His protection and provision daily.

- **Reflection:**

1. What does the Bible teach us about angels?
2. When has God protected you physically, emotionally, relationally, or spiritually?
3. When has God provided for you in a way that exceeded your expectations?

- **Prayer:**

Gracious God, You make a way when there seems to be no way. You always have the final say. The devil's schemes will not prevail. Thank You for what You do in the invisible realm to care for us. Our faith increases when we read of Your track record and faithfulness. We thank You in Jesus' name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 16

Perseverance

Read Acts 5:27-42
and scan QR code
for video.



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Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.
Acts 5:42

The apostles were questioned, threatened, and mistreated yet they filled Jerusalem with the gospel. There was a steely determination in their souls to reach everyone with the hope of Jesus. The religious elite who appeared to have all of the positions and power didn't realize the power they were facing. When the followers of Jesus would not be controlled by the people in leadership, the ruling authorities wanted to kill them. Corruption and hypocrisy hate the presence of God and try to exert their force with bullying and physical force. When the people of God are not intimidated, their conviction deepens.

You can look darkness in the face and decide that you will walk in the light.

God will raise up surprise advocates for you. Your joy will exceed the opposition. Live for Jesus and do not look back. Life is too short, and eternity is too long to slow down because of criticism and cruel comments. Never stop proclaiming Jesus to a weary world. You were made to live with a steel spine and kind heart as you build up people and the kingdom of God.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Because you are loved by Jesus, you won't quit or go sideways.

- **Reflection:**

1. When have you been intimidated or tempted to abandon your calling?
2. What has been done to fuel you in the difficult times?
3. How do clear priorities and godly measures of success make a difference?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, You are worth following no matter the cost. Where else will we turn but to you Jesus? There is no other name by which we are saved. You have our affection and devotion. We live to give You praise and build Your kingdom. In Your wonderful name we pray. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 17

God's Solution

Read Acts 6:1-7
and scan QR
code for video.



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Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them.

Acts 6:3

God wants to empower His people to rise up and be part of the solution. When the number of leaders is lacking, there are people who will unnecessarily live in lack too. When people are not eager to serve, unfortunately there will be people who will not be served. The Greek widows needed food and were being overlooked. That reality did not display the love of Jesus. There was simply no way the Twelve could cover all of the tasks. In many churches, a small percentage of people are doing the heavy lifting, giving, and serving.

God wants to mobilize and encourage all of His people to be active.

Passivity and complacency are not fulfilling. When more servant leaders participated, there was provision for the widows and the word of God spread across the community. God's solution is always for all of God's people to find their roles and be ready to make a difference. Let us encourage each other to move away from the sidelines and get in the game. Christianity is not a spectator sport, and you are a minister who carries the hope of God where you live, work, learn, and play.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God's plan is to raise up more people to use their gifts.

- **Reflection:**

1. What were the crisis and the opportunity?
2. Why is it difficult to give other people responsibility?
3. Why do so few people do the heavy lifting at most churches?

- **Prayer:**

Mighty God, please forgive us for not empowering and training more people. Help us to pass on what we have learned. We pray that more will pray, read the Bible, serve, share their faith, and give. We want to see the fullness of the potential of Your body. We cry out to You in Jesus' name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 18

The Mind of Christ

Read Acts 6:8-15
and scan QR
code for video.



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But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke. Acts 6:10

You can be faithful to God and criticized unfairly. There will be times when people falsely accuse you and undermine you. God was using Stephen to heal and restore lives. Stephen was full of grace, but the religious leaders were graceless. Men tried to argue with Stephen, but God gave him wisdom and powerful responses through the Holy Spirit. The purity of Stephen shined in the heat of the trials he endured. You have the mind of Christ as you are filled with His word and abide with Jesus.

Lies will never win over the truth.

Darkness cannot eliminate the light. The gates of hell will not prevail against the church. When people bring hatred, walk in love. When people try to discourage you, be overflowing with hope. When people attack your faith, be confident in Scripture and the promises of God. God will continually renew you on the inside.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God's word and the Holy Spirit equip you for every conversation.

- **Reflection:**

1. Have you ever had someone who tried to undermine you?
2. When have you sensed that God gave you the words to say in a situation?
3. What Scripture has bolstered your faith and confidence in God?

- **Prayer:**

Almighty God, there is no argument or claim that will ever be able to change the fact of who You are. No one can defeat the truth or stop the resurrection and return of Jesus. We do not shrink back from courageous conversations, and it is in Your name, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 19

Your Moment

Read Acts 7:1-38
and scan QR
code for video.



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To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Harran. Acts 7:2

The most inspiring messages can come from the most difficult times. God can use pain to fuel purpose and passion. God does His greatest work in the darkest moments. There will be occasions and situations when God takes over in your life and does something beautiful in a very bleak setting. Near the end of his life, Stephen is communicating from his heart about the indestructible hope of Jesus.

Final words are memorable.

Before Stephen is killed, he shares the reason for his faith, the story of God's faithfulness, and invites everyone to follow our faithful Savior. Make the most of opportunities. You have one life. It passes quickly. Then you come before Your Maker. Live in such a way that you will look back and your legacy will be all about Jesus.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Not all moments are created equal; step up and speak up!

- **Reflection:**

1. What have been your greatest opportunities to glorify God?
2. When would you risk your life for Jesus?
3. If you had ten minutes to talk to America, what would you say?

- **Prayer:**

Glorious God, we want to soar. Not only in the convenient and familiar ways, but in the uncomfortable and contested ways too. All we really care about is You, Jesus. Please put some steel in our backbones and fire in our souls. In the matchless name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we ask these things. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 20

A Clear Rebuke

Read Acts 7:39-53
and scan QR code
for video.



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"You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!" Acts 7:51

The last thing you want to do is to resist and grieve the Holy Spirit. This became a pattern for the religious leaders and those who were against Jesus. There were generations who ignored God's word, rejected His messengers, trampled on His commands, and lived in self-righteousness.

When you decide to talk about and live for Jesus, there will be those who oppose you.

Forgive everyone fully and reject bitterness. At the same time, God may lead you to rebuke those who are rebelling against the Lord. Warnings have an urgency because everyone's lifestyle, beliefs, and soul are significant. Warnings are a direct attempt to help people come to their senses. Warnings carry hope because there is still time to repent. Rebukes can redeem. Jesus was overflowing with hope and frequently rebuked people. Speak the truth in love.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Love includes holding people accountable and communicating God's standards.

- **Reflection:**

1. What do you see that dishonors God in our culture?
2. How is God leading you to confront rebellion?
3. How can you be part of the breakthrough we need in our homes, churches, and cities?

- **Prayer:**

Gracious God, we do not walk in fear and timidity. We want more than the status quo. We pray our hearts will be receptive to the Holy Spirit. We need discernment in how to challenge people. We do not want to see people stuck in sin. Please rescue and restore. We want to be part of the solution. May the turnaround start in our families. We offer ourselves to You. You are the potter, and we are the clay. We ask this in Your holy name, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 21

A Wake-Up Call

Read Acts 7:54-60
and scan QR code
for video.



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*While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
Acts 7:59*

In times of prosperity, God's people can become sleepy. In times of persecution, God's people often regain their focus and purpose. The cost can be high to follow Jesus. When one person is faithful to Jesus even to the point of death, it inspires the body of Christ. Unless a kernel falls to the ground and is buried, there will not be a fruitful harvest.

The resurrection comes after the death.

Jesus only lived into his thirties. Many of God's servants are called home at a young age. Unprecedented numbers of Christians are being killed for their faith around the world this century. The realities of life and death, heaven and hell, good and evil all come into clarity when a loved one is no longer with us. Stephen lived with the indestructible hope of Jesus. His death was a tragedy and a victory. God increased His hope and message among God's people. Stephen was gone, but the church found her voice and courage. The best is yet to come.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Persecution often brings out the best in God's people, and the church comes to life.

- **Reflection:**

1. Why is prosperity a playground for lukewarm faith?
2. What is the difference between cultural Christianity and Biblical Christianity?
3. How is God waking up His people in the chaos we see this year?

- **Prayer:**

Merciful God, forgive those who are violent and oppose You. We want to see all people come to know You. We forgive everyone who has wronged us. In our suffering, may they see Jesus in us. We abide with You, Jesus. This world is bold about sin, but we will be bolder for You Lord. Faithfulness is our prayer in Your name, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 22

Scattered

Read Acts 8:1-8
and scan QR
code for video.



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And Saul approved of their killing him. Acts 8:1

God is going to reach the world with His hope. We are invited to collaborate with Jesus. The martyrdom of Stephen caught the attention of the believers and the persecutors. Saul, who would later become the apostle Paul, was giving approval to his death.

God can sow seeds in hearts before conversions.

Stephen's devotion had an impact on Saul. Before he died, Stephen prayed for the people who murdered him. His prayer of forgiveness for them resembled the prayer of Jesus from the cross. Persecution did not decrease after this tragedy, it increased greatly. The disciples were dispersed throughout the region. What the enemy meant for evil God used to send out His people on mission. Opposition did not diminish their zeal. It added lighter fluid to the flames.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God works through tragedies to reach more people.

- **Reflection:**

1. How did God use Stephen's death in Saul's life?
2. How is it good for God's people to scatter?
3. What were some positive responses by the disciples?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, thank You for the times that Your people gather during the week. Thank You also for the times we spread out with purpose. Help me to see my workplace, neighborhood, and nation like You see it. I want to make the most of my opportunities for Your glory, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 23

Pure Motives

*Read Acts 8:9-25
and scan QR code
for video.*



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You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Acts 8:21

The power of God carries hope. The power of God transforms lives. The power of God is appealing and desirable. The power of God is unstoppable.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Philip went to Samaria, and God saved many people there. There were baptism celebrations and intentional discipleship. Peter and John arrived and introduced people to the Spirit-filled life of following Jesus and the Holy Spirit filled God's people. This was not religion or rules, but a relationship with the living God. Simon, who practiced sorcery, had a heart full of bitterness and wanted to buy God's presence. The message of God was to repent and purify motives. God's kingdom and work will not be manipulated. Counterfeits will be exposed. The refiner's fire is intense. God alone will receive all of the praise!

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Your invisible motives are always fully visible to God.

- **Reflection:**

1. What was happening in Samaria?
2. Why did Peter confront Simon?
3. How do you get rid of bitterness?

- **Prayer:**

Gracious God, we do not want to look clean on the outside and be full of dead bones on the inside. There is no life in covering up deception and rebellion. We want to be right with You. Search our hearts and purge the sin. We want to be full of integrity and consistent in our walk with You. We ask this all in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 24

Inspiring Conversations

Read Acts 8:26-40
and scan QR code
for video.



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"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Acts 8:31

God surrounds you with people who have an interest in knowing Jesus and walking with Him. The Holy Spirit will lead you to come alongside and connect with others through spiritual conversations.

Be listening, available, and teachable.

The Ethiopian man in a chariot had questions about God and did not understand what the Bible says. This is true for so many of your neighbors and friends today. He needed a safe place to discover God and own his faith. He and Phillip talked about a passage from Isaiah chapter 53. That passage is an Old Testament description and prophecy about Jesus the Messiah. The eunuch decided to follow the Lord and was baptized. The gospel spread to Africa because Philip was willing to have a conversation about God with a stranger. Share your faith and hope during the week like Jesus, Philip, and all those who want to be a doer of God's Word. This is Biblical Christianity.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Be aware of who wants to grow spiritually.

- **Reflection:**

1. How did the Holy Spirit guide Philip?
2. Why is water baptism significant and urgent?
3. How is God moving in Africa today?

- **Prayer:**

Thank You, God, that You love people from all nations. Open our eyes, we pray, that we may see the open hearts and come alongside people well. We want to share what we have learned. We pray many more people will decide to follow You and be baptized in water. For Your glory we pray, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 25

By Faith

Read Acts 9:1-19
and scan QR
code for video.



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"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."
Acts 9:6

Trust is at the core of all relationships. Following Jesus means that we surrender the leadership of our lives to our Lord. This is real worship. Cultural Christianity is the result of trying to maintain control.

The bottom line is we often trust ourselves more than we trust God.

We would rather conform to the patterns and priorities of the world than of the word. The resurrected Jesus appeared to Saul and communicated with him. Saul was humbled by the light from heaven and the majestic voice of Jesus. "Go to Damascus first," then God would show Saul what to do. It was a step of faith and obedience. In Damascus, God prepared Ananias to disciple Saul. God goes ahead of us. He is weaving together a masterpiece. Our stories are unfolding. God knows when, how, and where to unveil His plans. Walk in the light you have because more is on the way.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God will reveal sufficient information to keep taking the next right step forward.

- **Reflection:**

1. What is surprising about Saul's testimony?
2. What specific directions did Jesus give to Saul?
3. How did Ananias walk by faith with courage?

- **Prayer:**

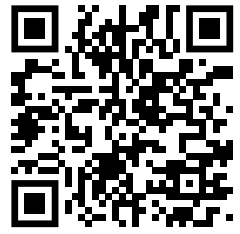
God, we want to do the difficult things well. We know Your assignments cause us to rely on You. We do not see the full picture like You do. We want to listen to Your voice, Jesus, and be people You can trust. Use us, we pray, to reach and disciple people who need a second chance. We pray this for Your glory and name, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 26

Be an Advocate

Read Acts 9:20-31
and scan QR code
for video.



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But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. Acts 9:27

Do not give up. After his conversion to Jesus, Paul's world changed. He had been a violent man who used to initiate and celebrate the murder of Christians. As a new believer, he was trying to join the people he hated and persecuted. The people knew his past. They were not sure if he was safe now. They wrestled with fear. They were torn. They played it safe and excluded Paul. Barnabas arrived on the scene as a bridge.

