

THE BOOK OF  
ACTS

ALL  
PEOPLE.  
EVERY-  
WHERE.

**UNHINDERED**

**BRINGING THE  
GOOD NEWS  
OF JESUS TO  
THE WORLD.**

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**PART II**  
**WEEKS 7-11**



*“But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may **finish my course** and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, **to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.**”*

**ACTS 20:24**



**Congratulations, you've made it to Part 2!**

This booklet contains the final five weeks of study for our series *All People. Everywhere.* If you're looking for an introduction to this series, the book of Acts, or SOMA, please consult **Part I**. It is our hope that this will help you grow as a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ.

Here are some of the helpful sections in this book:

**2.....Unhindered: Nothing Holding Us Back**

**4.....South Shores Church Mission & Values**

**8.....Why Church Planting is Paramount**

**10-43.....Weeks 7-11: Notes, Devotions & Discussion**

*24.....Serve Experience*

**44.....Churches Planting Churches**

**46.....A Pregnant Church**

# UNHINDERED

## *Nothing Holding Us Back*

The book of Acts is inspiring! Even when the going gets tough, the gospel spreads, people believe, and new churches are started. God put a passion in the heart of Paul and others to bring the good news of Jesus to the world and God has ensured to see it through – in Philippi, Corinth, Athens, and more. If we have an **Unstoppable God** who wants **All People, Everywhere** to hear the gospel, then what could possibly get in the way?

The final chapters of Acts, seem to suggest that there is a lot that could try to get in the way: religious persecution, corrupt government leaders, murderous conspiracies, shipwrecks, and even poisonous snakes. But through it all, even when Paul is sitting in Rome under house arrest, the author tells us that he was “*proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.*” (Acts 28:31)

It’s easy to think of things that might get in the way of the gospel spreading today: changing cultural norms, government overreach, physical limitations, or even financial obligations. But we believe that God is still just as unstoppable today and that His mission to reach all people, everywhere, has not changed. He has saved us to be part of a rescue team that reaches out into the world and points them to Jesus, growing fully devoted followers, and empowering them to be part of the mission, both in our church and beyond, for the kingdom of God. We don’t want anything to hold us back from pursuing those dreams.

Within this booklet, as we continue our series in Acts, called “**All People. Everywhere.**” there are daily Bible readings and group discussion questions, and you will also find articles, resources, and opportunities for prayer and dreaming about what else God might want to do through you and South Shores Church. We’d love to see everyone in our church prayerfully asking, “**God, what do you want to do through me?**” and “**What do I think is hindering me from taking part in Your mission?**”

If you’re new to South Shores Church, let this booklet help you get to know what makes us tick. Discover what is the passion and vision of a church awakened to the gospel of Jesus Christ and the mission God has for us. And if you’ve been with us for a while, may these pages, your time with God in His Word, and your time with others, spur you on to a passion for what God will do next through us.

**Derick Zeulner**

Associate Pastor

South Shores Church

God, what do you want to do  
through me?

What do I think is hindering  
me from taking part in  
Your mission?

**UNHINDERED**

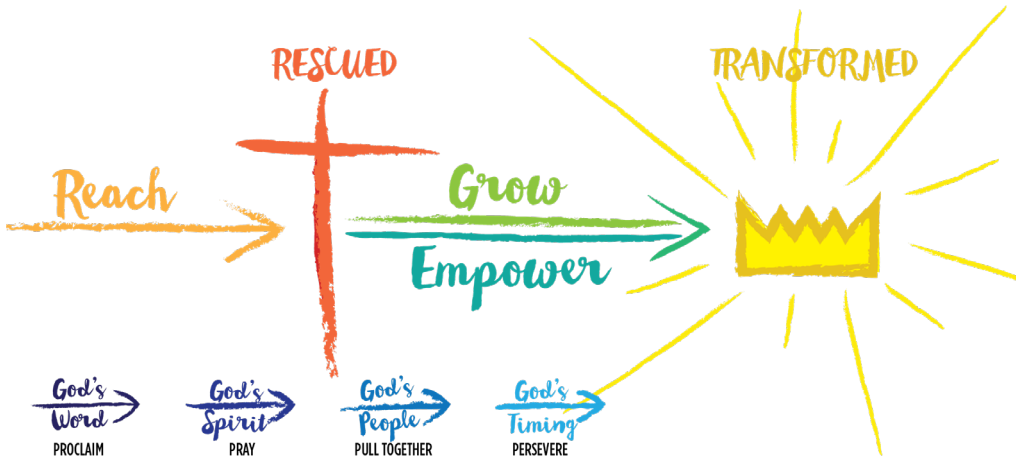
# OUR MISSION

## Growing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

It's what we're passionate about. It's what we think about every day. It's the mission God has called South Shores Church to be all about:

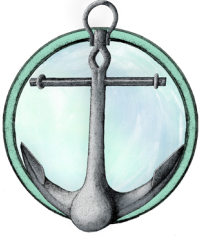
to **reach** the lost  
**grow** believers  
and **empower** them for the mission.

