

# "Acts" of Being A Disciple

30 Week  
Bible Story Set



BLACKHAWK  
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*Life* **GROUPS**

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# The ACTS of a Disciple

This study will be life-transforming as we take a journey into discovering what it means to live a life of a disciple.

## What is a disciple?

A disciple is one who is committed to **following** Christ, and has made Jesus Lord of their life. (Luke 9:23) One who is committed to being **changed** by Christ and is becoming like Him in attitude and action. (John 15:8; Romans 8:29) A disciple is one who is committed to the **mission** of Christ. (Mathew 4:19; 2 Cor.5:19-20)

The book of Acts will be challenging to study, as we examine how the early church lived out their faith in relational environments for the purpose of discipleship. Over the course of this year we want you to consider not how church is being done today but rather to look at how Jesus modeled building relationships and how they did life together.

## Acts 2:42-47

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and the apostles did many wonders and miraculous signs. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily to those who were being saved.”*

## Questions to consider as we work through this study?

What things in my life need to change for me to move forward in becoming a disciple?

What level am I in the discipleship process?

How am I living out in my personal life the intentional process of making disciples?

In what area in ministry are you currently serving?

This study will help us to understand that Christ's mandate to every believer is to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations". In order to be effective we must look at the kind of environments we are creating in our church. Disciples can only be made through building intentional relationships in a safe environment where individuals can be honest and transparent.

Our prayer is that this study would become so personal that God would change our heart and lives to the point that we would never be the same again.

Join us as we take this journey together to see how God moves each of us to become true disciples.

# Curriculum Notes

At the top of the first page you will see the story's passage location, the story's main theme that we will be exploring, and the corresponding week number.

Here is the layout for the curriculum and therefore for your home group.



**Leader Reminders:** This area will have special notes for you as the home leader. Ideas, upcoming events, and things you need to know, etc... We also have a page on our Small Group website where leaders can download needed materials.



**Pre-Story Hook:** Use the hook question or statement before telling the story. This is a tool to get your people thinking about the theme of the story before it is told. It is helpful to answer the hook question yourself in the group by telling a story to your group, then asking them to think about the question or statement themselves before telling them the story from the Bible.



**Transition:** This is the compass for determining where we are in God's Story. Briefly summarize last week's story and what has happened leading into this week's story.



**Tell the Story:** The story is the nuts and bolts, or the cogs, of our entire group. Tell the story as best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, **JUST TELL THE STORY**. Again, the objective is not to memorize it, but to learn it and be able to share it.

**Rebuild:** Chronologically rebuild the story or passage by asking questions, have the group look for what was added or left out.



**Head, Heart and Hand Questions:** These questions are used to understand how the Word of God is shaping our lives. We use these “Head, Heart and Hand Questions” to help you clearly identify who God is and who we are in relationship with Him.

Head questions deal with what we need to know. Heart questions deal with attitudes or beliefs that either need to be challenged or strengthened. The goal here is life transformation. Hand questions take what we have learned and our changed heart and apply it to our behavior.

# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

# Salvation – John 3:1-21

Week 1

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## LEADER'S GUIDE:

You will end this week by modeling how to share your testimony with someone and how to include the Gospel message in your testimony. Remember, the group will only share things as deep as the leader is willing to share.

Your group needs to come prepared to share their testimony next week (allow people to “pass.” Do not make it mandatory). They should be able to do it in 3-5 minutes each for this exercise. It is easier to expand your story when time is appropriate.



## HOOK:

What barriers stand in the way of people believing in Christ today?



## TRANSITION:

A Jewish religious leader comes to Jesus in the evening asking questions about what it really means to be saved. Listen to the story as Jesus shares how we too can have eternal life.

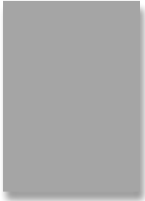


## TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story, as best as you can, don't stop and teach, don't make points, just tell the story. Again, the objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.

## SALVATION – John 3:1-21

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open. Have the group look for what was added or left out. Ask questions to help the group rebuild the story.



Reaching the World for Christ One Person at a Time...  
Creating Biblical Disciples in Relational Environments.

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**Head:**  
What do you learn about Jesus?  
What do I learn about human nature?  
What is the difference between being religious and being born again?

**Heart:**  
Have you accepted Christ as your Savior?  
Why did you put your faith Him?

**Hands:**  
Prepare to tell us next week your story (your testimony) of how Jesus saved you and is active in your life today.