It can be tricky to connect with a church and find a community of faith.

Every Sunday people show up to church, and there is no warm welcome. These brothers and sisters feel like they are on the outside looking in, not embraced. Believers are consumed with themselves and their friends. Many people have a past of egregious sins and feel insecure and carry shame. Because you are an ambassador of Jesus, God wants you to take relationship risks. Notice people. Listen to people. Welcome people with hospitality. You don't have to be an official greeter. Live out your faith and make someone feel at home. Do it every week. Change the culture. Don't just go to church, be the church. Be like Jesus.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Find someone who is alone and be a bridge for them.

- **Reflection:**

1. How was Saul's first month as a Christian?
2. What did Barnabas do and why was it so important?
3. How was Saul's life different under the lordship of Jesus?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, we all need encouragement. There are times when relationships are tense and strained. Let us be people who are peacemakers. We value unity and compassion. May we never be people who are rude and harsh. Jesus, we want to love like You, and we ask this all in Your name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 27

Miracles

Read Acts 9:32-43
and scan QR code
for video.



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Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. Acts 9:40

Miracles are essential in our faith. If there is no resurrection, there is no Christianity. Jesus is risen! We will receive resurrected bodies because death is not the end of the story. The King of Kings has defeated death, darkness, the devil, and despair. Throughout the Bible there were miracles in the past and more coming in the future.

Let God be God today.

We do not need to see miracles to trust God. Miracles are the grace of God on display. They should never be manipulated, faked, or exaggerated. Dorcas was dead, but Peter prayed and commanded her to get up! This miracle led to many people putting their trust in Jesus. The hope of a miracle can echo throughout nations and generations. Celebrate every miracle, but worship the God of miracles, not the miracle or the person through whom God moves.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: The miracles of God reveal His power and display His glory.

- **Reflection:**

1. What are the miracles in this passage?
2. What do you think it was like for Peter to be used by God in this special way?
3. What are some of the miracles, both past and future, which are described in the Bible?

- **Prayer:**

Almighty God, nothing is too difficult for You. We look forward to the day when You will return, Jesus. We long for the day when sickness, sin, death, and the devil are gone. We are excited to finally be home in heaven. The works of Your hands leave us in awe of You, Lord. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 28

Divine Direction

Read Acts 10:1-8
and scan QR
code for video.



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Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. Acts 10:5

God moves in a sequence of related events. There is a Gentile centurion named Cornelius. He cultivates hope habits in his life like giving to those in need and praying persistently and consistently. God notices his choices and rewards Cornelius.

God will do something special when there is someone He can entrust with a plan.

God communicates in many ways, but primarily through His Spirit and Scripture. In this instance, God spoke through an angel. God gives very specific instructions. Stay tuned into what God is saying during the day. Cornelius sent men to Peter's house in Joppa because that is what God told him to do. You will never regret trusting God. Obedience is saturated with hope and opens exciting new doors far beyond anything you can plan.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Listen to God and be ready to do whatever He tells you to do.

- **Reflection:**

1. What is true about Cornelius?
2. What are the ways God can communicate with us?
3. When have you sensed that God brought someone into your life with a great purpose?

- **Prayer:**

Faithful God, thank You for revealing Your plans to us. Thank You for bringing specific people into our lives at just the right time. Thank You for bringing people together from different cultures. Lead us in our friendships and partnerships with clarity we ask, in Jesus' name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 29

God is In It

Read Acts 10:9-23
and scan QR code
for video.



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The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." Acts 10:15

Peter was willing to follow God's leading, even when it initially did not make sense. He had a renewed hope because he had confidence in God. Sometimes we are well intentioned and off base. You have blind spots. We all do. When God is doing something new, it includes some hope shifts. Our paradigms need to be recalibrated to align with heaven. Our pride does not enjoy being corrected and instructed by God.

We all need clarity and courage from the Holy Spirit.

There is tremendous peace and joy when you know you are doing exactly what God wants you to do and your name is on it. Unnecessary dietary restrictions do not make us more holy. Staying in our house when God tells us to go doesn't feel comfortable. Stop leaning on your own understanding and trust God as you adventure to new places and into new relationships and conversations. If the Good Shepherd is in it, you should be too.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Find out what God has already blessed and join Him.

- **Reflection:**

1. How does God reassure Peter?
2. Why does God have the final say on all topics related to morality?
3. When has God given you a clear green light to proceed in a new endeavor?

- **Prayer:**

Omniscient God, You are the One who determines right and wrong. You decide what is clean and unclean. We want to honor You and Your word. Thank You for going ahead of us and showing us the way. We are ready to break cultural norms for Your glory, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 30

Astonished

Read Acts 10:24-48
and scan QR code
for video.



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The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. Acts 10:45

If you are struggling with a lack of hope, start noticing what God is already doing. God is saving, healing, encouraging, strengthening, and restoring every day. The news reports everything that is wrong in the world and online click bait highlights sin. People are drawn to those stories, and they sell well.

The good news, however, is not as loud in our culture.

Peter and Cornelius meeting together did not make the headlines initially, but God was bringing Jews and Gentiles together in His family. This new friendship was drenched with hope and transformed theological cultural norms and understanding in a fresh way. May it be done on earth as it is in heaven. God loves people from all nations. Let us live like Jesus and stand in awe of His goodness and glorious grace.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God will surprise you with His grace and kindness.

- **Reflection:**

1. Why did God bring Peter and Cornelius together?
2. How is God's kingdom greater than the divisions we try to maintain?
3. When has God astonished you in a joyful way by transforming lives?

- **Prayer:**

God, You are our light and salvation. You are our shield and song. We want to align with heaven and not be stuck in limited thinking. Please forgive us when our vision and faith has been too small. Thank You for Jews and Gentiles. Your love compels us and changes hearts. We praise You, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 31

Handling Criticism

Read Acts 11:1-10
and scan QR
code for video.



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The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. Acts 11:1

Love is patient. Many people prefer and even love old wineskins when new wine is being poured. The believers criticized Peter, even though he was being faithful and lives were being changed. Because Peter was honest and humble, they listened to him. Long-term Christians are sometimes the most reluctant and even harsh when God does something new. Do not be stuck, grumpy, or negative when the Lord is moving, just because it does not fit your preferences or expectations. If you are the one on the receiving side of the comments, be prayerful. Tell the story and share the fruit of the initiative.

Stand firm in God's word and stay faithful despite the reactions.

Hope will be criticized. You cannot stop that from happening, but do not take it too personally. Keep in step with the Spirit and those who have ears to hear will join you in this good work.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Do not be rattled when people criticize the good things that God is doing.

- **Reflection:**

1. Why are the believers reluctant to embrace Gentiles?
2. How does Peter respond to the negativity?
3. What are you doing for Jesus that is perceived as radical?

- **Prayer:**

God, thank You for calling us to do ministry in such a way that we have to overcome obstacles. We want new wine more than old wineskins. Please help us to explain what You are doing with clarity and compassion. We live for You, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 32

Read Acts 11:11-18
and scan QR code
for video.



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Let the Holy Spirit Lead

As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Acts 11:15

Peter explained that he did not want to oppose God or God's kingdom. The disciples shifted from skeptical to thrilled. Hope had now captured their hearts. Their eyes were opened to the harvest field. The fruit of the Spirit was evident. Salvation is the greatest miracle. Every time a person decides to follow Jesus, the angels in heaven rejoice. We cannot save anyone. Be faithful and watch God change hearts.

Jesus declared that His people will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

God dwells within every believer and empowers us supernaturally, personally, and daily. Ministry is best when we are led by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit also guides us into the truth, gives us discernment, and comforts. Love, joy, and peace are fruits of the Spirit. Receive God's vision for reaching people.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Know the difference between your role and God's role.

- **Reflection:**

1. Which verses stand out to you in this passage?
2. How do you know when the Holy Spirit is moving?
3. When have you put too much pressure on yourself doing ministry?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, thank You for the presence and work of the Holy Spirit. Thank You for saving more people every day. Thank You for the freedom that comes when we trust and obey Your good commands. Thank You that no one can stop You. We celebrate these truths in Jesus' name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 33

Planting Churches

Read Acts 11:19-30
and scan QR code
for video.



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The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. Acts 11:21

When churches are not healthy, people can be wounded. Healthy churches grow and multiply. Healthy Christians multiply and make more disciples and multiply. What God started in Jerusalem continued in Antioch. Barnabas and Paul spent time there, teaching and developing leaders. From Antioch, there would be more churches planted. Every day we are designed to receive and give hope. Simply pass along what God has given and taught you. We need faithful churches in every city. It takes many local churches to reach a city.

We are all one family and the body of Christ together.

Pray for other churches as you drive by them. Church planting and multisite campuses are ways to reach more people. It is Scriptural that all followers of Jesus have a church home and actively serve. This is God's plan in the Bible, and our playbook. When people ignore church and treat it as optional, the movement of God slows down. Let's make places better wherever God leads us and pray for local churches to be all God designed us to be.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: What is healthy will grow and multiply.

- **Reflection:**

1. What did God do at Antioch?
2. Why is church planting strategic?
3. How can churches work together in your city?

- **Prayer:**

Gracious God, we pray for our city and that the gospel will reach every man, woman, and child. We ask that Your body collaborates as one family. We pray for boldness and open doors. Bless all the churches that honor You. We pray in Your name, Jesus, that You will be known and loved. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 34

Earnestly Praying

*Read Acts 12:1-10
and scan QR code
for video.*



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So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. Acts 12:5

In the Bible and life, the turning point is often prayer. Prayer is the hinge. Herod was arresting and capturing Christians. The threat and fear were real. He had James killed, and the church was grieving. It appeared as though Peter might be killed, but God intervened. Gathered at Mary's house, the mother of John, the church was united together in prayer. Deep burdens become deep prayers. It is easy to be discouraged and stop praying. It is easy to be distracted and forget to pray. It is easy to be lazy and avoid prayer.

Pride blocks prayer but God gives grace to the humble.

He hears us when we cry out to Him. God is with us and moves powerfully when we agree in prayer. It is a mystery when and how God will intervene. There is clarity in our calling to travail on our knees. The more we cultivate the habit of praying in groups, the more hope we experience. Prayer changes us, our perspective, and our peace, and sometimes God breaks through and completely turns around a dire situation. Share and celebrate your stories of how God has answered your prayers.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Prayer is the turning point that redeems bleak situations with hope.

- **Reflection:**

1. What inspires you from the passage?
2. What are some situations that need urgent and heartfelt prayer?
3. When have you seen God answer prayer in a dramatic way?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, we praise You in the middle of the storms of life. Help us to be flexible and faithful. We want to reject hopelessness and get on our knees to seek You. Thank You for angels and rescues. May You receive all the glory. In Jesus' name we continue to cry out to You. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 35

No Small Commotion

Read Acts 12:11-19
and scan QR code
for video.



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In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. Acts 12:18

Ministry is wild, intense, and wonderful. If you want everything to be planned, predictable, and contained, that is just not a reality. When you read the Bible, capture the emotion and the humanity in the stories. We have Peter showing up, and the group who has been praying for his release and rescue is stunned that it happened.

God used their mustard seed faith and performed a miracle.

They initially could not believe that their prayers were answered. At the same time, Herod is furious that God thwarted his plans by sending an angel. Herod and any ruler are no match for God. Herod takes out his frustration, sadly, by executing the guards. When God's people are active in their faith, darkness rages and God's hope is unstoppable. No committee could put this together. Be wise and flexible. Be willing to move with the Spirit. Do not fear but be bold and give God all the honor and praise.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God will always have the final say!

- **Reflection:**

1. How does God reveal that He is in control?
2. Why do many nations and leaders, like Herod, try to oppose God?
3. How and why does your confidence in God grow?

- **Prayer:**

God, You are victorious. It is foolish to be proud and stubborn in our sins. Set us free today from resisting the Holy Spirit. Forgive us for our lack of faith. Thank You for being faithful and kind. We praise You in Jesus' name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 36

Your Legacy

Read Acts 12:20-25
and scan QR code
for video.



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Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. Acts 12:23

Heaven and hell are real. We can learn from Herod. He had power, wealth, influence, leadership, fame, and an impressive position. At the end of the day those did not matter. Many people climb the wrong ladder in life. He did not have a walk with God, peace, kindness, hope, or humility. When you read the Bible find examples to both follow and avoid.

The impact of your life will go far beyond your days on the earth.

How you invest your time, talents, and treasure can bless generations and nations. Your character will be how people remember you. Your faith decisions are linked to your eternal destination. You have a ministry and a legacy. To whom much is given, much will be required. Think far beyond yourself and your short life. Aim for treasures in heaven and focus on what is eternal: God, people, and Scripture.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Your spiritual decisions will become your story for future generations.

- **Reflection:**

1. How and why did Herod die?
2. What do you want people to say at your funeral?
3. How is God leading you to serve the next generation?

- **Prayer:**

Faithful God, You treat us far better than we deserve. Thank You for Your grace. We do not want to waste a day or even an hour. Give us wisdom, we pray, to live intentionally for Your kingdom. We pray everyone in our families will decide to follow You! We love You, Jesus, and pray in Your name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 37

Fast and Listen

Read Acts 13:1-12
and scan QR code
for video.



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While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
Acts 13:2

In a fast-paced and noisy culture, you need to slow down to intentionally seek God and listen for His guidance. There is one voice that matters and one Shepherd who is calling you. We honor God when we guard unity. Notice that at Antioch the church was very diverse. Also, they valued church each Sunday and worshipped together.

They also knew that fasting increases clarity and hope.