In other words, we want everyone to be about helping others move **forward**, to Jesus, one step at a time.



Watch a brief video explaining our mission:  
[southshores.org/about](https://southshores.org/about)

# OUR VALUES



## **ANCHORED IN GOD'S WORD**

*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. – Hebrews 6:19*

We long to be shaped and directed by what is true, real, and lasting. The promises of God, declared in His Word and fulfilled in Jesus Christ, provide the hope that will harbor us in rough seas, and navigate toward where God wants us to be.

### **Questions for you:**

- Am I submitting to God's Word as my authority?
  
  
  
  
  
- How am I allowing God's Word to transform my thoughts and actions?



## **KNOWN BY LOVE**

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. – John 13:35*

We want to bring the generosity, compassion, and kindness of Christ into our relationships and community. The Good News of Jesus has freed us to bring grace into the lives of others through loving action and selfless service. In turn, our love will be a reputation that points others to Jesus.

### **Questions for you:**

- Am I being as generous as the gospel frees me to be?
  
  
  
  
  
- How am I leaving others better than I found them?

# OUR VALUES



## **RESCUED TO REACH**

*Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.*  
- 2 Corinthians 5:18

We want every member on mission to advance the Kingdom of God through sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. God has uniquely gifted each one of us and placed us within arm's reach of people we can impact through Word and Prayer.

### **Questions for you:**

- Am I asking God to give me an opportunity to share His truth and love?
- How am I advancing the mission God has given South Shores Church?



## **PARTNERED IN PRAYER**

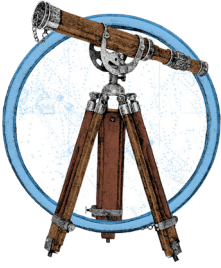
*Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, - Colossians 4:2-3*

We take prayer seriously because we take God seriously. Prayer is the relational way we interact with God, partnering with His Spirit and with others to accomplish the mission. Everything at South Shores starts and ends with prayer.

### **Questions for you:**

- Am I trusting God enough to bring everything to Him?
- How could I enhance my prayer life?





## INVESTING IN WHAT'S NEXT

*...walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*  
– Colossians 1:10

We want to be a place that helps people see what is next for their life, as well as what is next for the church. South Shores is committed to developing leaders to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.

### Questions for you:

- What is the next step God has for me?
  
  
- How could I leave South Shores healthier than I found it?



## FINAL QUESTIONS

Go back and number the five values according to how you fare living them out (1 - strongest, 5 - weakest).

- What steps can you take to improve in some of your weaker areas?

Now, assign numbers for South Shores Church.

- How can you help strengthen the church where it is weakest?

# WHY CHURCH PLANTING IS PARAMOUNT IN THE MISSION

Adapted from *Gaining by Losing*

by J.D. Greear (pgs 222-228)

## 1. PLANTING CHURCHES IS THE PRIMARY NEW TESTAMENT STRATEGY FOR FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION.

You can sum up Paul's entire evangelistic strategy in Acts as identifying the biggest, most influential cities in his region and going to plant churches there. Tim Keller points out that we can only fulfill Jesus' Great Commission by planting churches, because he told us to "teach them all things" and "baptize them," and baptism implies incorporation into a covenant community. In other words, Jesus did not intend his disciples to go about haphazardly evangelizing; he instructed them to gather these new converts into new churches.

## 2. EVEN IN THE UNITED STATES, PLANTING CHURCHES IS THE GREATEST NEED

You may say, "Well, 'planting churches' makes sense in unreached places, but what about here in America? Our community has a church on every corner!" Consider this: Statisticians say that in 1900, there were 28 churches for every 10,000 Americans. By 2004, that number had dropped to 11 for every 10,000 -- and it continues to decrease. In fact studies show that just to keep pace with population growth, we need to double the rate at which we are currently planting new churches.