PRAYER REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

# Salvation – John 3:1-21

Week 2

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## LEADER'S GUIDE:

Re-cap the story from last week at the beginning of group and review what being a witness looks like. It may be difficult, but we recommend having everyone give their testimony in 3-5 minutes each before you start deeply discussing them. This will give everyone an opportunity to share first.

This should be a time when people learn a lot more about each other and are coached on telling their story. Obviously, you will need to use discernment. Again, allow people to “pass” on this activity.



## TRANSITION:

Last week we told the story of Nicodemus as he asked Jesus how to be saved. Tonight we want to share the story of Christ's activity in our lives. We tell stories all the time, and tonight we want to share with each other the greatest story we know, our testimony. Our testimony is who we were before Christ, how we met Christ, and what has happened since meeting Christ.



## TELL THE STORY:

Tell us your story of your walk with Christ.



# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

# Baptism – Acts 8:26-40

Week 3

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## LEADER'S GUIDE:

This week we are talking about baptism. This is a great opportunity to ask your group if they have followed Christ in baptism. If they have not and would like to, please let your small group coach know so that we can schedule it.

\*Special note: Ask someone of the opposite gender to learn the story for next week. See leader's note for next week for further explanation.



## HOOK:

Tell of an occasion when you know God used you in someone else's life.



## TRANSITION:

The past two weeks we have talked about salvation. What is the first step of obedience in the life of a believer as a result of their salvation? Listen to this story from the book of Acts:



## TELL THE STORY:

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## Rebuild the Story:

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**Head:**

What did I learn from this story?  
Why is baptism important?  
Is it important that you accept Christ as your Savior before you are baptized? Why?

**Heart:**

Have you followed Christ in baptism following your salvation experience?  
Why was your baptism special to you?

**Hands:**

What does God expect me to do as a result of this story?

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

## Small Groups – Acts 2:42-47

Week 4

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### LEADER'S GUIDE:

We are four weeks into our story set. You should not be telling the story every week from this point forward.

Option 1: Stay with the entire group for the story this week.

Option 2: Break into men's and women's groups for the week.



### HOOK:

What are characteristics of a good / healthy small group?



### TRANSITION:

Jesus has ascended into heaven and the Holy Spirit has come to the world through the hearts of the believers. Jesus disciples began to share the story of the promised Messiah and how Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies and was that Messiah. The church began to explode with growth. Listen to this story of what the church looked like when it was birthed.



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**Head:**

How does the early church look different from what we have made church to be today?  
What is the significance of small groups in churches today?

**Heart:**

How does small groups aid in your ability to grow in your faith?  
What challenges me as a result of the story?

**Hands:**

What does our small group need to do differently to look more like the early church?

PRAYER REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

# Solitude – 1 Cor. 11:27-34

Week 5



## LEADER'S GUIDE:

Next week we will celebrate the Lord's Supper together as a small group. Remember to purchase, or have someone else purchase, pita bread and grape juice.



## HOOK:

Why does a boss take time to evaluate his company and his worker's performance? Or why does a teacher give report cards?



## TRANSITION:

Communion is a very serious time in a believer's life. It is a time when the believer looks inwardly and reflects on the condition of their heart in light of who God is in their life. Listen to this story:

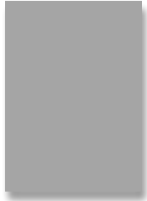


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**Head:**

Why does God take communion so seriously?  
What challenges me as a result of hearing this story?

**Heart:**

Why is the Lord’s Supper important to you?  
Have you ever been convicted that you should not take communion? Did you anyway?

**Hands:**

This week spend time alone with God preparing to take communion here in small group next week.

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

# Lord's Supper – 1 Cor. 11:17-26

Week 6

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## LEADER'S GUIDE:

If you have any questions about how to give the Lord's Supper, contact your coach or one of the pastors.



## TRANSITION:

Last week we heard the story of how seriously God takes our attitude when it comes to taking the Lord's Supper. Tonight we will take communion together but before we do let's read the story again.



**Read:** 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

**Give time for silent personal prayer. Leader closes in a prayer of blessing.**

**Distribute the bread and the juice and take them.**



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**NOTES:**

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

# Bible Study – Acts 17:10-15

Week 7

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## LEADER'S GUIDE:

Remind your group that this is a safe place to share their lives. And what is shared in this group must stay here unless you have permission to share it with others. Nothing will destroy trust in a group faster than gossip.



## HOOK:

Why is it important for people to know how to study the Bible?



## TRANSITION:

It is important to know biblical truth. Listen to this story of how important the believers in one city understood Scripture to be.

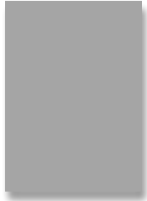


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**Head:**

What did I learn from this story?