The Holy Spirit selected who will go and the church trusted God. They sent their top leaders to plant more churches and strengthen other churches. Their vision was far beyond Antioch. They were not self-consumed as a local church. The mission would be difficult, but it was worth it. They continued in prayer and faith as they drove out the darkness wherever they went. On the contrast, many believers today are distracted, skip church, have division, don't fast, worship halfheartedly, don't take gospel risks and only think as far as their own city. May the Holy Spirit lead us to Biblical, not cultural, Christianity. There is a big difference.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Eliminate distractions so you can worship and hear God's voice.

- **Reflection:**

1. When has God clearly led you to a new mission?
2. When have you served God even though it was scary and you did not know what would happen?
3. What did God do in Cyprus and how can that empower us?

- **Prayer:**

Almighty God, You are the potter and we are the clay. You did not create us to be bored and passive. Your promptings change our plans. We fully surrender to You now. Lead us even when the assignments are surprising and difficult. We praise You in Jesus' name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 38

In Your Generation

Read Acts 13:13-41
and scan QR code
for video.



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Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. Acts 13:36

David served God's purposes in his generation. He made some terrible decisions, but he became a man after God's own heart. David poured out his heart to God in raw prayers. He built unity within the twelve tribes. He wrote Psalm 16 which talks about life after death.

The hope of God sustained him through many tests and trials.

Paul reached his generation through traveling to where people were, writing letters, starting new churches, developing leaders, communicating God's word, and fearlessly sharing the good news of Jesus. It is our time to be faithful in our generation. God has given us the Holy Spirit, the ability to travel, the Bible, churches, the internet, finances, and all we need for life and godliness. Let God show you what He is leading you to do for such a time as this. Do not just watch the moral and spiritual deterioration. It is time for hearts, homes, and churches to ignite, unite, and take flight with a sense of urgency and confidence in God.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: You are most like Jesus when you are serving.

- **Reflection:**

1. What was Paul's approach in Pisidian Antioch?
2. What are the greatest needs in your generation?
3. How does eternal security change the way you live and risk?

- **Prayer:**

Gracious God, thank you for all the talents and resources You give us. We want to serve You daily and make a difference in this generation. We hate spiritual decay and drifting from You. We hate sin and what is evil. We love people with Your love Jesus. We walk in the truth and pray in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 39

Transform the Region

Read Acts 13:42-52
and scan QR code
for video.



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*The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.
Acts 13:49*

Disciples who are filled with the Holy Spirit are filled with an overflowing hope and joy. This inner work leads to an outer work where cities are filled with the gospel of Jesus. God wants to fill us and our cities. This has been God's design and roadmap since the beginning of the church.

Many Christians have given up hope that their cities can be transformed.

Many churches are not the most hope-filled place in the city. Many homes have strife, tension, and a dearth of prayer and Scripture. Our hearts have drifted more than we realize. We need a reversal - a revival that leads to reformation. In other words, start doing what God has always told us to do in His word, so that it becomes daily instead of occasionally. There can be a new rhythm in our relationship with God that is saturated with hope. Reject the narrative of hopelessness. Cultivate the habits that break strongholds. Do not settle for less.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Have a vision that is beyond your community.

- **Reflection:**

1. What is God doing that is refreshing in these verses?
2. Why do churches become so independent and inward-focused?
3. How does a big vision energize or intimidate you?

- **Prayer:**

Holy God, move us outside of the four walls of the church with a white-hot faith. We pray for our region. We pray for peace, healing, repentance, restoration, collaboration, and salvation. We ask for a move of the Holy Spirit in power and glory. We need an awakening. May Your people be filled with hope and compelled like never before. All of this is for Your glory, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 40

Dangerous

Read Acts 14:1-7
and scan QR
code for video.



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There was a plot afoot among both Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them. Acts 14:5

The word dangerous has many negative implications. As followers of Jesus, we should not be mean, abusive, out of control, gossiping, or vengeful.

There is a positive meaning of the word dangerous that is often overlooked.

Being dangerous for God's kingdom includes praying persistently, serving, sharing your faith boldly, being filled with the Holy Spirit, demolishing lies, breaking strongholds, being an instrument of God's healing, leading cities to Jesus, training the next generation, and multiplying disciples. It's all another way of saying that you can make an impact for God's kingdom and defeat the darkness. Those who are against God are plotting to intimidate, harm, malign, stop, and even kill God's people. It is easy to feel helpless and retreat. The Holy Spirit guides us when to be tender and when to be tough. God tells us to put on His armor and His work will be done with love and spiritual power. We need to be more dangerous. .

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: The greatest causes have the highest cost.

- **Reflection:**

1. What is God doing in Iconium?
2. How was Jesus' mission dangerous?
3. How has God called you to be dangerous in a good way for His kingdom?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, we pray that the church will influence the world more than the world is influencing the church. We shift from passive to proactive. We shift from silent to bold. We shift from bitterness to love. We shift from cultural Christianity to Biblical Christianity, in Jesus' name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 41

Humility

Read Acts 14:8-20
and scan QR code
for video.



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Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. Acts 14:15

How you handle success will reveal your heart. Be prepared for when God blesses you and does a remarkable work through you. The crowds will swell, the comments will pour in, your social media posts will be liked repeatedly, your bank account may grow, your influence will increase, the awards will be received, and your evaluations will be glowing. At those times, redirect the praise to God.

May Jesus increase and may we decrease.

People will want to celebrate you, and compliments are fine, but do not let it go too far. God has given you every good thing, and you are saved by grace, so He deserves the glory. The crowds in one verse want to worship Paul and in the next verse they stoned him, trying to kill him. The rollercoaster ride of public opinion can swing drastically. Jesus is your Rock. Walk humbly with your God.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Sincerely give God all the glory when you have success.

- **Reflection:**

1. How would you summarize the events in Lystra and Derbe?
2. What have been your greatest experiences and accomplishments by God's grace?
3. How can you redirect people to praise Jesus?

- **Prayer:**

Gracious God, with You, we can step into the most difficult places and bring healing and hope. When lives are changed and people want to give us the glory, we pray we will be humble and speak of Your goodness. You are the only hero of our story. Jesus, may You increase, and may we decrease. Thank You for Your love, Lord. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 42

More Leaders

Read Acts 14:21-28
and scan QR code
for video.



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Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. Acts 14:23

Commit yourself to the Lord. The Bible is clear that we are all ministers, priests, and ambassadors of Jesus. It is essential that you realize God has given you a full-time ministry. In one sense, we are all leaders because God has given us all influence and called us to lead people to God and to the Scripture. In another sense, there are leaders called elders, who lead local churches. There are qualifications in the Bible for elders, and they need to be above reproach and held accountable. Elders are solid in their character and relationship with God.

For everyone, our first calling is to follow Jesus.

As we abide with the Lord, we want to be servant-leaders who bring out the best in other people. Leading includes praying, sacrificing for God's kingdom, being grateful, and being courageous to do the next right thing. "The priesthood of all believers" is a phrase to describe God's vision in Scripture for us and how God wants to transform the world through all of us.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Be intentional to help other eagles spread their wings.

- **Reflection:**

1. What is the role of an elder at a church?
2. What characteristics are most important for leaders?
3. Who can you encourage and equip?

- **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your plan to build up local churches. We pray for leaders today across our nation to honor You. We also pray that all of us will step up and lead our friends and family to You. Guide us as we lead our children. We want to lead people in our neighborhoods and workplaces to a close walk with You. We ask this all in Your name, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 43

Problem Solving

Read Acts 15:1-21
and scan QR
code for video.



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"It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Acts 15:19

There is conflict in every marriage, family, church, and city. That is a given. The key is how well we work through the challenges together. Conflict resolution skills are very practical and guard our unity. Bringing together two very different cultures to follow Jesus was not an easy endeavor. Jews and Gentiles had different values, traditions, thoughts, and expectations. Great leadership does not ignore issues or overreact to problems. As you read through this chapter think through your own approach and what you can learn and apply to your relationships. Notice that there was listening and understanding. If you skip that step, your solutions will not be as solid or collaborative.

Pay attention to what God is doing, not just what your preferences are.

Continue to come back to Scripture, which is our authoritative truth source. The Bible is God's thoughts and God's ways. The conclusion is to not make it unnecessarily difficult for Gentiles who are turning to God. Eliminate distractions and what is petty so we can major on the majors. We will have much more joy and harmony if we trust God's wisdom and principles.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Be reasonable, humble, and teachable in conflicts.

- **Reflection:**

1. Why did the Jerusalem Council meet?
2. How did Peter, Paul, Barnabas, and James play a role in the solution?
3. What are some challenges that you are navigating now?

- **Prayer:**

Omniscient God, You have all the answers. Thank You for being generous with wisdom when we ask. Forgive us for trying to lead our way instead of trusting Your way. We want to honor You and live at peace with one another. We pray this in Your matchless name, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 44

Clear Communication

Read Acts 15:22-35
and scan QR code
for video.



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So the men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter. Acts 15:30

When you are navigating a challenge and protecting unity, there are both the decisions you make and the communication you bring. God gave the leaders wisdom to not add extra burdens on the Gentiles. They were very reasonable and considerate.

In addition, the approach with communication was flawless.

The leaders intentionally kept the process very personal by sending Judas, Silas, Paul, and Barnabas who were very solid and well respected. The miles traveled made a statement as well about valuing everyone involved and those who would be affected. Then they put the decision in writing to have clarity. If you skip this step, it leaves the door open for misunderstandings and confusion. Lastly, they acknowledged that they had been seeking God. It was a prayerful faith decision as they consulted the Holy Spirit. There was a posture of humility and surrender to God. Hope increases when we communicate well and walk through conflicts honoring Jesus.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Writing down solutions protects you from misunderstandings.

- **Reflection:**

1. What are your thoughts about the content of the letter in this passage?
2. Why does God choose to communicate to us in writing Scripture?
3. How would it be helpful to take time today to put thoughts into writing?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, thank You for giving us Your eternal word. Thank You that the Bible is reliable. Thank You that You keep Your promises. Please help us communicate well at home, church, and work. We want to choose words that glorify You, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 45

Conflict Resolution

Read Acts 15:36-41
and scan QR code
for video.



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They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus. Acts 15:39

There are some elements of conflict in this passage that might surprise you. Mark had deserted Paul on their previous mission trip together. We don't know the details but there was a significant amount of disappointment. Paul remembered the experience and didn't want to give Mark a second chance. Trust levels were low. Then Barnabas and Paul had a sharp conflict. Neither would compromise their position.

People who love the Lord can have deep disagreement.

In spite of these obstacles, there were some noteworthy positives. Paul and Barnabas reached a point where they agreed to disagree. Barnabas brought Mark on a successful mission trip. Paul invited Silas and many lives were transformed on their trip. Paul and Mark later became close again as brothers with mutual respect. Overall, in times of conflict continue serving God. In the end, look what God did to turn this around. There were more trips taken and more people involved in advancing the gospel.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: When there is a disagreement, keep serving God.

- **Reflection:**

1. What is the conflict in this passage?
2. How do you know when to give someone another chance?
3. How can you de-escalate conflict and continue making a kingdom impact?

- **Prayer:**

Gracious God, please help us to do all we can to live in harmony. Passionate people can clash. We forgive everyone fully. We want to learn from our past conflicts and handle them well. Thank You for how You lead us by Your Spirit in tense moments. We serve You, Jesus, with grateful hearts. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 46

Making Good Decisions

*Read Acts 16:1-10
and scan QR code
for video.*



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After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. Acts 16:10

Paul is eager to serve Jesus, but he keeps experiencing closed doors. He wants to enter various cities, but the Holy Spirit makes it clear those are not the locations where God wants Paul. It's good to have a posture of being ready and available to use your gifts and lead people to Jesus. Paul is overflowing with hope, but He needs God's wisdom and direction.

Do not be discouraged when God redirects you.

God will protect you from dating or marrying the wrong person. Jesus will guide you and prevent you from going down the wrong road or career path if you listen to Him. If the apostle Paul had some uncertainty and static on the line when he prayed, then there will be times when we are not sure which path to take. God will provide clarity, but the process can involve surprises. If you stay the course, you will discover what has your name on it. Keep listening to God and walk through the specific doors He opens and approves.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: A delay does not mean a denial.

- **Reflection:**

1. How does God surprise Paul?
2. When have you waited on the Lord?
3. How does God confirm His direction in our lives?

- **Prayer:**

Omnipotent God, You reign. The earth and all who are in it belong to You. Thank You for having a good plan. Thank You for caring about our choices and options. Send us exactly where You want us to go. We do not want to move forward if You do not approve. We need You to lead us, Jesus, and we pray in Your name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 47

Water Baptism

Read Acts 16:11-15
and scan QR code
for video.



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When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us. Acts 16:15

When Lydia, who had a successful business, decided to follow Jesus, she was baptized in water. Not only her, but her entire household. Salvation comes through faith in Christ alone. It is through grace, an undeserved gift; received, not achieved. If you have never made that decision, it is the very best choice you will ever make.

You can begin a relationship with Jesus now.

Your next step to grow in your relationship with God is baptism, which is a public declaration that Jesus is your Savior. Jesus was baptized and tells all Christians to be baptized as well. There is joy and a sense of urgency with water baptism. Don't procrastinate or make excuses. Let your church or pastor know you are ready. Your step of faith and honoring the Lord will inspire people. It is a picture of Jesus' death and resurrection as you are raised to newness of life.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: If you have decided to follow Jesus, you need to be baptized.

- **Reflection:**

1. What is the significance of water baptism?
2. What is your baptism story?
3. Who can you encourage to follow Jesus or be baptized?

- **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving and saving us. Thank You for opening our hearts and eyes to who You are, Jesus. We publicly declare our faith and are not ashamed of You in any way. Thank You for the joy of water baptism as we walk with You, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 48

Midnight Worship

Read Acts 16:16-40
and scan QR code
for video.