## 3. PLANTING CHURCHES IS OUR MOST EVANGELISTICALLY EFFECTIVE OUTREACH

"But why not," you say, "just revitalize existing churches? Why spend all the money and effort planting new ones when so many are dying?" Simply put, church planting is the most effective way to reach new people:

*Studies confirm that the average new church gains one-third to two-thirds of its new members from the ranks of people who are not attending any worshipping body, while churches over ten to fifteen years of age gain 80 to 90 percent of new members by transfer from other congregations. (Keller, Center Church, p359)*

In other words, new churches are six to eight times more evangelistically effective than existing churches. Larry Kreider shows that in the average church plant, it takes three people to produce one baptism. At an existing church, it takes ninety-five.

#### 4. **PLANTING CHURCHES HELPS, NOT HURTS, EXISTING CHURCHES**

First, new churches raise the evangelistic climate in an area. As church plants raise the spiritual temperature in a city, all the churches are positively affected. New churches multiply followers of Jesus in an area, and more followers of Jesus increases the number of people sharing Christ, which increases spiritual interest in the whole area, which results in more seekers going to various churches.

Second, new churches feed back into existing churches. Healthy planting almost always benefits the sending church, because it helps focus the attention of their members outward, which invariably brings great benefit to the outreaches of the church.

Third, new churches generate new ideas in the body of Christ. New churches are forced to figure out new ways to reach people in order to survive. Many established churches cannot get away with pioneering these new ideas, but once these new ideas are “proven” elsewhere, established churches often adopt them.

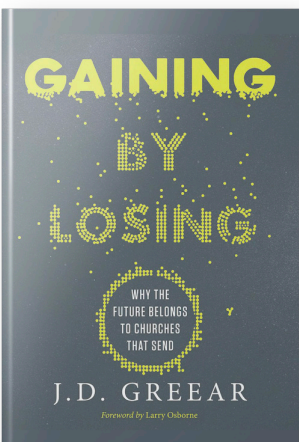
#### 5. **PLANTING CHURCHES “GROWS THE PIE” OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION**

Some pastors feel that the expense of church planting saps money away from important, frontline ministries. It is true, church planting can be expensive, but church planting done right yields the largest financial return available in kingdom investment. Planting new churches multiplies resources available in the kingdom of God by multiplying givers. Church planting produces new disciples who become new givers. Thus, church planting does not eat up resources from a limited pie; it grows the pie.

#### **Gaining by Losing**

Why the Future Belongs to Churches that Send

J.D. Greear



*“The best way for your church to make a lasting impact that meets both the physical and spiritual needs of a community is to plant a church.”*

-- J.D. Greear (p.228)

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 07 | October 24, 2021 | The Gospel Finishes Well

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***BIG IDEA***

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***NOTES***

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***RESPONSE***

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ALL  
PEOPLE.  
EVERY-  
WHERE.

WEEK 07  
DAILY DEVOTIONS

- S Soak**  
Read the passage slowly **asking the Holy Spirit to open it to you.** What from its surroundings or style is important?
- O Observe**  
Take note of what is there. What is going on? **What seems significant?** Do you have any questions you'd like to ask the author?
- M Meaning**  
Think through **why this is in the Bible.** What is the author trying to say? What is the main point of the passage? How does this reflect God's promises and plans?
- A Apply**  
The **goal is transformation.** How will the meaning of this passage transform your head (knowledge/beliefs), heart (desires/attitudes), and hands (actions/habits)?

[southshores.org/soma](http://southshores.org/soma)

DAY 1

Acts 20:1-16

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

# Group Discussion

WEEK 07

## STORIES OF GOD

Start with a story of God's power to transform (testimony or other life-change).

## INTRO QUESTION

What does it mean to “finish well”? Who is an example of this for you?

## OPEN SHARING (use these questions to look back at your O, M & As of your devotions)

How did God get your attention this week in your devotional reading?

Was there any specific way you wanted to apply your reading into your life?

## FINAL QUESTIONS

What was Paul's ultimate measure of finishing well?

What is your measure of finishing well? How are you pressing on toward that goal?

What would you hope to be South Shores Church's legacy in ten or twenty years?

How do you want to be part of that?

## PRAYER

Pray and ask God to help you take the steps today and tomorrow that will help you and our church finish well.



# Notes/Prayers

WEEK 07

# UNHINDERED

## MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

**RUSS & GINA CLINE**  
GLOBAL | training & coaching

Russ & Gina help train and coach leaders in several countries who are working with the poor, widows and orphans, and sharing the gospel. Pray for the Cline's wisdom and for the leaders they serve.