Do you search the Bible to see if what your pastor says is true or do you just accept his word for it? If you take his word for it, what are the dangers in that?

How do you study your bible?

**Heart:**

What struggle or tension becomes apparent in your life as a result of this story? Why?

What hopes and dreams does this evoke in you?

**Hands:**

What are you going to do differently as a result of this story?

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

# Prayer – Mark 13:32-41

Week 8

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## LEADER'S GUIDE:

Don't forget to take a break from these studies for times of pure fellowship. Please schedule a get together with another small group and do something fun. Be sure to set something up at least every other month. This is also a good opportunity to invite new people to your group! Is it time to get something scheduled?



## HOOK:

Why is communication important in relationships?



## TRANSITION:

Jesus is talking to his disciples about his second coming and what the disciples should be doing before He returns. Listen to Jesus instruction:

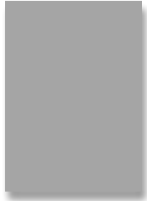


## TELL THE STORY:

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## Rebuild the Story

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**Head:**

What was Jesus teaching his disciples?  
What part of the story is hard to understand?

**Heart:**

What attitude in me does this challenge? Why?  
Is your life characterized by prayer? Why or why not?

**Hands:**

How do you intend to live the truth of this story out in your life? How can we as your small group help you in that commitment?

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

# Prayer – Matt. 6:5-15

Week 9

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## LEADER'S GUIDE:

Remind your small group to be praying for each other this week. Maybe even draw names out of a hat making sure everyone in the group is praying for someone else.



## HOOK:

Why do you pray?



## TRANSITION:

Jesus is preaching his most famous sermon on the mount. In the midst of his sermon he speaks about prayer. Listen to the words Jesus spoke:



## TELL THE STORY:

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## Rebuild the Story

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**Head:**

What are some examples of common vain repetitious prayers that we pray?  
What makes a prayer vain or repetitious?  
What does this passage teach us of how Jesus views prayer?

**Heart:**

What struggle or tension becomes apparent in your life as a result of this story?

**Hands:**

How will this change your prayer life?

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

# Fasting – Matt. 6:16-18

Week 10

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## LEADER'S GUIDE:

This week you will story about fasting. We want to challenge you and your small group to fast one day between this week and next praying for: 1. Our church and its leaders. 2. Our group – each other AND those we would like to invite. Make sure they know that next week you will be talking about the fasting experience in-group.



## HOOK:

What do you think fasting is?



## TRANSITION:

Jesus just finished warning not to do anything for show or vain repetition, and he continues with that same message when you fast. Fasting is a spiritual discipline that we as believers are commanded to do. Listen to Jesus words concerning fasting:

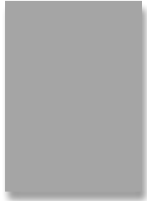


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## Rebuild the Story

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**Head:**

Why does God expect you to fast?  
What happens when you fast?

**Heart:**

What keeps you from fasting?  
Are you willing to give up food (or TV, hobby time, etc...) in order to know God better? Why or why not?

**Hands:**

As a private action of our small group, not to be showy, take 24 hours to fast and pray for God to move in our church and our small groups. If you medically cannot fast from food, fast from something else that is important to you.

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

## Fasting Debrief

Week 11

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### LEADER'S GUIDE:

Remind your small group that next week is Thanksgiving. We will not meet as a small group next week. We will meet as a larger church body though – see the November calendar.



### TRANSITION:

Last week we challenged you to spend 24 hours in a time of praying and fasting.



### TELL THE STORY:

Tell us what your time of fasting meant to you. What did you learn?

# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

# Spiritual Gifts – Romans 12:1-8

Week 12

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## LEADER'S GUIDE:

Remember that there are many different beliefs about spiritual gifts. Cover the ground rules well and hold everyone accountable so that there is no fixing or other ground rules being broken by your group. Make it a safe and respectful environment for all who are there.



## HOOK:

What is the best gift you have ever received?



## TRANSITION:

The Holy Spirit indwells every believer at the moment of salvation and gives them supernatural gifts. The Scriptures tonight deal with 8 spiritual gifts. Listen to this passage from Romans:

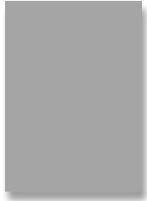


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**Head:**

- What do I learn about God?
- Why does God give spiritual gifts to the church?
- What are the possible results of people not knowing or not using their spiritual gifts?

**Heart:**

- Which of these gifts do you think you might have? Why?
- What hopes and dreams does this evoke in you?

