

Weekly Study Guide

The week of October 2, 2016

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Daily Readings

MONDAY

Acts 3:1-10

TUESDAY

Acts 3:11-26

WEDNESDAY

Acts 4:1-22

THURSDAY

Acts 4:23-31

FRIDAY

Acts 4:32-37

SATURDAY

Acts 5:1-11

Regular habits of private Bible reading strengthen our relationship with God and teach us how to follow Jesus. In addition to the thematic exercise above, you can use this guide each week to lead you through relevant sections of the Bible.

Group Discussion

CONNECT

We're learning about what happens in weekly worship together. Are there any other things you do on a regular basis? Do you have any habits you do each week, or each month, or each year?

LEARN AND APPLY

Read Acts 2:42-47. This is a famous description of the life of the very early Christians. Notice in verses 46-47 how they met together in the Temple and in their homes. This is very much like our current practice of meeting "at church" and also in growth groups.

- Read verse 42. What activities did these early Christians share?
- When do these things happen in our life?
 - ◆ Being devoted to the apostles' teaching...
 - ◆ "Fellowship" or building community...
 - ◆ "The Breaking of Bread"...
 - ◆ "Prayer"...
- Share with your group how any of these practices have been valuable to you.

Read Luke 4:14-21. Jesus was in the synagogue in Nazareth. Nazareth was his hometown, and a synagogue was a small building where Jews gathered to pray and read the Bible. Many Jewish people continue to meet in synagogues regularly to this day. You could think of it like a local church building.

- The first thing you notice may be that Jesus is asked to read and explain part of the Bible. This would be normal for a local rabbi to do. Why is it important to read and learn from the Bible like this, in addition to reading the Bible individually?
- What have you learned about the Bible or from the Bible in public worship that has been important to you?
- Verse 16 says it was Jesus' custom to go to the synagogue each week. Even Jesus went to church every week! If you had to explain to someone why regular worship matters, what would you say?
- **Read Hebrews 10:24-25.** These early Christians had to be encouraged to keep meeting together in order to encourage one another. They must have been facing some reasons not to gather together for worship. What obstacles stand in the way of us worshipping together each week now?

A good discipleship practice is to ask, "What is God saying to me about this and how will I respond?" Do you sense that God may be asking you to think or act differently somehow with regards to Sunday worship? Would you be willing to talk about this with your group?

PRAY

Perhaps not everyone in your group is comfortable praying out loud. Here's a small step you can take to gain some comfortability. Go around the room and give each person a chance to pray just a simple prayer of thanks, for example, "God, I'm thankful for (my health, my job, my family, etc.)"