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About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Acts 16:25

False accusations are painful. Injustice is very frustrating. Being attacked by crowds is scary. Thrown in prison while you are innocent is awful. Life is not always fair. People can be cruel. Systems are sometimes rigged and broken.

When it feels like everything is working against you, just choose hope.

No one can stop you from seeking God, praising Jesus, singing and praying, being thankful, persevering, trusting God, receiving the love of Jesus, inspiring others, and shining God's light in the darkness. The infinite hope of Jesus is greater than the challenges you face. Paul and Silas realized what they still had and worshipped near the jailer who would later decide to follow Jesus. The gospel would then spread across Europe. Bless the Lord at all times. Your darkest moments may often precede a breakthrough. A gritty gratitude can be the catalyst for a chain of victories and changed lives.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Praise the Lord in your most difficult moments.

- **Reflection:**

1. How are Paul and Silas authentically living out their faith?
2. How is worship transformative?
3. How does God's love and hope rescue people from suicide?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, You are worthy. We will praise You for eternity. Please help us to remember to thank You even when we feel discouraged and are suffering. Your presence changes us from the inside out. We will choose to abide with You, Jesus, and reject the narrative of hopelessness. We pray this because of Your goodness, Lord. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 49

The Starting Point

Read Acts 17:1-9
and scan QR
code for video.



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As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures. Acts 17:2

Some of God's assignments will initially feel overwhelming. Do not be paralyzed by limited thinking. God will give you a vision that is far beyond your own abilities. He is teaching you how much you need Him and the teams He provides. Paul entered new cities where there was idolatry, rebellion, impurity, violence, greed, and hard hearts. Maybe you live in a neighborhood, work at a job, or have hobbies where you are in spiritual environments that are very dark.

It may not be comfortable for you, but you are there for a reason.

God will give you a roadmap and personal guidance. Paul frequently began on the Sabbath in the synagogue and initiated conversations about God. Start in places and with people who share some common ground and are open to Jesus. Find a man or woman of peace. Then go to people in the community who have an interest. Ask questions, listen, and share your story. You might be surprised by how many people would enjoy a respectful and kind dialogue about hope and God. Instead of overthinking and giving in to fears, find a starting point and trust God.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Go to where people are and feed those who are spiritually open or hungry.

- **Reflection:**

1. Why does Paul begin in the synagogue as he shares the gospel?
2. What are the range of results when you tell people about Jesus?
3. How can we saturate our communities with the hope of Jesus?

- **Prayer:**

Merciful God, thank You for how You have intentionally pursued us. Thank You, Jesus, for coming to earth and dying for our sins. We embrace Your purpose for our lives. We want Biblical Christianity. We want to redeem the times. We are the light of the world and will not hide the light any longer. In Your name we pray, Lord. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 50

Eager for Scripture

Read Acts 17:10-15
and scan QR code
for video.



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Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. Acts 17:11

There is a famine of Scripture in our land as each generation is becoming more Biblically illiterate. We need more Bereans. They were eager for the Word of God. We have access to so many Bibles, commentaries, Bible dictionaries, apologetics, videos, libraries, bookstores, and tools. We can order them all online, too, for convenience. Yet without a desire, those treasures are ignored. The Bereans examined the Scripture because it was their ultimate truth source. They were not deceived and could quickly recognize false teaching.

Knowing God's Word protects you and helps you identify a counterfeit.

They cultivated a daily habit of spending time in God's Word. During these 84 days, we are being intentional together. In homes, it's powerful when families read Scripture together. In churches, the Bible should be taught in every setting. Many houses of God have sadly drifted from the Bible, which is our spiritual nourishment. If these 84 Days of Soaring are a blessing, invite someone else to join you and share how you are growing in your faith.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Invest time daily in the Bible, which is full of hope.

- **Reflection:**

1. What habit and commitment are the Bereans commended for by God?
2. Why are there always some people who are against God's Word?
3. Why do we need a reliable truth source and moral compass?

- **Prayer:**

Father, we worship You in spirit and truth. Thank You for Your majestic voice and tender whispers. Please help us to discern false teaching and deceptive lies. Help us to snatch others out of the pit of confusion and despair. Thank You that Your word is a lamp on a dark path. You are truth, Jesus, and we pray in Your name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 51

God Is Near

Read Acts 17:16-34
and scan QR code
for video.



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God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. Acts 17:27

Paul led people to Jesus by entering into conversations about God and presenting God to people in fresh and relevant ways. He was aware of the existing beliefs in a culture. Beginning with what was popular, he would pivot and guide people to the truth. Paul brought the good news of Jesus into the noise and confusion of their discussions. He shared about the resurrection to people who had no answer for death or victory over it. He complimented people on their religious sincerity and zeal. He noticed that worship was a shared value. The people honored an unknown God, but Paul let them know God has revealed who He is and invited us all into a relationship with our Creator. God is near to us through Jesus coming to earth and His presence is with us everywhere we go.

God is accessible to all.

There next step is repentance and turning to Jesus by faith. Many wanted to hear more, and some decided to follow the Lord. People don't believe until someone shares with them. The kingdom of God is here, and we can't stay quiet about it.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Shift from being religious to having a radical relationship with God.

- **Reflection:**

1. How does Paul reach people in Athens?
2. What are some of the key points Paul highlights for seekers?
3. What is an effective approach in Your city?

- **Prayer:**

God, You will save people from every nation, tongue, and tribe. You understand all the nuances of culture and psychology. Our trust is not in methods, but in You. We want to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Jesus, help us to harvest for Your glory we pray. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 52

God's Reassurance

Read Acts 18:1-11
and scan QR
code for video.



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One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. Acts 18:9

Throughout the Bible, God tells His people to not fear because He is with us. His presence makes the difference. Paul is in Corinth, a city with overt rebellion against God on every level. People boast in their sin and glory in their shame. Yet there was a remnant of people who were ready to follow Jesus. God was redeeming and reconciling in the darkest setting. There were probably moments Paul considered leaving Corinth, but Jesus made it clear to Paul to keep testifying in Corinth. He was exactly where God wanted him to be. Paul stayed for a year and a half and saw many lives transformed through the power of God.

When God guides, He provides.

Jesus has both the vision and the provision for you. Maybe you have been wrestling with a decision to stay or go regarding a position, assignment, location, or ministry. We all need God's reassurance. Eternal security comes through God's promises, and we know heaven is our eternal home. While we are on earth, we want to be in step with the Spirit.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: One word from God makes the difference.

- **Reflection:**

1. What do you know about Corinth?
2. When has God confirmed your calling and assignment?
3. How does Jesus change our hearts and mindset?

- **Prayer:**

Almighty God, we treasure Your voice. You bring hope when we are discouraged. You bring truth when we doubt. You bring stability when we are insecure. You bring reassurance when we are unsure. You are our Good Shepherd, Jesus, and we pray in Your name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 53

Integrity

Read Acts 18:12-17
and scan QR code
for video.



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While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews of Corinth made a united attack on Paul and brought him to the place of judgment. Acts 18:12

When your conscience is clear, you don't need to fear people. Every time Paul was arrested, brought to court, beaten, or thrown in jail, God was with him. Paul was consistent in his life and walk with God. First, he walked with integrity. There is no cover up, manipulation, or deception. Second, he trusted God. There is no panic or complaining. He knew how to choose and receive the hope of God. Third, he spoke the language of the courts and was familiar with their policies and practices. He was shrewd in the best way possible. Fourth, he continued to be bold. He didn't mince words.

He proclaimed Jesus.

Many people were saved while he was under house arrest too. Wherever he went, people were invited into a relationship with God. Because he abided with Jesus, he acted like Jesus. He didn't give the situation too much power. He had a kingdom perspective. This is Biblical Christianity. Don't settle for a watered-down version, even if you are not where you wanted or expected to be.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: When you honor God, you have nothing to fear.

- **Reflection:**

1. Why do the people bring Paul to court?
2. What is a mob mentality and how is it dangerous?
3. In what nations are Christians being persecuted and how can you pray for them?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, we lift up our brothers and sisters who are being beaten and jailed for their faith. They inspire us with their examples of courage and commitment. Forgive us for often having the idol of being comfortable. Give them perseverance, unity, and comfort we ask. In Jesus' name, amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 54

Discipleship

Read Acts 18:18-28
and scan QR code
for video.



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He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. Acts 18:26

Priscilla and Aquila took Apollos under their wing and taught him how to walk with Jesus. It is the most loving thing you can do. Meeting physical needs is significant, but spiritual needs are for eternity. Our greatest need is to know God. Apollos had zeal but needed more knowledge. Married couples can serve together in special ways. Opening your heart and home is a step of faith. It's what Jesus calls us all to do.

Mentor someone and be mentored by someone.

Many believers attend church for years but disciple no one. Jesus' ministry was centered on discipleship and that was His great commission to us. Pass along what God and others have taught you. How to worship, read the Bible, pray, fast, share your story, lead others to Jesus, discover your spiritual gifts, be generous, handle conflict, and fully forgive are some of the foundational pieces of following Jesus. Learn these and teach them to others. Have a vision beyond yourself. The hope of God is caught and taught. God's kingdom is an unstoppable movement, around the world, reaching one person at a time.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Find someone who wants to grow spiritually and invest in them.

- **Reflection:**

1. What do we learn about Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos?
2. How can married couples serve and disciple together?
3. What has God taught you that you want to pass on to others?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, thank You that we are in Your family forever. We want to be faithful in making disciples. We shift from being self-consumed to laying down our lives for Your sake, Lord. Jesus, Your vision is multiplication through relationships. We reject all excuses and being stagnant. The harvest is now, and we are ready. Thank You, Jesus, for every opportunity. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 55

Confession

*Read Acts 19:1-22
and scan QR code
for video.*



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Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. Acts 19:18

God is still changing hearts today the same way that He was in the book of Acts. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The gospel is saturated with hope and power. God stirs His people to be bold with sharing the good news about Jesus. God's power is evident in our weakness, as He uses flawed and unlikely disciples to build up His kingdom. As people hear about the Lord, the Holy Spirit convicts.

Confession is the fruit of conviction.

The Ephesians eagerly and openly acknowledged their rebellion and turned to God for restoration. They burned their sorcery scrolls in a demonstration of the wonderful decision. Sin no longer had a hold on their lives and the truth had set them free. They had moved from darkness to light and death to life. Confession is agreeing with God in your beliefs and lifestyle. A solid church in Ephesus is what emerged in a culture of confession as hearts were laid bare and humble before our holy God. Repentance is essential for revival as we make room for the presence of God in our lives.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: There is no revival without repentance.

- **Reflection:**

1. How did people respond to the gospel in Ephesus?
2. What is usually the focus of your daily conversations?
3. When have you seen the battle between good and evil?

- **Prayer:**

Have Your way in us, Lord. We want no hidden sins or footholds in our lives. Cleanse our hearts, we pray, as we consecrate ourselves to You, God. We are asking for a purity revolution and may it start in our homes. In Jesus' name, amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 56

Riots

Read Acts 19:23-31
and scan QR code
for video.



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And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all. Acts 19:26

When people turn from idols to the living God, the culture changes. There are many lucrative businesses that are based on sinful choices and practices. In Ephesus, people worshipped the false god Artemis. Silver shrines filled the city. Demetrius was a wealthy silversmith because people wanted man-made gods they could hold and control. The apostle Paul preached about the emptiness and deception of idols, and people turned to our living hope, Jesus. This revival was great for souls and families, but bad for the idolatry business. Think about all of the money that is made today from drunkenness, drugs, pornography, human trafficking, etc.

People spend an exorbitant amount for sin, and money is just one costly payment.

It also demands your joy, integrity, closeness with God, health, and peace of mind. When those who promote sin are losing, they riot. May God's people redeem the times and may the promoters of iniquity see their destructive businesses crumble.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: There is a spiritual battle for souls, so be strong in the Lord.

- **Reflection:**

1. Why is there rioting in Ephesus?
2. Why is sin lucrative and how is business lost when people repent?
3. How can you handle opposition and not shrink back?

- **Prayer:**

Jesus, You did not give in to fears and threats. Father, our courage comes from You. Our eyes are on You, Lord. When there is chaos in this world, You are our Rock. Heaven is our home. No one can take away Your indestructible and infinite hope. We pray with Your resurrection power, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 57

Setting Limits

Read Acts 19:32-41
and scan QR code
for video.



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As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of what happened today. In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it." Acts 19:40

We need voices of reason and wise people who can calm quarrels and rebellion. While the riots were raging, a city clerk stepped up to the proverbial microphone. There will be many times, as a follower of Jesus, when you see a conversation or actions that are heading the wrong direction. You have the opportunity to say something before there is additional damage and regret. It's not easy to address people who are out of control or change the negative momentum in a community.

Don't be quiet when you know the right thing to do is to make a courageous statement or warning.

When you do speak, share facts, communicate clearly, be humble, and redirect people towards a positive option. They might not appreciate what you say initially, but the redirection is worth the risks. Be someone who sets limits that set everyone up for success.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Be someone who brings wisdom in tense situations.

- **Reflection:**

1. How did the city clerk defuse the situation?
2. Do you pour water or lighter fluid on situations with your family?
3. Why does God call us to be peacemakers and lead people to the Prince of Peace?

- **Prayer:**

Omniscient God, no situation is too complex for You. We ask for wisdom with our words and thinking. We will not be slaves to our emotions and doing whatever we feel like doing. We stand in Your love and truth, Jesus. Our prayers are always in Your name and power. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 58

Raised to Life

Read Acts 20:1-12
and scan QR code
for video.