**Hands:**

- How do you intend to live the truth of this passage out within the life of your church?

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

## Missions/Evangelism – Acts 1:1-11

Week 13

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### LEADER'S GUIDE:

This is a good time to remind your group that this is a place where we can be open, honest and transparent with ourselves and each other. Above all we seek to protect the unity of the group.



### HOOK:

If you were about to leave your family and friends for an extended period of time, what would you say to them before you left?



### TRANSITION:

After Jesus has risen, he appeared to his disciples and many others over the period of forty days. The last words Jesus spoke to his disciples face to face, before ascending to heaven, were these:

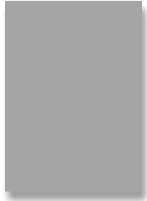


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**Head:**

What was Jesus teaching his disciples?  
What is the role of the Holy Spirit in evangelism / missions?

**Heart:**

Do you share your faith with others?  
What struggle or tension becomes apparent in your life as a result of this story? Why?  
What hopes and dreams does this evoke in you? Why?

**Hands:**

Who does God expect you to talk with about Christ as a result of this story?

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

## Missions/Evangelism – 2 Cor. 5:11-21

Week 14

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### LEADER'S GUIDE:

Ask your group to do self-evaluation during the group. Have your small group members ask themselves: 'How is what I am saying affecting others in the group?' OR 'How does how I am acting affect others in the group?'



### HOOK:

What are some emotions or reasons that keep people from sharing their faith?



### TRANSITION:

Paul is writing to the church in Corinth that was struggling to understand what Christ has called them to be and do in this world. Listen as Paul challenges the church at Corinth to share their faith.



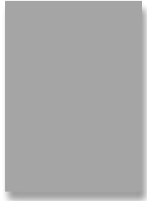
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**Head:**

- What do I learn about Jesus in this story?
- What do I learn about human nature from this story?
- What does it mean to be Christ’s ambassador?

**Heart:**

- God is active in your life. What can you celebrate that He is doing in you that this story brings to mind?
- Do you share your faith intentionally with others? Why or why not?

**Hands:**

- What does God expect you to do as a result of this story?

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

## Fellowship – Acts 4:32-5:11

Week 15



### LEADER'S GUIDE:

Remind your small group: If you are an over talker, remember to let others speak. If you are an under talker, speak up. As a leader feel free to cut people off and pull other people into the conversation by asking them their opinion specifically.



### HOOK:

Name some of the characteristics necessary to have good relationships with others.



### TRANSITION:

Jesus has ascended back to heaven. His disciples gathered to pray for several days as they waited for the Holy Spirit whom Jesus had promised. When the Holy Spirit came, the disciples began to share the Good News of Christ's life, death and resurrection with many people. Thousands were coming to faith and into the church. Listen to this story from God's word:

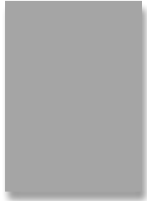


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**Head:**

Who do you identify with more, the disciples who shared with others or Ananias and Sapphira in their selfishness? Why?

Why were Ananias and Sapphira judged so harshly?

How do a person’s actions or attitudes affect a small group?

**Heart:**

Have your personal actions or attitudes over the course of the year helped foster better relationships in your small group or damaged them? Why?

**Hands:**

How do you intend to live the truth of this story out in your life?

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

## Fellowship – Matt. 18:15-20

Week 16



### LEADER'S GUIDE:

Consider making some plans for your group to serve somewhere together soon. Call the church office or find a project near you – is there a family you know who could use some help with something? Assign someone in your group to organize this (?)



### HOOK:

When someone wrongs you, what do you personally do to begin to restore the relationship? Or do you walk away and not give the person another chance?



### TRANSITION:

Jesus said the greatest thing you can do to please God in your life is to love Him above everything else and to love others as much as you love yourself. Jesus, who valued relationships over everything else we do, knew that sometimes in our relationships we would be hurt by those closest to us. So, he gave us guidelines on restoring friendships gone awry. Listen to this story from God's word:

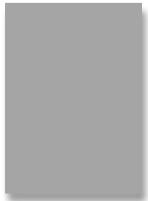


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**Head:**

What do you learn from this story?  
Why does Jesus take our relationships so seriously?  
What does Jesus mean to treat them like tax collectors or unbelievers should they not repent?

**Heart:**

What do you struggle with in this story?  
*THINK ABOUT THIS QUESTION. DO NOT ANSWER ALOUD.* Is there a relationship right now in your life that you need to attempt to restore?  
ANSWER THIS: What is your role in attempting to restore those relationships?