[rcline@extremersresponse.org](mailto:rcline@extremersresponse.org)



# SERMON NOTES

## WEEK 08 | October 31, 2021 | The Gospel Costs

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### ***BIG IDEA***

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### ***NOTES***

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### ***RESPONSE***

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- S Soak**  
Read the passage slowly **asking the Holy Spirit to open it to you.** What from its surroundings or style is important?
- O Observe**  
Take note of what is there. What is going on? **What seems significant?** Do you have any questions you'd like to ask the author?
- M Meaning**  
Think through **why this is in the Bible.** What is the author trying to say? What is the main point of the passage? How does this reflect God's promises and plans?
- A Apply**  
The **goal is transformation.** How will the meaning of this passage transform your head (knowledge/beliefs), heart (desires/attitudes), and hands (actions/habits)?

[southshores.org/soma](http://southshores.org/soma)

DAY 1

Acts 21:1-16

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

**S****O****M****A**

*Finish your time in prayer.*

# Group Discussion

*WEEK 08*

## **STORIES OF GOD**

Start with a story of God's power to transform (testimony or other life-change).

## **INTRO QUESTION**

Talk about a tough decision you had to make that cost you something.

What helped you get through it?

## **OPEN SHARING**

How did God get your attention this week in your devotional reading?

Was there any specific way you wanted to apply your reading into your life?

## **FINAL QUESTIONS**

Why was Paul still willing to go to Jerusalem in spite of the warnings?

What encouraged Paul during his costly hardships?

How does your connection with God affect how you handle your hardships?

## **PRAYER**

Pray that God would continue to use South Shores Church to rescue the lost, grow believers, and empower them for mission, no matter the cost.

# Notes/Prayers

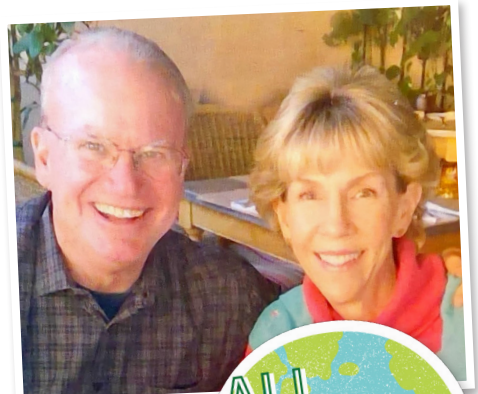
WEEK 02

## MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

**Bruce & Sue Camp**  
**PAKISTAN & CUBA | churches**

Bruce helps churches reach the people around them. Pray for the pastors he works with and pray for Bruce that he would have the wisdom to meet their needs.

**[bruce@dualreach.org](mailto:bruce@dualreach.org)**



# Serve Experience

Somewhere between weeks 7 and 9, we want your group to serve in your community. The goal is to show the love of Christ through relational service outside of a Sunday worship gathering. We believe that our love for Jesus will spill out into the community through intentional Christ-like acts. Consider these points as you serve (adapted from **ROOTED**):

## **LIFE-CHANGE**

Serving is not something we do to check off a box, but rather a lifestyle to adopt. Our hope is that you will want to continue finding ways to serve in our community.

## **BEING VS. DOING**

Each serving opportunity is intended to be highly relational. It's not just about a service or product to provide, but a chance to interact with another person who also needs the love and grace of God. You will find that you are not so different than those you help, and their primary need is the same need you have: peace with God.

## **DEBRIEF**

Gather as a group at the end of your time of serving to pray, and to debrief your experience. What is God speaking to you about your life? About serving? About possible next steps? Share with your group.

## **FLEXIBILITY**

Serving can get messy and unexpected things will happen. Please be flexible and remember we are there to serve, so be ready and willing to do whatever is asked of us that day. It's all part of the adventure!

Our group is serving on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

*Serving resources can be found on page 24-25.*



TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON YOUR THOUGHTS, PRAYERS, STORIES  
AND MORE AS YOU SERVED.