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Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!" Acts 20:10

Preachers are passionate and can be longwinded. You have probably experienced that over the years. Eutychus was trying to stay awake as Paul continued teaching throughout the night. He didn't want to disrespect Paul, miss the message, or fall out of the third story window. His cause of death was a combination of preaching, sleeping, and falling in one tragic moment. Everything shifted from an all-night revival to an unfortunate funeral in a matter of minutes.

Life can change quickly, even with the best intentions.

Paul was a preacher who also prayed, and God answered the prayer to bring Eutychus back to life. The message of resurrection now included a demonstration. The people celebrated by enjoying a meal together and later Paul resumed his teaching. You just can't put out the fire of God! In the morning, people who missed the late-night meeting heard an incredible true story. Eutychus had an amazing testimony, and everyone stayed awake for the entirety of every sermon that month. Don't fall asleep at church, and don't stop telling the story of what God has done in your life.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God's hope and power are greater than death and despair.

- **Reflection:**

1. What happened to Eutychus?
2. Why are preachers so passionate?
3. How does the fact of your future resurrection change your life today?

- **Prayer:**

Everlasting God, thank You for defeating death. Jesus, thank You for Your resurrection. We look forward to new bodies. Until then, we want to receive and believe the abundance of Your promises. You truly do far more than we can ask or imagine. We pray and rely on You, Lord. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 59

Compelled

Read Acts 20:13-24
and scan QR code
for video.



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However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. Acts 20:24

Imagine what our nation would look like if the followers of Jesus lived what they say they believe. There are seasons of testing in which there is a revealing of faith and character. Paul was leaving Ephesus to travel to Jerusalem where he would be persecuted. He was leaving what was comfortable to enter into what included upheaval. It was a somber moment because of the shift, the departure, the calling, and the coming difficulties. It would have been easier to stay in the nest and avoid the opposition.

All that matters at the end of our days is faithfulness to Jesus.

Paul knew this at his core and his obedience continues to inspire us today. God is leading us out of cultural Christianity into the real thing. Our temporary and earthly comforts can’t control us when our affection and devotion are all for Jesus. May devoted and grace-filled followers of Jesus rise up with the truth of God in every city so that more people will know the goodness of God and the indestructible hope of Jesus. May we be those who soar for the Lord!

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Be most passionate about what God is most passionate about.

- **Reflection:**

1. What matters the most to God?
2. What does it mean that Paul is compelled by the Spirit and why is that good?
3. When have you persevered when you knew it would become more difficult, not easier?

- **Prayer:**

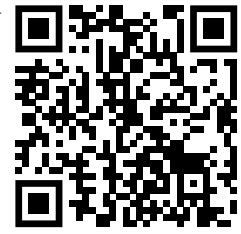
Glorious God, we stand in awe of You. Jesus, You are the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Holy Spirit, you are stronger than any demons. Our confidence is in You. We do not fear the enemy or the results of obedience. Our lives are fully devoted to You, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 60

With Tears

Read Acts 20:25-38
and scan QR code
for video.



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They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him.
Acts 20:37

When you love someone, it is not easy to say goodbye. Paul was deeply connected to the people in Ephesus because he served Jesus and them with all his heart. The relationship was mutual. It's how life and ministry are designed to be.

We love because Jesus first loved us.

We don't play it safe with our hearts or in a church. We are discerning, but we take relationship risks. The bond continued as Paul left, but the location changed. These followers of Jesus knew they would spend an eternity together, but that truth doesn't take away the pain. They knew that their time on earth together was ending. They wept and embraced with final hugs. Those are difficult moments. We are not ministry robots; we are human. You can have hope and grieve at the same time. Continue to abide with Jesus and trust God. Other people don't belong to us; they belong to God. Enter into community like Jesus, with devotion and emotion. Close relationships include tears. Independence and isolation are not where hope resides.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Walk closely with people, life on life, with open hearts.

- **Reflection:**

1. What is Paul's warning to the Ephesians?
2. How closely are you doing ministry with other people?
3. What moves your heart?

- **Prayer:**

Gracious God, every day is a gift from You. Thank You for everyone we are able to partner with in ministry. We cannot do it alone. We need each other. Forgive us for choosing isolation and independence. Love includes relationship risks and faith. We are united in Your hope and love, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 61

Tested

*Read Acts 21:1-16
and scan QR code
for video.*



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Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'" Acts 21:11

It's much easier to take a theological test than to live through a practical test. Many people can produce the correct Bible answers but shrink back when it's time to apply what they know. Followers of Jesus need to be solid with doctrine, but that is never the end goal. Jesus chose the fisherman who would live what they knew over the religious elite and professional leaders who were hypocritical, even though the religious leaders knew the Bible much better than the fisherman.

Paul was theologically insightful and a brilliant writer with God's help.

What stands out in this passage is who he was in terms of actually following Jesus. Agabus prophesied the troubles that were coming, and Paul was willing to drink the cup of suffering for Jesus. Talking about suffering and being willing to endure it are very different. Your desire to glorify God will be tested. Be someone who doesn't just know the right answer but does the right thing. You will never regret faithfulness.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Your convictions will be tested to the core.

- **Reflection:**

1. What is the message from God through the prophet Agabus?
2. When have you chosen a path when the cost would be extreme?
3. What mountains are you willing to die on for the glory of God?

- **Prayer:**

Faithful God, our goal is not to play it safe. Unleash Your people to be all You have called us to be. We want to be bold, not cautious. We know it will take sacrifice and obedience to breakthrough the darkness. We care more about Your kingdom than our temporary pleasures. We imitate You, Jesus, and pray in Your name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 62

Celebrate

*Read Acts 21:17-26
and scan QR code
for video.*



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Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. Acts 21:19

Paul was greeted warmly with love by the Christians in Jerusalem. We all need to receive and give the hope and love of Jesus daily wherever we are geographically. Paul reported all the wonderful ways God saved and delivered the Gentiles. James and the church rejoiced at the testimonies of what God had done.

When Jesus changes lives, tell the stories.

Share what life was like before knowing the Lord and the difference a relationship with the Lord makes. When you tell your story, make sure you communicate Jesus as the hero. Tell stories in church, in your home, and in the community. Beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news. Stories carry hope, refresh weary souls, unite, and inspire people to run the good race. We live to tell the story, and it will be our theme in glory. Jesus saves!

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Take time to recall and celebrate what God is doing.

- **Reflection:**

1. What are some of the great works you have seen God do in your lifetime?
2. How often do you share testimonies and Bible stories with people?
3. How does gratitude to God propel you forward?

- **Prayer:**

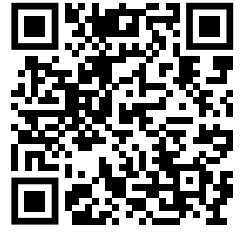
Benevolent God, Your generosity is evident. You have graced us again and again. Your love endures forever. We rejoice in You and Your promises. Jesus, we will celebrate You for eternity. No one compares to You, Lord. We humbly bow before You in praise. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 63

Overcoming Slander

Read Acts 21:27-40
and scan QR code
for video.



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shouting. "Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place." Acts 21:28

People twisted the truth and spread a terrible report about Paul. Maybe this has happened to you. It can be very painful. In addition, the angry crowd dragged Paul out of the temple and tried to kill him. Verbal abuse turned physical. They claimed that Paul defiled the holy place. Their slander spread. It always does. They reported their perception as fact, but they were off base. Paul was the victim, and they were vicious. When it's time for eagles to soar, crows will repeatedly try to peck and attack. In nature, eagles know to continue to ascend, because there is an altitude where the crows can't fly. You won't be able to stop all the slander and cruel words. You may be wounded. Rise above the crow zone.

May God arise, and His enemies be scattered.

Keep your eyes on the Savior. Jesus will have the final say. Be comforted and secure in the One who overcame the same treatment. Rejoice and praise God because this trial will pass. You will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Let slander roll off your back as you stand on truth.

- **Reflection:**

1. On what charges is Paul arrested?
2. When has slander hurt you?
3. Where do you find your security?

- **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we forgive people who slander us. Forgive us when we have gossiped and slandered others. We want to rise above what is common in our culture. We have wounds from mean comments, but You are our Healer, Jesus. We are not rattled because our identity is in You, Lord. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 64

Turnarounds

Read Acts 22:1-11
and scan QR code
for video.



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I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?' Acts 22:7

The story is not over. God is still working. When the apostle Paul was a self-righteous religious man, the story was not over. As Paul tried to silence the followers of Jesus, the story was not over. When Paul chose violence and Christians like Stephen were killed for their faith, the story was not over. Jesus appeared to Paul, and Jesus changed everything. Paul's conversion was very personal with the living Messiah. Paul could not suppress the truth any longer.

When you continue to pray for people and share the hope of Jesus, you never know what God will do.

God never gave up on Paul. Jesus died for sinners. That's who He saves by grace. A resurrection only comes after a death, and nothing is impossible with God. Because the tomb is empty and Jesus walked out of the grave, we have hope in all circumstances. The resurrection power of Jesus still saves and sanctifies stubborn hearts today. Give God praise and all the glory!

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God can still soften and humble the hardest hearts.

- **Reflection:**

1. Why was Paul so unlikely to ever follow Jesus?
2. When did the reality of the resurrection impact you?
3. How can you share your story more often and in new settings?

- **Prayer:**

Glorious God, nothing is impossible for You. Through Jesus, we go from hell to heaven and cross over from death to life. When we are lost, You find us. Your kindness leads us to repentance. Your hope strengthens and inspires us in the deepest ways. May You be praised, Jesus, the Savior of the world. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 65

Chosen

Read Acts 22:12-21
and scan QR code
for video.



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Then he said: The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. Acts 22:14

God saved you with purpose and for a purpose. Jesus saves you from sin and into ministry. God calls you out of the darkness and into the light. You are appointed and anointed. God blesses you to be a blessing. God rescues you so that others will be rescued. God delivers you from sin so that other sinners will be set free.

God turns your test into a testimony and your mess into a message.

There are so many ways to describe the same message. Many people receive from God and hoard that blessing. Sadly, they miss out on their potential and others miss out on the hope of Jesus. If Jesus is your Savior and Lord, then you are in full-time ministry. Stop denying or trying to shrink that calling. Just as Paul was a light to the Gentiles. Jesus declares that you are the light of the world. The lamp has been under a bowl for too long. Jesus wants to bring His light to everyone in the house through you. Your home, church, and city have been too dim. It's time for a change. God has elected and selected you as His instrument for such a time as this.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God chose you to live with great kingdom purpose and passion.

- **Reflection:**

1. What does it mean that God selected and adopted you to be in His forever family?
2. In what ways do you have a sense of urgency to serve Jesus now?
3. Where has God placed you and who is He leading you to reach?

- **Prayer:**

Omnipresent God, we do not want to roam and wander aimlessly. You have saved us so others will be saved. You heal us so others will be healed. You encourage us so others will be encouraged. You have blessed us to be a blessing. Freely we receive and freely we will give for Your name, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 66

Tackling Injustice

Read Acts 22:22-30
and scan QR code
for video.



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Those who were about to interrogate him withdrew immediately. The commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains. Acts 22:29

The laws of the land are designed to protect and provide. Know your legal rights. Sometimes Christians are quiet about their faith and timid in their approach because they do not realize the freedoms they have. There are other times that Christians are mistreated and there are double standards in the land. The goal here is not to exaggerate or create a victim mentality. Instead, we need to spread our wings and be all God has called us to be. The apostle Paul was a Roman citizen but was treated like he was second class. He faced injustice after injustice, but he endured with a fervent and resilient hope. In this passage, his Roman rights were realized. He appealed and entered a legal process.

You, too, can be full of faith and stand up for your rights.

We are citizens of heaven, which is our home. We are also citizens of a nation which includes protection. In America, we have been given freedoms that can be exercised to glorify God. Many people gave their lives to give us the country we have today. Walk in those freedoms in Christ.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God empowers you to take a stand for justice.

- **Reflection:**

1. Why is Roman citizenship a blessing?
2. Why are politics and the laws of the land significant?
3. What does it mean that we are citizens of heaven?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, help us to know when to be vocal about the wrongs we see in our land. Help us to defend those who do not have a voice. We want to honor You in our positions and words. Thank You for the laws and policies that are designed to protect us. Thank You for the selfless people who are devoted to protecting our safety and families. We pray that You would comfort them and give us all courage. In Jesus' name, amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 67

Farther

*Read Acts 23:1-11
and scan QR code
for video.*



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The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."

Acts 23:11

Paul was faithful to Jesus in Jerusalem, and then it was time to be faithful in Rome. Jesus told Paul to take courage and testify. Sometimes in life we just want to check out and live for ourselves instead of God. If we conform to the patterns of the world, we won't stand out. We can be quiet about our faith. We can take a break from serving and ministry. We can do what we want to do. We can call the shots. Paul could have been complacent and rationalized it by saying that he has already planted many churches, written epistles, led people to Jesus in many cities, endured devastating trials, and stated his advanced age too. For clarity, I think taking a Sabbath is blessed, there are seasons that are less demanding, and vacations are fun. I am not promoting work as an idol or trying to earn God's love and acceptance. I am not promoting wasting time and energy chasing after the wrong endeavors and priorities. I am saying that God will lead you farther than you expected. People step out of ministry before God releases them, hiding behind retirement, and making a variety of excuses as to why they should not go the extra mile. Jesus blesses us when we consistently go the extra mile. It is often farther than we wanted or expected. Finish the race well in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God wants you to reach farther places with His hope.

- **Reflection:**

1. How did Paul brilliantly divide the Sadducees and Pharisees?
2. How did God use Paul to reach Rome?
3. What is your vision and plan to bless more nations?

- **Prayer:**

Father, You reign over all nations. We want to give Your hope to people locally and globally. Open our eyes to see Your great plan and purpose. Show us, we pray, how we can make a difference. Be strong in our weaknesses. We want to know Jesus more and make Him known to the ends of the earth. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 68

Be an Advocate

Read Acts 23:12-22
and scan QR code
for video.