**Hands:**

What does God expect me to do as a result of this story?

PRAYER REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

## ACTS of a Disciple

# Service – Acts 6:1-7

Week 17

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### LEADER'S GUIDE:

Share final plans on how your group can do a service project together for next week. Make certain everyone knows where you are going next week and what, if anything, they need to bring.



### HOOK:

Are you personally known more for what you do (your occupation) or your character? What is the difference?



### TRANSITION:

As the church continued to explode with new people coming to Christ daily, the disciples could not keep up with all of the work that had to be done by themselves. They found themselves incapable of being everywhere for everyone. Listen to this story from God's word:

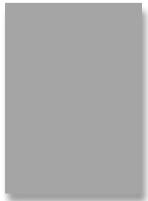


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**Head:**

What was the problem the early church was facing?

What issues does our church face in service areas (i.e. nursery, youth, small groups, greeting, etc...)?

Based on this story, what characteristics do you think we should look for in a small group apprentice?

**Heart:**

What areas of the church do you serve in? How do you think your service affects others?

Why do some people choose not to serve anywhere in church? What are some answers you would have for them to their issues?

**Hands:**

In which area or ministry of the church can you serve?

Next week we will do a service project together as a small group!

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

## Service Project

Week 18

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### LEADER'S Guide:

This is the week to get your group serving together. Make plans, execute, and document the results, both tangible results and spiritual results that you observe in your group. Use the space provided below to make notes of significant events that take place and send in a copy to Midway so we can all celebrate together!





# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

# Hardship – 1 Peter 3:13-22

Week 19



## LEADER'S GUIDE:

Remind your group that this is a safe place to share their lives. And what is shared in this group must stay here unless you have permission to share it with others. Nothing will destroy trust in a group faster than gossip.



## HOOK:

We say, 'No good deed goes unpunished.' Can you remember a time when you did the right thing but got in trouble for it?



## TRANSITION:

As you hear the story this week from God's Word, know that Peter, one of Jesus best friends and the writer of this book, is honest enough to tell you that life is seldom easy. In fact, as you live out your Christian faith in this world, you should expect to be mistreated. Where, then, is our hope? Listen to what Peter tells us:



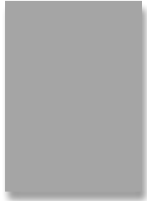
PRAYER

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**Head:**

What do you learn about Jesus in this passage?  
What part of this passage do you struggle with? Why?  
Why is suffering a part of the Christian life? Why doesn't God act so we don't have to suffer?

**Heart:**

In what ways have you suffered on account of your faith in Christ?  
Where did you get encouragement during those difficult days?

**Hands:**

What are you going to do as a result of hearing this passage to stand up for Christ despite the difficult position it could put you in?

PRAYER REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

## Salvation – Acts 10:1-48

Week 20



### LEADER'S GUIDE:

Ask someone of the opposite gender to learn the story for next week. See leader's note for next week for further explanation.



### HOOK:

What is your reaction when you hear that people such as serial killer Ted Bundy have given their lives to Christ and will be with you eternally in heaven?



### TRANSITION:

The church is continuing to grow in the Jewish communities around the Roman Empire, but Jesus intended for the Good News of His Salvation to go farther than even His disciples realized. Jesus intended His salvation to be sent to even the non-Jewish, or Gentile, people. This intention of our Lord sent shockwaves through the disciple Peter in this story from God's Word:

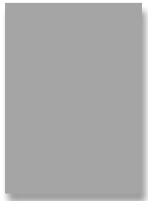


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**Head:**

What was God teaching Peter?

Do you believe God is serious about the entire world hearing the news of His Son, Jesus?

Why?

What challenges me as a result of hearing this story?

**Heart:**

What do you learn about yourself in this story?

What attitude in me does this challenge? Why?

**Hands:**

What person in your life needs to hear the story of Christ? What needs to happen for you to tell them the Good News?

Can we as a small group hold you accountable to speak with them this week?

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

## Bible Study – Neh. 8:1-12

Week 21



### LEADER'S GUIDE:

If you are still telling the story and facilitating every week, STOP! We want to reproduce you as a leader! Let someone else, an apprentice, share the task.

Option 1: Stay with the entire group for the story this week.

Option 2: Break into men and women's groups for the week.



### HOOK:

How would you describe your effort and desire in studying God's Word?