**UNHINDERED**

# SERVING RESOURCES

## WAYS TO SERVE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR CHURCH

### IN THE COMMUNITY

Here are some ministries South Shores Church partners with in our area:

#### Family Assistance Ministries

*An opportunity to donate food and help with meal distributions and organization of supplies*

family-assistance.org

Contact: Elizabetha@family-assistance.org

(714) 721-2254

#### Unidos South OC

*An opportunity to help with tutoring and after school programs for the under-served kids in San Juan Capistrano*

unidossouthoc.com

Contact: John Chapman

John@unidossouthoc.com

(949) 627-3120

#### Laguna Niguel YMCA

<https://ymcaoc.org/laguna-niguel-family-ymca/>

Contact: Kelly Kneubuhl

Kkneubuhl@ymcaoc.org

#### Kathy's House/Casa de Kathy & Casita de Kathy Thrift Stores

*An opportunity to volunteer through donation or working in the stores*

kathyshousesjc.org

Contact: Jon Phillips

Jon.phillips@kathyshouse.org

(949) 310-8704

#### San Clemente Pregnancy Resource Center

*An opportunity to help women and men faced with crisis pregnancies*

friendsofprcsc.com

friends@prcmedicalclinic.com

(949) 218-5777

#### Welcome Inn

*An opportunity to cook and serve meals to the homeless once a month*

welcomeinnoc.org

Contact: Connie Veldkamp

connie.veldkamp@cox.net

(949) 933-6814

## **IN THE CHURCH**

It takes a lot of hands to make our church open, friendly, and available for those in person and at home. Here are some ways you can bless your church family on Sundays mornings and through the week. Email or call 949.496.9331.

Sunday Morning Greeters & Ushers

Contact: Linda Kohlhagen  
lkohlhagen@southshores.org

Sunday Morning INFO CENTER

Contact: Linda Kohlhagen  
lkohlhagen@southshores.org

Sunday Morning Parking Team

Contact: Linda Kohlhagen  
lkohlhagen@southshores.org

Sunday Morning Hospitality Team

Contact: Linda Kohlhagen  
lkohlhagen@southshores.org

Front Office Volunteers

Contact: Linda Doucette  
ldoucette@southshores.org

Kids Ministry Teachers and Aids

Contact: Katie Poole  
katie@southshores.org

Tech Team: ProPresenter Operator, Camera Operator

Live Stream Producer

Contact Barbara Hughston  
Bhughston@southshores.org

Tech Team: Sound Board & Lighting

Contact Jack Spear  
jack@southshores.org

Contemporary Worship Team

Contact Rob Mayer  
rmayer@southshores.org

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 09 | November 7, 2021 | The Gospel Under Fire

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***BIG IDEA***

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***NOTES***

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***RESPONSE***

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ALL  
PEOPLE.  
EVERY-  
WHERE.

WEEK 09  
DAILY DEVOTIONS

- S Soak**  
Read the passage slowly **asking the Holy Spirit to open it to you.** What from its surroundings or style is important?
- O Observe**  
Take note of what is there. What is going on? **What seems significant?** Do you have any questions you'd like to ask the author?
- M Meaning**  
Think through **why this is in the Bible.** What is the author trying to say? What is the main point of the passage? How does this reflect God's promises and plans?
- A Apply**  
The **goal is transformation.** How will the meaning of this passage transform your head (knowledge/beliefs), heart (desires/attitudes), and hands (actions/habits)?

***southshores.org/soma***

**DAY 1**

**Acts 23:12-35**

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

# Group Discussion

WEEK 09

## STORIES OF GOD

Start with a story of God's power to transform (testimony or other life-change).

## INTRO QUESTION

Has there ever been a time when you felt like your life was under a microscope?

How did that affect you?



## OPEN SHARING

How did God get your attention this week in your devotional reading?

Was there any specific way you wanted to apply your reading into your life?

## FINAL QUESTIONS

Paul's story is troubling, but how do you see God's hand in his trials?

When you've gone through "trials," how have you seen God's hand at work?

How can that experience influence how you look to the future?

What is God preparing us for through these trials and afflictions? Is it worth it?

## PRAYER

Ask God for the strength to endure what you are facing now, the insight to see where God is at work, and the hope to see what God has for us in the future.



# Notes/Prayers

WEEK 09

## MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

**LILLIAN SOLT**  
**COSTA RICA | medical clinic**

Lillian runs a medical clinic in Costa Rica. Pray for her as she works with women, manages the clinic, and shares the gospel.

**[soltcedcas@cs.com](mailto:soltcedcas@cs.com)**



SERMON NOTES

WEEK 10 | November 14, 2021 | The Gospel of Promise

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***BIG IDEA***

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***NOTES***

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***RESPONSE***

ALL  
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WEEK 10  
DAILY DEVOTIONS

- S Soak**  
Read the passage slowly **asking the Holy Spirit to open it to you.** What from its surroundings or style is important?
- O Observe**  
Take note of what is there. What is going on? **What seems significant?** Do you have any questions you'd like to ask the author?
- M Meaning**  
Think through **why this is in the Bible.** What is the author trying to say? What is the main point of the passage? How does this reflect God's promises and plans?
- A Apply**  
The **goal is transformation.** How will the meaning of this passage transform your head (knowledge/beliefs), heart (desires/attitudes), and hands (actions/habits)?