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But when the son of Paul's sister heard of this plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul. Acts 23:16

Many people around the world today know about the apostle Paul, but few know about the son of Paul's sister. More than forty men had taken a solemn oath to not eat anything until they had killed Paul. Paul, like Jesus, lived with constant death threats. The plot included a cunning deception of appearing to want more information, but the plan was murder. When this young man, Paul's nephew, heard about the dangerous threat, he risked his life by running to the barracks to let Paul know. Paul notified a centurion and tragedy was avoided. You will have opportunities every week to alleviate suffering and provide a timely word, warning, or message filled with hope.

Be a voice for the voiceless and an advocate for those who are victims.

If you know what God is nudging you to do, then do it. Your name might not be known, and your deeds may not be very appreciated by some people, but it will make a difference in someone's life and God will reward you in due time.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God will guide you how to warn and rescue people.

- **Reflection:**

1. How does the son of Paul's sister encourage you?
2. When has God used someone to warn and protect you from danger?
3. How does God thwart the plans of the enemy in the Bible?

- **Prayer:**

Omnipotent God, no weapon formed against us shall prosper because You are our shield and deliverer. Nothing is hidden from Your sight. You shine the light in the darkness. We find shelter under the shadow of Your wings. You know when to call us home, Lord, and we pray in Your mighty name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 69

Transferred

*Read Acts 23:23-35
and scan QR code
for video.*



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He said, "I will hear your case when your accusers get here." Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod's palace. Acts 23:35

There were many stops along the journey to Rome and each one had unique gospel opportunities. It is ironic that Paul had the most difficult circumstances at each location, but he was the one who brought a consistent overflowing hope. Don't give your situation too much power. Be diligent to reject lies and limiting beliefs. When you abide with Jesus you will be different than most people.

Don't resist standing out.

As Paul entered Caesarea, God was with him. His cause was just. His posture was an eagerness to lead people to God. His joy was inspiring. His thinking was sound. His security was obvious. His non-anxious presence was surprising. His courage was contagious. Basically, it was easy to see Jesus in him. His attitude set an example for us today. You become like the One in whom you trust.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: God will bring change to open new doors for you.

- **Reflection:**

1. What is Paul's journey like with the Roman judicial system?
2. What are the blessings of being under guard and having additional trials?
3. Has God used you in unusual ways, places, or circumstances?

- **Prayer:**

Father God, there are no accidents. Sometimes our life does not make sense until we look back years later in the rearview mirror. Help us, we pray, to trust You in the challenges. When we are where we don't want to be, instead of complaining, may we be faithful to build up Your kingdom, Lord. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 70

Respect

*Read Acts 24:1-13
and scan QR code
for video.*



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When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied: 'I know that for a number of years you have been a judge over this nation; so I gladly make my defense. Acts 24:10

The devil is an accuser of the followers of Jesus. He wants to sabotage God's work and discourage God's people. Many people will highlight your past flaws and try to hinder your progress. Their goal is to pour guilt and shame on them. They want to prevent you from realizing your potential. When Paul spoke, he gave sincere compliments and respect to his audience. The governor Felix listened to Paul's words and was attentive to his story. Felix was familiar with Christianity. Paul brought a fresh message in the midst of false charges. Paul was surrounded by accusations. Paul continually forgave people and let go of resentment. He was wise in his selection of words.

He continued to tell stories of hope.

He entrusted himself to God. He prayed for all leaders. He was savvy in how his legal journey became a time to share his testimony and lead more to Jesus. As our culture becomes more hostile to the gospel, it is important to see how Paul handled the opposition. We need to stop complaining, retreating, finger-pointing, and despairing. There is a better way, and His name is Jesus.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Pray for all leaders and show respect to those in authority.

- **Reflection:**

1. How do you respond to false accusations?
2. How does abiding with Jesus fill you with the shalom of God?
3. Why should you demonstrate respect when it is counter-cultural?

- **Prayer:**

Faithful God, may we treat people in a way that honors You. Forgive us for taking leaders for granted and neglecting to pray for them. May we always carry the aroma of Christ. May people see Jesus in us. We choose the Spirit over flesh, faith over fear, and hope over discouragement. In Jesus' name, amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 71

Common Ground

Read Acts 24:14-21
and scan QR code
for video.



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and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. Acts 24:15

Paul directed the conversation to what is most important in life and the people's attention to the most meaningful topic. Paul did not put the spotlight on himself. Paul did not even emphasize the injustice he is enduring. Paul's joy was not in his legal battle. Paul didn't overfocus on the accusations. Yes, he defended himself well when needed, but he also went on the offensive. The points and pivots were brilliant. He emphasized the resurrection.

He wanted people to consider Jesus.

He also knew the Pharisees believed in a resurrection and the Sadducees rejected any resurrections. In essence, he was dividing his opponents over a theological topic and identifying some common ground he had with the Pharisees. All of this set the table to talk about the One who not only overcame the grave but who is the resurrection and the life. Common ground can lead to conversations about an uncommon hope.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Finding common beliefs becomes a springboard to share the gospel.

- **Reflection:**

1. What does Paul highlight in his defense?
 1. What do we know about Paul's conversation
 2. How willing are you to share your faith with s
 3. How can you access a boldness that is great
2. What can we learn from how Paul shares his faith in this setting?
3. How can you connect with a wide range of people in your community?

- **Prayer:**

Merciful God, we strive to keep a consistently clear conscience before You. We choose integrity even when no one is watching. Thank You for the ways You move in every setting and situation. Every day is filled with Your purpose. Jesus, You are our hope and passion, and we pray in Your name, Lord. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 72

Not Intimidated

Read Acts 24:22-27
and scan QR code
for video.



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Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus.

Acts 24:24

Consistency is convicting. With a legal ruling on the line and coming before well-known leaders, Paul never wavered in his words. Standing before Jews and Gentiles, Paul brought the same message of hope. With Felix and his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, listening closely, Paul covered topics like righteousness and the judgment to come.

Paul was facing a possible earthly judgement, but he taught about a certain eternal judgment.

The law makes it clear we have all broken God's commands, and we are accountable to our Maker whom we will appear before one day. Some people are like chameleons with their faith - singing in church and being silent in the community. Bold on Sundays and bashful the rest of the week, Spiritual when it's popular and shrinking back when there is resistance. That's not like Jesus or Paul. Let's return to Biblical Christianity together.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Never let fear stop You from doing what is right.

- **Reflection:**

with Felix and Drusilla?

strangers?

ter than Your fears?

- **Prayer:**

Almighty God, reading through the book of Acts, we are inspired and convicted. It is so different from our cultural version of following Jesus. We have tried to make it safe and easy. We confess we have lost hope in what You can do in our churches and cities. May we imitate Jesus more than we have ever before, for Your name's sake. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 73

Stay the Course

Read Acts 25:1-12
and scan QR code
for video.



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If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!" Acts 25:11

Following Jesus is like a marathon, and we are all called to finish well. Hope is the fuel God gives us at every turn in the journey. His grace is sufficient. Paul appealed to Caesar, and as a Roman citizen that was his right. He would go the full distance to Rome. Going to the highest court involved persistence, patience, and perseverance. There were many miles traveled, many conversations, many steps of obedience, and many prayers. On the road of faithfulness, continue to check in with God to see if there are any mid-course adjustments you need to make.

Your greatest battle might be the desire to quit and give up.

Pain, uncertainty, disappointment are all par for the course. If someone told you that following Jesus means you have an expensive car, the best house in the neighborhood, the most comfortable bed and couch, and your favorite foods - this is the message of cultural Christianity. Those might be blessings if they don't slow you down. You can enjoy them with others. There is, however, a much deeper joy and hope. Paul had none of those pleasures. His treasure was Jesus.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: When you are on the right track, refuse to go sideways.

- **Reflection:**

1. What have you observed about Paul's determination?
2. Why is Paul motivated to go to Caesar?
3. What are some distractions and temptations you face?

- **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, when we feel like the road is difficult may we still listen to You. We have been bought with a price, and our lives are not our own. This truth frees us up to be faithful. When we follow You, Jesus, there is no turning around. We ask for Your perseverance to run the race and finish the course in Your strength. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 74

Interested

Read Acts 25:13-22
and scan QR code
for video.



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*Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear this man myself."
Acts 25:22*

Everyone needs Jesus, and most people are willing to have a respectful conversation about Jesus. Sometimes people are far more ready to listen than we are to share. Agrippa had heard about Paul, and he wanted to hear more. To hear about Paul was to hear about Jesus. For Paul, "to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

There was no person or result to fear.

Agrippa was feared by many, but Paul always looked to Jesus, which put Agrippa in his place. You have friends, relatives, acquaintances, co-workers, and neighbors who want to hear more. Have conversations about God during the week at home. Take relationship risks. Hope grows when you bring it to others. Share both what you believe and why you believe it. Give away Bibles and links to websites. Ask questions about the other person's spiritual upbringing and current beliefs. Stop assuming people are not interested. God knows they are.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Notice who is ready to hear about your story, faith, and perspective.

- **Reflection:**

1. What doors did God open for Paul?
2. What does it mean that you are an ambassador for Jesus?
3. How can you always stay on mission?

- **Prayer:**

Father, You are trustworthy. There are so many situations in life that we will never have again. Help us, we pray, to make the most of the opportunities. People are often more ready to hear about Jesus than we are to share. Guide us to people who are interested in You, Lord. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 75

Permission

Read Acts 25:23-26 and scan QR code for video.



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Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense. Acts 26:1

The apostle Paul was allowed to speak and share his defense. Festus gave Agrippa the case to lead and since he was in charge, he gave Paul permission to share. Being able to speak in any context is a gift from God. Don't ever take it for granted. In a legal setting there is so much riding on every word. Paul prayed, waited, and listened to everyone else. He had done his homework to research the parameters and has watched all of the non-verbal clues.

All of these elements are factors in communicating well.

Some people are going through a tragedy but give you permission to speak. On social media, you might comment on someone's post. At your workplace in a meeting, the table is yours. As your family eats a meal together, you have a window. Make sure your words are true, they build up others, they come from a heart of love, they represent God well, and you think before you say them. Paul had permission to talk at this point. You might only have one opportunity to communicate with someone on this side of heaven. Ask God for wisdom and for the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Understand the dynamics and parameters in every context.

- **Reflection:**

1. How is Paul consistent in a wide variety of situations?
2. What drives and motivates you to live for God?
3. What freedoms do you have in your nation and how do you maximize them?

- **Prayer:**

Gracious God, we are thankful for our country. You have blessed us abundantly. You have protected our ability to worship, pray, study the Bible, and have conversations about You. You have given us so many resources for our faith and platforms like social media, too. May we understand the times and follow Your lead to advance Your kingdom, God. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 76

Describe Your Hope

*Read Acts 26:2-11
and scan QR code
for video.*



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And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today. Acts 26:6

In a situation that could feel hopeless, Paul focused on hope. The God of hope is still on the throne. The promises of God are trustworthy. Jesus came in fulfillment of all the Messianic prophecies. The resurrection is real.

There is no better news than Jesus overcoming the grave.

God had changed Paul's life. In a legal setting, Paul included both cognitive facts and words from the heart. It would be fascinating to watch this on video or live television. Paul carried a historical awareness. The New Testament and Old Testament are all God's word and united beautifully by the Holy Spirit. Paul was a convinced man based on historical and personal evidence. He did not deserve a guilty verdict. He had a sense that God is using the long legal journey primarily as the opportunity to share about the Lord. Your difficult circumstances might be your greatest opportunity to share about the infinite hope of Jesus.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Know the promises of God and communicate them with other people.

- **Reflection:**

1. How does Paul tell God's story?
2. What can you learn from Paul's communication style?
3. How is the world searching and starving for hope now?

- **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, Your story and hand in history is evident. We research the facts that lead to our faith in You. We always want to be ready to give an answer for the hope that we have in You, Jesus. Let us be ready to answer questions and objections as we share Your truth, Lord. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 77

Read Acts 26:12-18
and scan QR code
for video.



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Appointed and Anointed

Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me.

Acts 26:16

When God calls you, you don't need a second calling. When God appoints you, you don't need to be afraid. When God says you are a minister, you don't need an additional certificate. When God raises you up, you don't need to wait for others to affirm you. The words of Jesus to Paul carried all of the needed weight and authority. Realizing and accepting that you are Christ's ambassador in this crooked world is your highest calling.

Find your security in Jesus.

I can't emphasize this enough. If you are dependent on your feelings, the context, the other person, their imagined or real response or other superficial factors, you will miss opportunities. Confidence in God is simply that God said it, and we believe it. Your house will be on the sand until Jesus Himself is your Rock.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Jesus' words to you are Your true direction and destiny.

- **Reflection:**

1. Why does Paul keep sharing his testimony?
2. What does God say about your purpose in His word?
3. When has God given you a kingdom vision and assignment and how did it feel?

- **Prayer:**

Father, Your words resonate in our souls. We trust Your commands more than our circumstances. Thank You that Your grace is sufficient. Thank You for the Holy Spirit inside of us. Your character gives us confidence. If You are for us, who can be against us? We trust You, Jesus, and pray in Your unrivaled name. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 78

True and Reasonable

Read Acts 26:19-32
and scan QR code
for video.



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"I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. Acts 26:25"

There will be critics who tell you that trusting Jesus is a foolish decision, and you are out of your mind. College professors may try to attack the foundations of your faith. Family members might be angry at you for following Jesus. People at church might say that you are too passionate about God. Co-workers want you to be more lukewarm. It will come from all angles. Festus told Paul that his faith was insane. It's interesting that one of the most inspiring Christians was being publicly criticized. If they treated Jesus this way, who was sinless, don't be surprised when you hear it too.

