

Acts Response Activities - Part 1

Learning

Engaging Acts 1:1-6:7 (some content you can use to prep and/or use as a group)

- **Recap:** Continue the first section of Acts (1:1-6:7) where **the Church is established in Jerusalem**
- **Meditation:** Thus far most of your engagement with the text has probably been more reflective and discussion based. Noticing, naming, and understanding the motives of Luke and themes of the text. Consider pausing and inviting people to engage the text in a different way. You could pick a verse or allow people to pick their own smaller section of text from these first chapters of Acts. Here are some simple example steps you could use to guide the time:
 - Pray and invite everyone into a posture of slowing and stillness.
 - Ask them to read their passage a few times slowly and prayerfully, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide them in identifying a specific word, phrase, or idea. Ask them to write it down.
 - Pause and rest in that word phrase, or idea, don't rush on ahead.
 - What drew your attention to it? Write a sentence or two about that.
 - Is God inviting you to personally respond to this in some way? Write a sentence or two about that.
 - Close by prayer fully reading over the verse a few more times. Write any final thoughts or prayers about the verse(s).

Dialogue Questions (some example questions for this content above)

- What was the Lord highlighting from the meditation exercise?
- What has the Lord been highlighting in the previous weeks as you journey through Acts?

Implication Responses (some example ideas to embody the values you have been learning from Acts)

- **Inviting the Holy Spirit:** The church is a community alive in the power of the Holy Spirit. Give space for people to share their stores, longings, or concerns about the charismatic expression seen in the early church community. Discern if there should be space for the laying on of hands and prayer for someone/everyone?
- **Sharing Hospitality:** The church is a community of love, belonging, and full tummies. Consider planning an intentional meal with your house church. It could be just for the people in it or open to more guests. Pray about how to make this meal intentional and special. If you need help preparing or with finances to pull this off ask Dave.
- **Embracing Generosity:** Courage and trust enabled the church to live wildly generous lives. Consider having a time of sharing needs and financially providing for them as a community. If there are no needs could you prayerfully select someone to just bless and honor with provision!
- **Leaning into Boldness & Conflict:** The community Luke writes about in Acts boldly faced internal and external conflicts. As homework, are there any conflicts in your life that you have been avoiding? Don't think of this as an excuse to assert your opinions, but an exercise in embracing humility and meekness.
- **During the Week:** Be reading Acts 6:8-9:31