[southshores.org/soma](http://southshores.org/soma)

DAY 1

Acts 27:1-12

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

# Group Discussion

WEEK 10

## STORIES OF GOD

Start with a story of God's power to transform (testimony or other life-change).

## INTRO QUESTION

What's your best travel disaster story? Was it worth it?

## OPEN SHARING

How did God get your attention this week in your devotional reading?

Was there any specific way you wanted to apply your reading into your life?

## FINAL QUESTIONS

Paul held out hope for reaching Rome because of God's promises to him. What promises do we have from God to help us have hope?

How can these promises free us to pursue God's goals for us?

What is the secret to finding contentment along the journey (even when the plans don't go the way we'd like)?

## PRAYER

Ask God to grow in our church and in us **a hunger for making disciples** and for **planting churches**.

# Notes/Prayers

WEEK 10

## MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

**FRANCIS & PRISCILLA BURGULA**  
INDIA | pastoral health

Francis and Priscilla help pastors keep on track. They offer retreats and instructions to keep them going. Pray for them and for the pastors they work with.

[Revburgula@yahoo.com](mailto:Revburgula@yahoo.com)



WEEK 11 | November 21, 2021 | The Gospel Unhindered

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***BIG IDEA***

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***NOTES***

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***RESPONSE***

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ALL  
PEOPLE.  
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WEEK 11  
DAILY DEVOTIONS

- S Soak**  
Read the passage slowly **asking the Holy Spirit to open it to you.** What from its surroundings or style is important?
- O Observe**  
Take note of what is there. What is going on? **What seems significant?** Do you have any questions you'd like to ask the author?
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The **goal is transformation.** How will the meaning of this passage transform your head (knowledge/beliefs), heart (desires/attitudes), and hands (actions/habits)?

**[southshores.org/soma](http://southshores.org/soma)**

**DAY 1**

**Acts 28:17-24**

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

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*Finish your time in prayer.*

**S****O****M****A**

*Finish your time in prayer.*

# Group Discussion

## WEEK 11 (BONUS WEEK)

### STORIES OF GOD

Start with a story of God's power to transform (testimony or other life-change).

### INTRO QUESTION

How has this series in Acts affected your view on the mission of the church and your place in it?

### OPEN SHARING

How did God get your attention this week in your devotional reading?

Was there any specific way you wanted to apply your reading into your life?

### FINAL QUESTIONS

How can Paul be under house arrest and yet “proclaim the kingdom... without hindrance”?

What, in your life, could be viewed as a hindrance against your freedom to share the gospel, but might actually be used by God in another way?

Philippians, Ephesians, and Colossians are letters written by Paul while under arrest in Rome. How did his arrest affect other believers?

How will you let your view of eternity and mission of the church affect how you live now?

### PRAYER

Pray that we will be workers for Christ who proclaim the kingdom with all boldness and without hindrance, no matter what barriers are in front of us.

# Notes/Prayers

WEEK 11

# UNHINDERED

## MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

**SCOTT & TERRI LAST**  
**GLOBAL | church planting**

Scott and Terri travel the world helping people build churches, often in communities without a church. Pray for them as they encourage, support, and engage in the lives of people wanting a church.

[scott@dcpi.org](mailto:scott@dcpi.org)



# REASONS AN ESTABLISHED CHURCH SHOULD PLANT CHURCHES

Adapted from *Planting Missional Churches*

by Ed Stetzer & Daniel Im (pgs 323-327)

## 1. TO REACH LOST PEOPLE

Church planting reaches lost people. Lost people need Jesus. We would challenge established church pastors to mother a church plant. You'll see that people will be won to Jesus in the churches you plant and in your church. Some that may be less receptive to your church will be receptive to your plant. That's why we want to plant churches that plant churches that plant churches.

## 2. TO FOLLOW A BIBLICAL PATTERN

When we look throughout the New Testament, we see church planting as an established pattern. It's the first thing the disciples did when they responded to the commissions of Jesus. They planted churches. Most of the churches recorded in the New Testament were involved in sending people in some form or another to start other churches. Every church started at some point. Let's model that spirit again and start more churches.

## 3. TO ENSURE CHURCH SURVIVAL

For any Christian movement to thrive, it has to plant churches. Statistically speaking, if a denomination or network just wants to "break even," it has to plant at least at a 3-percent level. A 5-percent increase is needed to grow. Ten percent is needed to thrive.