### TRANSITION:

Nehemiah was a called and determined man. God placed a vision in Nehemiah's heart to restore the city of Jerusalem. Nehemiah didn't push the responsibility off on anyone else. He got to work. As the city walls neared completion the Jews were excited about what God was doing in their city and through Nehemiah, they began to seek God's word for what He wanted from their lives. Listen to this story from God's Word:

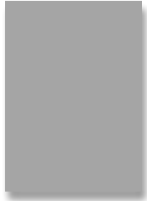


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**Head:**

Is there a need for Bible Study today? What are some of those needs?  
How did the people respond to the reading of God’s Word?  
How is the way we respond to the Word different today?

**Heart:**

What struggle or tension becomes apparent in your life as a result of this story? Why?  
God is a God who wants to speak to you. Why is that significant?

**Hands:**

How do you intend to live the truth of this story out in your life?

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

## Obedience – Acts 4:13-22

Week 22

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### LEADER'S GUIDE:

Challenge you small group to be faithful to come to group and to continue to make it a priority in your family.



### HOOK:

Obedience isn't always easy. What would you say are some of the reasons we sacrifice being obedient to the Lord?



### TRANSITION:

As Peter and John were headed to the Temple one day they met a beggar who was lame from birth. Peter and John explained to the man they had no money, but something so much better. They healed the man in the name of Jesus who was just recently crucified. This stirred up anger with the Jewish religious leaders and who have had Peter and John arrested. Listen to this story from God's Word as Peter and John are questioned by the Jewish religious elite:

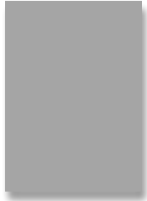


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**Head:**

What are the attributes of Peter and John’s lives described in vs. 13? Which one most speaks to you and why?

What were the results of Peter and John’s obedience to Christ?

Do you think the Peter and John had a hard time doing what God (Jesus) asked them to do?

**Heart:**

How do people nearest to you know that you have been ‘with Christ?’

God is active in your life. What can you celebrate that He is doing in you that this story brings to mind?

Tell a time when you obeyed something you knew God was telling you to do and the results of that obedience.

**Hands:**

How will you honor Christ by obeying Him this week?

PRAYER REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

## Solitude – Luke 4:1-13

Week 23



### LEADER'S GUIDE:

Challenge your small group to make the time - between this week and next - to spend time alone with God without any distractions. Inform them that we will spend next week debriefing on how we practice this weeks story during the upcoming week.



### HOOK:

What distractions interrupt opportunities for solitude? Can we potentially prepare ourselves for some of these distractions?



### TRANSITION:

The Old Testament foretold of a Messiah that was coming. The New Testament opens with John the Baptist is proclaiming that same message. Soon after John proclaims Jesus to be this awaited Messiah and baptizes Him, Jesus begins His ministry by going alone into the wilderness for several days. Listen to this story from Scripture:

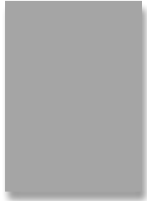


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**Head:**

What do you learn about Jesus in this story?  
What do you learn about Satan in this story?  
How does it encourage you to know that Jesus was tempted to sin (even though He did not do so)?

**Heart:**

Before He began His ministry, Jesus went to be alone; to pray and fast. When do you make time to get alone with God in your life?  
When you do spend time with God, what do you do?  
How does Satan attempt to interrupt your times with God? What is your response to him?

**Hands:**

This may take planning on your part. This week set aside 30 minutes, an hour, the time duration does not matter. But get alone with God this week. Use this time to get out of your routine. Take a walk; go to a park, a garden, the lake, the mountains, anywhere. Spend time talking and listening to God. Focus your thoughts on your Heavenly Father’s love for you and your love for Him. Thank Him for His expressions of His love to you. Be specific. Take time to worship and adore Him.

Next week we will discuss the solitude time you spent with Christ.

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

## ACTS of a Disciple

# Solitude Debrief

Week 24

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### LEADER'S GUIDE:

Have everyone in your small group learn the story for next week, because you as a leader will call on someone to tell the story next week. Please don't tell them who it is until your next meeting time. This will give everyone an opportunity to get involved.



**Last week:** We told the story of Jesus getting alone with God before He started His ministry. We talked about why spending time alone with God was important and then I challenged you to get alone with God for a period of time one day during the week. Let's talk about that time:



**Leaders:** Allow one person to answer these questions (or other questions you would like to ask) before moving on to someone else and asking them to answer. We want people to have opportunity to share of their experience with God.



### Solitude Questions:

Did you spend time alone with God this past week? Where did you go?  
What did you do in your time alone with Him?  
How did your time alone encourage you?  
What did you learn from the experience?