We have no reason to be ashamed of Jesus.

We love God with all of our minds. This is not a blind or deceptive faith in God. The evidence is in favor of our risen Lord. Spend time researching common objections and solid answers. Be prepared.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Share the reason for your hope and trust God with the results.

- **Reflection:**

1. What are Paul's points of emphasis?
2. What are the keys to defending your faith?
3. What is the historical evidence that supports Christianity?

- **Prayer:**

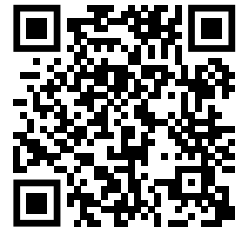
Everlasting Father, thank You for providing reliable sources to confirm our faith. We love You with all of our hearts and minds. Help us, we pray, to have deeper conversations about what really matters in this life and the afterlife. We pray that You would soften hard hearts and bring conviction through the Holy Spirit so Jesus would be known and trusted. We pray for the harvest and more workers. In Your name Lord, amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 79

Warnings

Read Acts 27:1-12
and scan QR code
for video.



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"Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also." Acts 27:10

There are going to be times when God is telling you what not to do. Listen to His voice. The Holy Spirit will communicate to your mind and heart. A firm warning is a gift. Do not ignore or deny God's perspective or message. Whoever has ears to hear let them hear. It might be a dating relationship, a friendship, a business partnership, a false teacher, or a ministry invitation.

If God's not in it, you don't want it.

Paul listened to God when others were full of themselves and stubborn about their plans. As the voyage began and the weather forecast was stormy, Paul tried to dissuade the crew from sailing. His words fell on deaf ears. It's frustrating to experience unnecessary hardship. Taking time to listen to God and honor His direction will save you time, effort, relationships, headaches, regrets, and scars.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Because God cares, God sends you warnings to protect you.

- **Reflection:**

1. What do you observe in this passage?
2. What has God revealed to Paul?
3. What have been some insights God has given you to warn or rescue other people?

- **Prayer:**

Omniscient God, thank You for confiding in those who fear You. Thank You, Holy Spirit, for revealing truth to us. We are like watchmen who have a responsibility to communicate when we see danger or disasters coming. May we not assume how people will respond to truth. May we not fear people's reactions. May we speak the truth in love and trust You with the results. Our prayer is to always honor You Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 80

Storms

Read Acts 27:13-26
and scan QR code
for video.



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and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' Acts 27:24

Even though Paul knew it was a bad idea to travel in the storm, God reassured him that no lives would be lost. One promise from God can bring peace beyond measure. The journey was full of pain, disappointments, surprises, trials, uncertainty, and stress. If you know the ending though, you can endure more and be more steadfast. God gives us promises throughout Scripture. If you don't know them or remember them, you might feel lost at sea. Jesus prepares a place for us in heaven. You will receive a perfect resurrected body. The devil will be thrown into the lake of fire forever.

You have eternal life because Jesus died for your sins and is risen.

We will have no more death or disease in paradise. Jesus Christ will return visibly and physically. We will see Jesus face-to-face. There will be people from every nation in heaven. The gates of hell will not prevail against the church. All of God's promises are truth and the anchor for our souls. Let the future shape your perspective about today.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Whoever listens to God has peace and hope in massive trials.

- **Reflection:**

1. How does Paul balance both disappointment and kindness?
2. What are some of Paul's timely exhortations?
3. Who do you go to for advice and wisdom?

- **Prayer:**

Gracious God, You are with us even in the unnecessary problems. Your voice guides us when we are in new situations. May we tune out the negative voices in our culture. Your hope is greater than the challenges we face. All storms will pass, but You and Your word remain forever. We will abide with You, Jesus, in the fiercest storms and sing Your praises. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 81

Nourishment

Read Acts 27:27-44
and scan QR code
for video.



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Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven't eaten anything. Acts 27:33

God is full of compassion and faithful with provision. A major part of following Jesus is knowing when and how to receive from God. God has nourishment that is vital. In the wilderness, the Israelites were learning to collect manna every day, except for the Sabbath. On this voyage, Paul knew that the crew would need strength to make it to shore. They needed to eat their remaining food and refuel.

God guides with a keen sense of timing.

Physical food for the stomach is a blessing. Nourishment for your soul is even more significant. During the day, you might be aware of your appetite for food. Pay attention to your soul and spiritual appetite. Many people have full stomachs and empty souls. God wants to fill us with His presence, promises, word, and hope. You cannot share what you have not first received from God.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Receive God's provision with thanksgiving and faith.

- **Reflection:**

1. Why is timing so important in this story?
2. What are the ways you see God provide in this passage?
3. How can you remember and celebrate when God sustained and strengthened you in a crisis?

- **Prayer:**

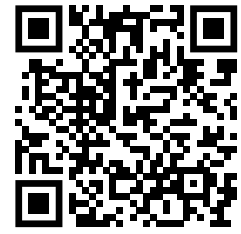
Holy Father, there is no one like You. You are perfect in wisdom and purity. Your thoughts and ways are above ours. We walk by faith and pick up our daily bread. Your timing is impeccable. May we walk with the wise and in step with the Holy Spirit. Our best decisions come from You, and we listen closely to Your voice, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 82

A Snake Bite

Read Acts 28:1-10
and scan QR code
for video.



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Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. Acts 28:3

Unwanted events are not polite and do not ask you if this is a good time to enter into your life. After narrowly surviving a fierce storm and their boat being shipwrecked, the apostle Paul made it safely to shore. Then a poisonous snake bit him, and the next trial began. Challenges are not always evenly spaced in your life. Successive attacks can wear you down. There is a saying “when it rains, it pours.” The islanders expected Paul to die, but God completely spared him from all harm. The people then thought Paul must be a god.

Everywhere you go, you will be representing God and helping people know who He is.

Snake bites become open doors and tragedies can lead to open hearts. People want to talk about and process current events. Offering a Biblical perspective that is full of real hope is powerful. God transforms lives in very unlikely ways and through undesired circumstances.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Never be complacent in your walk with God.

- **Reflection:**

1. What happened and how did the islanders react?
2. Why is it important to stay alert?
3. How do you put on your spiritual armor daily?

- **Prayer:**

Our God and Protector, may we trust You even when there are additional and unexpected twists to our story. We long to be with You in heaven. Until then, we have patient endurance. The Holy Spirit comforts us. We fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith. Use our trials to make us more like You, Lord, we ask. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 83

False gods

Read Acts 28:11-22
and scan QR code
for video.



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After three months we put out to sea in a ship that had wintered in the island—it was an Alexandrian ship with the figurehead of the twin gods Castor and Pollux. Acts 28:11

Paul was part of a remnant who rejected hopelessness and false gods. He was traveling on an Alexandrian ship with a figurehead of the twin gods Castor and Pollux who were believed by some to be the guardian deities of sailors. The God of the Bible just rescued people from a shipwreck, but not everyone was ready to give Him praise. Paul intentionally gave thanks to God. He spoke truth about gods that are no gods at all. He kept his heart pure. He was steadfast with hope. In our culture false gods include ourselves, other people, money, and technology.

False gods give the illusion of control, safety, and provision.

It is foolish to be blessed by God and then give thanks to gods that have only steal from you. You need to guard your heart. Do not put your security in what you can't take with you to heaven and might be gone tomorrow. Love does not affirm false gods and worship idols.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: In a culture of idolatry, be devoted to the only true God.

- **Reflection:**

1. What does it feel like to be the only Christian in many settings?
2. How does Paul remain faithful in the darkness?
3. What are the popular false gods in our nation?

- **Prayer:**

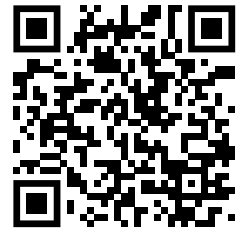
Gracious God, we worship You alone and are not ashamed of You. We are public with our faith, because You are the truth, Jesus. We speak truth because it sets people free. We demolish lies and strongholds through the power of the Holy Spirit. We redeem and take back what the enemy tries to steal. We represent You, Lord, and it is our greatest honor. We pray and find our hope in You, Jesus. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

Day 84

The Hope House

Read Acts 28:23-31
and scan QR code
for video.



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For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. Acts 28:30

You can place God's people in prison, but you can't chain the word of God. In some prisons Paul was highly restricted, and the conditions were dreadful. In this chapter, he was under house arrest. He was doing more ministry than many people who have an abundance of additional freedoms. Reaching and discipling people is more about your heart condition than your situation.

When your soul is on fire, you find a way.

For two years, Paul welcomed visitors and raised up more leaders. Imagine if God's people were fearless and committed in spreading the indestructible hope of Jesus. What we see in the book of Acts is what we need today. After taking 84 days, may your vision for Biblical Christianity be clearer than ever, your unity be stronger, your reliance on the Holy Spirit be greater, and your desire to be faithful be growing exponentially. It's time to soar together above the noise and nonsense. Those who hope in the Lord will rise like eagles and bring hope and healing across our land in Jesus's name.

Just Choose Hope

Hope Point: Your greatest kingdom opportunities will often come through hospitality and generosity.

- **Reflection:**

1. What is the spiritual temperature where you live and why?
2. Who can you invite to your home for a meal?
3. How has the book of Acts increased your hope in God?

- **Prayer:**

God of hope, we worship You. Seeing how you moved through the early church gives us more confidence in You today. Our earnest prayer is to shift from cultural Christianity to Biblical Christianity. May it be done on earth as it is in heaven. Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. In Jesus name, we thank You and rely on You. Amen.

- **Notes & Takeaway:**

INFINITE HOPE

*Scan QR code
for video.*



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Congratulations on finishing the 84 Days of Soaring!

You have begun a wonderful new rhythm of receiving and giving hope daily. As we wrap up this time together, you are probably wondering what's next? Here are some practical next steps you can take.

First, embrace God's perspective which is full of hope.

Think of this point as more of a starting line than a finishing line. The God of hope has begun a great work in you, and He is faithful to complete it. You are called and empowered by God to receive and give hope daily where you live, work, learn, and play. Why settle for less than what God has for you? This inner conviction leads to a greater devotion.

Second, embrace God's power which will fuel your hope.

You have been given the Holy Spirit and the word of God. Over the last 84 days, you have been cultivating a powerful habit of spending time in His word and in His presence. Why go backwards and drift in your faith? Continue forward with daily Scripture and surrender to the Spirit. God wants to fill you with His hope. You can select a time of the day and a Bible reading plan to nourish your soul. Find a friend or family member who will join you. Be intentional with this life-giving habit.

Third, embrace God's purpose, which multiplies hope.

There are many ways you can bring hope to your family, friends, and your church family. Identify a plan. Decide to serve others in some specific and regular ways. You will set yourself up for success and grow in your faith. May your home and church become places filled with God's presence and hope. There is a pattern of progression with how God moves to bring transformation: your heart, your home, your church family, then your city. In the book of Acts, the hope of God spread to the entire world in this way. God has a plan, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. You can live with great hope and confidence in God even during the fiercest challenges. Our hope is resilient and defiant, refusing to be passive and make excuses. God will light your soul on fire because you are the light of the world. The darkness will not win. God will prevail and you are His ambassador of hope. You are in full-time ministry. There are no limits to what God can do because Jesus is risen. **Jesus is our living hope.**

As you look ahead, here is one additional consideration. If you have enjoyed the 28 Days of Hope, you can invite others to participate. Share the content with them or join them and repeat the 28-day experience. God's hope is available for everyone. Hope gifts, hope shifts, hope habits and hope impact are foundational and inspirational. I am convinced that if we learn to abide with Jesus, we will bear much fruit. If we are filled with God's Spirit and word, there will be a revival and reformation across our land. If we live with God's courageous hope, we will see cities turn to the Savior and healing in our families and churches. God is able to do exceedingly more than we can ask, think, or even imagine when we choose to trust Him. The God of hope is eternal. Jesus is full of hope. God's Spirit and word teach us: Hope is relational. Hope is habitual. Hope is indestructible.

Just Choose Hope

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Week One - Acts 1:1-3:10

Opening Questions:

- 1) What are your thoughts about this significant adventure of studying the Book of Acts: personally, with family, as a Life Group, and/or as a church?
- 2) What have you gained from the previous series: 28 Days of Hope and 12 Weeks of Unity?

Text Questions:

- 1) 1:1-8 Verse 8 describes circles of influence radiating out where the apostles were supposed to be Christ's witnesses. To whom were they to witness and to whom are you?
- 2) 1:9-11 How do the resurrection, ascension, and coming return of Christ impact you and the ministry God has given you?
- 3) 1:12-26 The Apostles did not have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit when they asked God to help choose a new Disciple. How does the Bible teach that the Holy Spirit guides us?
- 4) 2:1-13 In Acts 1 & 2 (1:4 & 8 "wait for the gift... power when the Holy Spirit comes on you") the disciples waited and were given the Holy Spirit, then they soared. How are you to soar as you receive hope gifts from God?
- 5) 2:21-24 & 31-33 At the heart of Peter's sermon are facts about Jesus Christ. Which fact about Christ's life, death, or resurrection uniquely encourages you to receive and give hope daily?
- 6) 2:42-47 As Life Groups strive to do, the early church thrived as they intentionally united through gathering together to study Scripture, pray, fellowship and do outreach. Which would you like to do more of and why?
- 7) 3:1-10 What needs do you others have that you can pray for "in the name of Jesus" (6)?

Week Two - Acts 3:11-5:16

Opening Questions:

- 1) The early spreading of the Gospel is described throughout Acts. What is a key biblical component of the Gospel that encourages you to soar?
- 2) In what way is the Holy Spirit leading you to represent Christ with greater boldness as a minister, priest, and ambassador of Jesus?