## 4. TO BENEFIT THE PLANTING CHURCH

Jeff Farmer did his PhD dissertation on how church planting impacts mother churches. Comparing churches of similar sizes and backgrounds, he found churches that were planting churches were healthier than those that did not. We believe that churches that plant become healthier in the process. When people hear stories of life change at the new church, they start to see their community differently.

## 5. TO REACH THE WESTERN WORLD

If we're going to reach the West for the gospel, thousands upon thousands of more churches are needed. The West is huge geographically, but even more than that, it's incredibly diverse culturally.

## 6. TO DEVELOP NEW LEADERS

One crucial imperative of new churches is leadership development. When new congregations demonstrate this capacity, leaders often arise at a more rapid pace than in older churches. The appearance of new leaders may actually outpace the new church's needs. As leaders are sent out, God replaces those leaders and allows even more people to become involved in the leadership core of the church.

## 7. TO SEE THE KINGDOM GROW

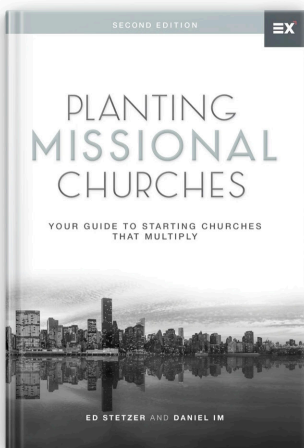
A maturing kingdom awareness is more important than a local church mentality. Church leaders need to look beyond their local churches. When congregations initiate daughter churches, God's purposes are accomplished more effectively than when churches conserve resources in order to optimize local organizational strength and vitality.

## 8. TO TRANSMIT A LASTING LEGACY

Daughter churches can look with feelings of contentment upon their parentage in the faith. Their legacy lends strength to these churches, enabling them to feel more thoroughly rooted and grounded in history. Sponsoring churches also become excited as they see God's people multiply and God's kingdom grow because they're passing along their heritage to a new generation of churches.

## 9. TO GLORIFY GOD

Although many people in a community may never attend your new church start, your presence represents the presence and the power of God to a community. God proclaims who He is as His people establish new churches. **New churches are a great testimony to a great God!**



**Planting Missional Churches**  
Your Guide to Starting Churches that Multiply  
Ed Stetzer & Daniel Im

*“If we’re going to reach the West for the gospel, thousands upon thousands of more churches are needed.”*

-- Stetzer & Im (p.325)

# A PREGNANT CHURCH

## *Beginning the Process of Birthing New Life*

On April 9, 2017, near the end of my Palm Sunday sermon, I said,

“I want our church to get pregnant.”

This vivid expression was, of course, no surprise to Pastor Ty who had assigned me the task of studying church growth through multiplication with an emphasis on church planting.

So I continued,

“Our mission is growing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ – we are trying to accomplish this here at South Shores through **reaching** the lost, **growing** believers, and **empowering** disciples.

But I believe that we can also be **reaching** communities beyond our own, **growing** new churches, and **empowering** them to do the same.

You see, we are an exceptional church standing in an exceptional time in our history where we will have the facilities, abilities and leadership to not only grow our own church family, but to also train up and send out pastors and members into different parts of Orange County for the purpose of starting new churches; churches that will reach those whom we cannot.

Any way that we seek to fulfill the mission will have costs, but I believe that there is greater joy waiting for us to walk into with Christ that will make it all worth it. And if we stick to the mission with that joy in mind – then we will be able to enter into whatever comes our way, by the grace of God.

Join me, Pastor Ty and our deacons, in praying toward that end, that we would continue to grow in saved people, in spiritual maturity, in obedience to Christ and that we as a church, some time in the future, would **conceive** because of the joy set before us.”

When I returned from my 3 months of studying, listening, and dreaming I realized that we were not yet ready to plant. We needed time. Time to focus on how we are intentionally making disciples, how we are intentionally building a culture we would want to see replicated elsewhere, and how we are intentionally building a love for all people everywhere and a heart that says, “even if it takes risk and sacrifice, we will do what it takes for the kingdom of God.”



Since 2017, I think God has accomplished many of these pre-requisites for church planting:

- Our pastoral staff spent over a year studying what it means for a church to make disciples. This led to changes in our ministry emphases, our small groups, and the starting of ROOTED.
- We worked on our culture through establishing the five core values we want to see present in everything we do: Anchored in God's Word, Known by Love, Rescued to Reach, Partnered in Prayer, and Investing in What's Next.
- We increased our support of church planters internationally and in the United States as well as increasing their visibility and presence at church so we are regularly considering what God is doing around the world.
- We raised our awareness of the Great Commission through book studies on church planting, disciple making, and evangelism.
- We moved into incredible facilities that stand ready as a launching point for outreach, training, and support.
- And through the sale of the CVCS campus, we set aside money for the purpose of identifying, launching, and supporting church plants in Southern California.