# STORY Small Groups – Exodus 11:1-10, 12:12-31

ACTS of a Disciple

Week 25

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## LEADER'S GUIDE:

Next week will be on the subject of FAITH... As your group discusses the impact of small groups this week, challenge your group to consider how the group could collectively take a leap of faith together during the upcoming week so you can discuss it next week.



## HOOK:

What's your greatest concern in what is being passed on to the generations behind us?



## TRANSITION:

The Israelites have been held as slaves in Egypt for four hundred years. But God has not forgotten His people. He called to Moses from a burning bush and told him to go back and tell the Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Pharaoh did not. God then sent a series of plagues. Nine have passed. This is the story of the final plague and the command God gives His people in what to do to remember His actions:

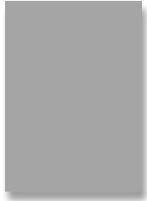


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**Head:**

- What do you learn about God in this story?
- Why do you think God went to such specifics of how to remember His actions?
- What part of the story do you struggle with?
- Is it significant that Jesus died (and was resurrected) during the week of Passover? Why?
- How do Easter and the Passover show us the picture of God’s salvation?

**Heart:**

As Easter approaches, in what ways do you prepare yourself to celebrate it? If you don’t, why not?

**Hands:**

This week spend time alone with God preparing to take communion here in small group next week.

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

# Faith – Exodus 14:5-31

Week 26

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## LEADER'S GUIDE:

Remind your small group to be praying for each other this week. Maybe even draw names out of a hat making sure everyone in the group is praying for someone else.



## HOOK:

What is the most daring thing you have done?



## TRANSITION:

The Israelites were God's chosen people. Just before our story begins they had been enslaved to the Egyptians and Pharaoh. Through Moses, God provided a way for them out of that bondage. It only took a series of plagues and miracles, but they were finally free. Listen to this story as the Israelites were fleeing from Egypt:

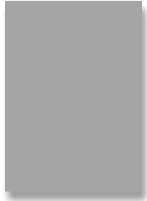


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**Head:**

Do you think Moses in this story struggled doing what God asked him to do?

What do you learn about human nature in this story?

Who do you identify with most in this story; Moses having faith or the Israelites doubting?

Why?

**Heart:**

What makes trusting God (faith) difficult for you?

**Hands:**

How do you intend to live the truth of this story out in your life?

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

## Faith – Mark 2:1-12

Week 27

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### LEADER'S GUIDE:

This is a good time to remind your group that this is a place where we can be open, honest and transparent with ourselves and each other. Above all we seek to protect the unity of the group.



### HOOK:

What does it to you mean to “have faith?”



### TRANSITION:

Jesus had just been baptized by John and was walking in Galilee when he came upon Simon Peter and Andrew. He called them to be his first disciples. They were with Jesus when this story happened:



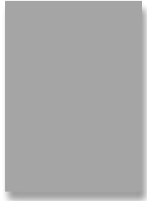
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**Head:**

What did you learn from this story?

What do you think Jesus was teaching His disciples (and us)?

What were the struggles of the men who carried the paralytic in coming to Jesus? What was their reward for bringing their friend to Jesus?

**Heart:**

Can you tell of a time when you did place your faith in what you knew God was telling you to do? What were the results of acting out your faith?

**Hands:**

What does God expect me to do as a result of this story?

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

# Missions/Evangelism – Matt. 13:1-9

ACTS of a Disciple

Week 28

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## LEADER'S GUIDE:

Ask your small group members to write down their answer to this question, “What does small group mean to me?” Have them bring their answer to small group and ask if you can share it with the church staff. Send a list of your group's answers in to the church.



## HOOK:

What is your parents' favorite story to tell about you?



## TRANSITION:

Jesus was a master storyteller. In our story tonight, Jesus tells a group of people a parable but he only explains the parable to his disciples. Listen to what Jesus himself taught:

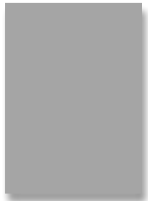


## TELL THE STORY:

Tell the story as best as you can, don't stop and teach, don't make points, just tell the story. Again, the objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.

## Rebuild the Story

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open. Have the group look for what was added or left out. Ask questions to help the group rebuild the story.



## Reaching the World for Christ One Person at a Time... Creating Biblical Disciples in Relational Environments.

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**Head, Heart and Hand Questions:** These questions are used to understand how the Word of God is shaping our lives. We use these “Head, Heart and Hand Questions” to help you clearly identify who God is and who we are in relationship with Him.

Head questions deal with what we need to know. Heart questions deal with attitudes or beliefs that either need to be challenged or strengthened. The goal here is life transformation. Hand questions take what we have learned and our changed heart and apply it to our behavior.