Text Questions:

- 1) 3:11-26 Consider the aspects of evangelism in verses 12,15,19 & 26. How does one of them motivate you to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with family, friends, and others?
- 2) 4:1-11 What impact does Christ's resurrection have on you as you make hope shifts daily?
- 3) 4:12-22 Who do you know that you should lovingly and courageously share Christ with?
- 4) 4:23-31 If Christ is your Savior, then you have the Holy Spirit indwelling you. When has He enabled you to quote the Bible with great boldness? Do you believe He wants to enable you and receive His power?
- 5) 4:32-37 Name a time that you enjoyed blessing someone, knowing that your gift would bring hope to and meet a specific need.
- 6) 5:1-11 When have you been tempted to withhold the full truth from other Christians and thus "test the Spirit of the Lord" (v. 9)?
- 7) 5:12-16 Jesus healed many "sick and those tormented by impure spirits" (16), which was used by the Holy Spirit so "men and women believed in the Lord" (14). Who do you want to bless and point to Jesus' healing power?

Week Three - Acts 5:17-7:60

Opening Questions:

- 1) What is something that you are looking forward to or would like to have happen in this season?
- 2) When you hear the phrase “you need relentless hope” what do you think of or feel and how do cultivating hope habits make a difference?

Text Questions:

- 1) 5:17-26 Where and to whom does the Holy Spirit want you to prioritize “tell the people all about this new life” (20) that you have in Jesus Christ?
- 2) 5:27-42 What situation have you been in, are you in, or will you likely be in where the necessary Holy Spirit led response is “We must obey God rather than men!”?
- 3) 6:1-7 Kingdom growth necessitates spiritual ministry (like Bible teaching) and material ministry (care for practical responsibilities). Which are you being led to do?
- 4) 6:8-15 People twist our words or deceive others about us in order to bring harm, as they did to Stephen. What is an aspect of responding “full of God’s grace and power” with the infinite hope of Jesus?
- 5) 7:5, 9-10 & 37-38 Stephen’s speech referred to God’s faithfulness to Abraham “God promised,” Jacob “God was with him,” and Moses. How has God been faithful to you and given you hope in difficult times?
- 6) 7:39-53 In what ways are modern-day Americans a “stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised... resist the Holy Spirit” (51) and how can you be part of the solution?
- 7) 7:54-60 Stephen models for us how to look to our “Lord Jesus” during difficulties and as Jesus did say, “Father, forgive them.” How is God empowering you to forgive and just choose hope?

Week Four - Acts 8:1-10:8

Opening Questions:

- 1) What is a shift you made, or would like to make, to experience more of God’s hope?
- 2) Share “one conversation” seeking to communicate the Gospel that you had recently or want to have.

Text Questions:

- 1) 8:1-8 Challenges lead to opportunities for us to preach God’s Word anywhere we go, as early Christians did. What opportunity opened up for you to proclaim Christ?
- 2) 8:12-13 & 18-25 What helps you to have a right heart before God and others regarding money?
- 3) 8:26-40 Who is someone that you are helping, or want to help, understand a “passage of Scripture”, and/or have discussions with regarding “the good news about Jesus”?
- 4) 9:1-19 What was a hopeless and sinful characteristic of your life before you accepted Christ?
- 5) 9:20-31 How are you “encouraged by the Holy Spirit” or “living in the fear of the Lord?”
- 6) 9:32-43 God used miracles in biblical times to confirm that the Gospel and Apostles were true. What miracle in the Bible empowers you with more hope?
- 7) 10:1-8 Who is a person of influence whose conversion to Christianity encouraged you?

Week Five - Acts 10:9-12:19

Opening Questions:

- 1) Share something exciting or challenging going on for you that we do not know about and how you are choosing hope?
- 2) What “new relationship” are you following God’s leading to try to develop where you live, work, learn, and play?

Text Questions:

- 1) 10:9-23 What is something that you were legalistic about before, but you have biblical freedom to enjoy now? Or that you are abstaining from now for biblical reasons?
- 2) 10:24-43 Is there a time you called together family or friends to hear the Gospel as in verse 24? Or a time you deflected praise from yourself and honored God as in verse 25?
- 3) 11:1-10 Have you seen some Christians having trouble embracing other Christians from different backgrounds instead of being united with hope? How have you seen unity with diversity glorify God?
- 4) 11:11-18 Anyone who repents of their sin and accepts Jesus as their only hope for eternal life is “baptized with the Holy Spirit.” How does it make you feel that God accepts and indwells you?
- 5) 11:19-30 Barnabas means “son of encouragement.” Christian means “follower of Christ.” How are you encouraging someone to follow Christ as Savior and Lord?
- 6) 12:1-10 When did you choose hope and join your church in “earnestly praying to God for” someone?
- 7) 12:11-19 Peter was certain God “rescued him” and he described “how the Lord had brought him out of” trouble. Share a time you think God delivered or protected you.

Week Six - Acts 12:20-14:28

Opening Questions:

- 1) What is something going on related to your family that is exciting or challenging and how are you choosing hope?
- 2) Share about a “purpose and passion” that you believe God has called you to pursue to make a hope impact.

Text Questions:

- 1) 12:20-25 What ministry outside the church walls that plays a part in spreading the Word of God are you grateful to help through serving, praying, and/or giving?
- 2) 13:1-12 Share about a time you fasted and prayed for someone in ministry or a time you rebuked someone in love who was “full of all kinds of deceit” regarding Christ.
- 3) 13:26-33 & 38-39 What Old Testament prophecy about the Messiah (“they had carried out all that was written about him” v. 29) specifically encourages you and fills you with hope?
- 4) 13:42-52 Possession of eternal life involves both human faith and divine appointment (“all who were appointed for eternal life believed” v. 48). Discuss this biblically and how this truth brings hope.
- 5) 14:1-7 Why do you think people you know reject hope, refuse to believe, and poison minds against the biblical message of God’s grace (verses 2 and 3)?
- 6) 14:8-20 How has God taught you about hope and humility (“we too are only human, like you”) as it pertains to helping others “turn from these worthless things to the living God” (v. 15)?
- 7) 14:21-28 How are you involved in “strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith” and intentionally building unity (v. 22)?

Week Seven - Acts 15:1-17:9

Opening Questions:

- 1) What are you gaining from the daily devotions and videos during the 84 Days of Soaring?
- 2) What do you pray for or take part in to help bring about “citywide renewal”?

Text Questions:

- 1) 15:6-11, 14 & 19 The Bible teaches: regardless of perceived differences, all people are graciously invited to accept Jesus as their Savior. What are your thoughts on this hope from heaven?
- 2) 15:22-35 Sending, praying, and supporting missionaries (near and far) is a crucial ministry of the local church. How would you like to see this Life Group further engage in missions?
- 3) 15:36-41 Christ restoring relationships is a special blessing for Christians. Paul displays this with Mark in 2 Tim. 4:11. What relationship did Christ restore for you after you lost hope?
- 4) 16:1-10 “Churches were strengthened” through the Holy Spirit-inspired teaching of the Apostles. How would you like to encourage others to study Scripture more and who can you teach how to read the Bible?
- 5) 16:11-15 Who are you (or would like to begin to be) specifically praying for the Lord to open his/her heart to respond to the Gospel (v. 14)?
- 6) 16: 25-34 The Gospel necessitates confronting people with the problem of sin, but we do so out of love because we want them to be “filled with joy.” Discuss this challenge and how it ultimately increases hope
- 7) 17:1-9 The Holy Spirit leads us to “reason with [others] from the Scriptures, explaining and proving” Christ’s death and resurrection. What are your experiences with giving both hope and truth?

Week Eight - Acts 17:10-19:31

Opening Questions:

- 1) What does it mean that God calls you a priest and you have a full-time ministry during the week?
- 2) What is a characteristic of “your ministry” calling and what fruit are you seeing now?

Text Questions:

- 1) 17:10-15 The Bereans “received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day.” How would you like to grow regarding studying the Bible daily and how can you do that for the remainder of the 84 Days of Soaring?
- 2) 17:22-28 & 32 What opportunity could you act upon to declare to someone: “‘The God who made the world... is the Lord of Heaven and Earth’ [and] about the resurrection”?
- 3) 18:1-11 Priscilla, Aquilla and Paul were tentmakers by trade. What is it like for you to minister to others through your role in the marketplace and/or community?
- 4) 18:12-17 What religious freedom that you experience are you specifically grateful for?
- 5) 18:18-28 Who is someone that you are discipling, or could disciple, by “explain[ing] to him [or her] the way of God more adequately” (v. 26)?
- 6) 19: 11-20 “The Lord Jesus [being] held in high honor... [leads to] the word of the Lord spreading widely (v. 17 & 20). How can a united church family soar together?
- 7) 19:23-31 In what situations do people either encourage one another to do evil, as Demetrius did, or encourage one another to choose hope and make wise decisions, as the disciples did?

Week Nine - Acts 19:32-21:40

Opening Questions:

- 1) When you pray for our nation, what do you specifically pray for?
- 2) How does God's faithfulness lead to an overflowing hope?

Text Questions:

- 1) 19:32-41 When did a "legal assembly" help settle a "grievance against" a Christian individual or entity that made you grateful to live in this democratic country?
- 2) 20:1-12 "On the first day of the week we came together to break bread." What is a particularly meaningful aspect for you of partaking in the Lord's Supper together and how does this significant ritual give us unity and hope?
- 3) 20:13-24 How does Paul's statement: "I consider my life worth nothing to me; only my aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me," resonate with you?
- 4) 20:25-38 When have you experienced false teachers from within the church "arise and distort the truth [of the Bible] in order to draw away disciples after them" (30)?
- 5) 21:4-14 All the disciples, including wives and children, accompanied us... and there on the beach we knelt to pray" (5). What special prayer time have you taken part in and how can you pray more with people?
- 6) 21:17-20 Paul "reported in detail what God had done... through his ministry. When they heard this, they praised God." What have you seen God do through church recently that you praise Him for?
- 7) 21:27-36 When have you, or someone you have heard about, suffered for preaching the Gospel with indestructible hope?

Week Ten - Acts 22:1-24:13

Opening Questions:

- 1) What are the key elements of unity and how can we grow together?
- 2) What biblical advice can you provide about how to be better at "overcoming opposition" with the hope of Jesus?

Text Questions:

- 1) 22:1-11 What is it about Paul's conversion that stands out to you?
- 2) 22:12-21 Paul "witness[ed] to all men of what [he had] seen and heard" (15) regarding the risen Christ. What is something about Christ that you testify about to others?
- 3) 22:22-30 Have you ever appealed to the law for the protection of your rights?
- 4) 23:1-11 During suffering, when have you sensed Christ encouraging you ("Take courage!") through a Bible verse that you had memorized?
- 5) 23:12-22 Have you ever felt ambushed by religious leaders? Have you ever felt protected by God through the help of a friend or relative?
- 6) 23:23-35 When was a time you think God provided a safe escape from danger for you?
- 7) 24:1-13 When have others "found" you to be a "troublemaker" despite your best intentions and their own lack of proof?

Week Eleven - Acts 24:14-26:18

Opening Questions:

- 1) What happened in your life this season that was memorable?
- 2) Share an aspect of your story of new life through Christ that is unique.

Text Questions:

- 1) 24:14-21 Discuss why stating the biblical truth “that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked” (15) will cause many to become angry and should give you a great sense of urgency.
- 2) 24:22-27 Have you ever felt forgotten for a long time (“two years”) or punished because you would not give into a bribe or compromise your integrity in another way?
- 3) 25:1-12 When have you had to defend yourself and explain that “I have not done any wrong” and how did you choose hope in that situation?
- 4) 25:13-22 Paul was accused regarding “a dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed was alive.” How would those who interact with you outside of church know that you claim Christ is risen?
- 5) 25:23-27 Roman Governor Festus declared about Paul, “I found he had done nothing deserving of death.” How do you feel about God’s gracious forgiveness since we deserve death and how can you share this infinite hope?
- 6) 26:1-11 Paul asks, “Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?” What character quality of God supports your belief that He can raise the dead?
- 7) 26:12-18 Which phrase stated in verses 17-18, and that you received from Christ when you began a personal relationship with Him, are you especially grateful for and how can you communicate this truth to neighbors and co-workers?

Week Twelve - Acts 26:19-28:31

Opening Questions:

- 1) How has God transformed your life through the 84 Days of Soaring?
- 2) How has Christ carried you through “tragedy and triumph” with indestructible hope as only a Redeemer can?

Text Questions:

- 1) 26:19-32 How are you choosing hope as you “turn to God and demonstrate” the genuine nature of your “repentance by your deeds” (20)?
- 2) 27:1-12 How does hope persevere and when have you pressed on despite wise advice to do otherwise and found yourself in trouble?
- 3) 27:13-26 Paul speaks of “the God to whom I belong and whom I serve... and I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.” How can you live more like Christ because you also believe these statements and shine light in the darkness?
- 4) 27:33-44 How have you experienced God’s protection and provision through someone treating you with special favor, as the centurion did when he “wanted to spare Paul’s life and kept them from carrying out their plan”?
- 5) 28:1-10 Kindness towards you from strangers or from you to strangers breaks down barriers. We want to soar together. How could this Life Group reach out across barriers to help others?
- 6) 28:11-16 Paul was “encouraged” by the believers (“brothers”) in Rome. When have you received hope from Christians that welcomed you in a new place?
- 7) 28:23-31 We often think people know about Jesus Christ and are not interested, but the harvest is plentiful. Soaring is not silence and timidity. How and to whom are you being led to “[teach] about the Lord Jesus - with all boldness” in this season?