With all the progress that has been made as God continues to bless and grow South Shores Church, it is more evident than ever, that it is not about what I want, or what Pastor Ty wants, but what God wants and how God is moving our people to respond to His Great Commission - to make disciples and help those disciples grow and replicate in churches.

I hope this booklet has been helpful. I hope as you have read God's Word, discussed it, prayed, listened to sermons, read articles, and maybe even dreamed a little, that you have started to catch a vision for all that God wants to do through South Shores Church and through you.

Paul fully caught on to the reality of a bold and unhindered ministry because He knew it was part of God's plan and because he had tasted the joy of joining God's mission. So join with us, your pastors and church leadership in imagining what God will do beyond this church campus: to plant, to reach the community, to expand our missions support; all part of the work of God to bring the Gospel of God to **all people everywhere... unhindered.**

## **Derick Zeulner**

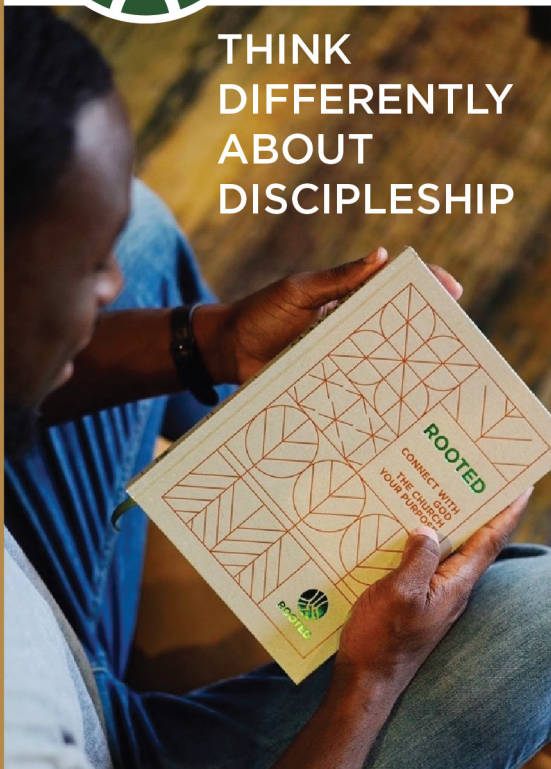
Associate Pastor  
South Shores Church

P.S. To watch the full 2017 sermon, visit [www.vimeo.com/212534188](http://www.vimeo.com/212534188)



# ROOTED

THINK  
DIFFERENTLY  
ABOUT  
DISCIPLESHIP



Establish firm roots and practices in the truth of God's word.

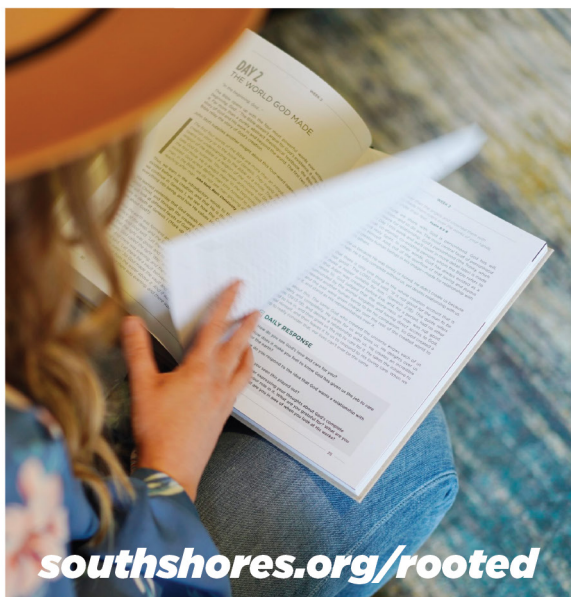
Experience authentic community.

Share your story.

Live your purpose.

**New groups forming now to start in January 2022.**

Register online.



[southshores.org/rooted](https://southshores.org/rooted)

*...proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ **with all boldness and without hindrance.***

**ACTS 28:31**





32712 CROWN VALLEY PKWY, DANA POINT, CA 92629  
SOUTHSHORES.ORG