**Head:**

What was Jesus teaching His disciples (and us)?  
What do you learn about human nature in this story?  
What part of the story is difficult to understand?

**Heart:**

What attitude in me does this challenge? Why?  
Have you invited people to church, small group or to a relationship with Christ this year? What was their response? Based on this story from Jesus, what should your next step be with them?

**Hands:**

As a small group, create a list of names of people you know whom you feel compelled to share the Good News of Christ with. Then spend time praying for those people and for your courage as you go!

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

## ACTS of a Disciple

# Making Disciples – Deut. 31:1-8

Week 29



### LEADER'S GUIDE:

This week is all about making disciples. This would be a great time to remind the group of the definition of disciple that we use at Midway using Matthew 4:19. A disciple is one who is following Jesus (“Come, follow Me”), being changed by Jesus (“and I will make you”), and committed to the mission of Jesus (“fishers of men”).



### HOOK:

Tell of a moment when you realized, “I sound just like my parents?” Or, tell of how you see your kids doing or saying the things you say and do.



### TRANSITION:

A great hero of the Old Testament, Moses, is about to die. Because he did not obey the Lord earlier in his life, God did not allow him to enter into the land God had promised to the Israelites. Just before his death, Moses called an assembly and passed his leadership on to the person whom he had invested heavily:

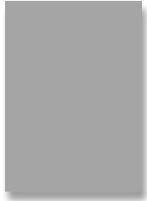


### TELL THE STORY:

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### Rebuild the Story

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open. Have the group look for what was added or left out. Ask questions to help the group rebuild the story.



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**Head:**

- What did you learn from this story?
- What challenges me as a result of hearing this story?
- What role does relationship play in passing the work of your life on to someone?

**Heart:**

- What hopes and dreams does this evoke in you? Why?
- What scares you the most in trying to help other’s grow in their faith?

**Hands:**

- Who are you intentionally helping to grow in their faith? In what ways are you modeling for them what being a disciple is?

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# STORY

ACTS of a Disciple

## Making Disciples – Matt. 28:16-20

Week 30



### LEADER'S GUIDE:

Spend time this week planning a group celebration over the next month or so. Join with another small group for twice the fun! Making disciples together with other groups not only doubles the fun, it also teaches disciples to work in unity along other followers of Jesus.



### HOOK:

Thinking back over the entire set of this small group study, what are some things, attitudes or actions, that should characterize our lives as disciples of Christ?



### TRANSITION:

Jesus has raised himself from the grave. Over the course of the next forty days Jesus gave his disciples further instruction on what He expects of them. In perhaps one of the most well known passages in the Bible, Jesus lays out his instruction clearly. Listen to Jesus command to his disciples then, and as we are his disciples as well, he speaks this to us as well:

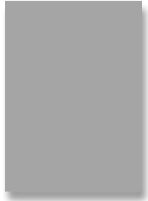


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**Head:**

What do you understand this passage to mean?

Do you think the disciples in this story had a hard time understanding what Jesus asked them to do? Why or why not?

How much trust did Jesus put in His disciples (and continues to put in us today)?

How did Jesus make disciples and how should we?

**Hearts:**

What attitude in me does this passage challenge? Why?

What hopes and dreams does this evoke in you? Why?

**Hands:**

All year we have looked at the acts of a disciple. We cannot reproduce what we are not being. So our last question for this small group year is: What does God expect you to do as a result of this year’s small group story set? What is your first step to accomplish His will?

**PRAYER REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Family Connection

ACTS of a Disciple

Ways you can use these studies for your family...

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As this story set comes to an end, consider how you can translate this within the scope of children/youth ministry and especially your own family and children. On the next page, we have listed some additional questions that are broad, general in nature, and simple enough to use with any of these stories with your family.

**Thank you for allowing God to use you to “reach the lost and equip the saved across the street and around the world for God’s glory.”**



## Children's Breakout Questions

### Head:

What happened in this story?

Can you retell the story in your own words?

Who were the people in this story?

What did Jesus/God teach the people in this story?

How do you think the people in this story felt?

How do you think God felt about his people in this story?

Did the people in this story listen to God?

Do you think the people in this story had or will have a hard time doing what Jesus has asked them to do?  
Why

Was there a part of the story that was hard for you to understand? Why

### Heart:

What is Jesus/God trying to teach us from this story?

How could we apply this story to our life today?

Which person are you the most like from this story?

Would you have a hard time doing what Jesus asked the people to do? Why?

### Hands:

What could you change in your own life after hearing this story?

What could you do for God after hearing this story?

What is God doing in your life?

Could you share this story with a friend or family member?