TAKE LOVE BIBLE STUDY

07

The momentum of the gospel in Acts



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GETTING STARTED

Think of a famous trilogy (e.g. Star Wars, Lord of the Rings). How do the stories progress? What examples of growth and development do you see in the characters?

How did you first hear about Jesus? Who spoke to you about him? Where do you think they heard it from?

DIGGING DEEPER

READ ACTS 1:1-11

The book of Acts is the sequel to Luke's gospel. Where does Acts pick up the story? (skim read Luke 24 to refresh your memory).

The 11 remaining disciples are now called `apostles', which means `sent'. What are the apostles expecting in v6?

What does Jesus say to them about their future in v8?

- What would their task be?
- Where would they be going? Identify these regions on the map
- Where would the power for their task come from?

This is why their title changed to apostles. Jesus would send them out to the whole world to preach about him. The rest of the book of Acts charts the beginning of the movement of God's word going out to the whole world.

Read one of the following verses, and see if you can find where the things reported are taking place. Report back to your group what is happening, and where it is happening, identifying it on the map as you go.

- Acts 6:7
- Acts 9:31
- Acts 11:19-21
- Acts 16:11-12, 14
- Acts 19:8-10
- Acts 28:11-14, 30-31
- What have you noticed? What is the word of God doing?



Read through the following verses:

- Acts 2:42-47
- Acts 4:32-37
- Acts 11:27-30
- As the word of God spreads, what impact is it having on those who believe?
- What impact does the generosity of believers have on others?

• Where does their generosity come from? (2:42, 4:33)

By the end of Acts, Paul is in Rome preaching about Jesus. The gospel had made it to a major capital city, and was beginning to spread from there. And it has not stopped.

The gospel has continued to spread—all around the world—and continues to spread as Christians live their lives devoted to God, speaking about Jesus, and showing his love through kindness and generosity. This is momentum: nothing will stop the good news that Jesus has died for us, and has risen from the dead, so that we can be reconciled to God.

GETTING ACTIVE

What do you think your role is today in seeing this movement continue?

Where does the power of this movement come from? How does that encourage you to speak boldly about Jesus?

Think about the generosity of the believers that we read about. Jesus' movement is marked by deep and costly generosity. What might this look like today in your youth group? What is one thing you could do to express this kind of generosity?

LET'S PRAY

Praise God that the movement of the gospel has not stopped, that it has reached you, and will continue on until Jesus returns.

Pray for boldness and power from the Spirit, so that you can speak about Jesus to those around you.

Pray that our youth groups, schools and churches would show the same generosity towards others that we've read about in Acts.

Pray for Anglicare and the people they minister to, that the message about Jesus would continue to spread.

Study written by Matt Jacobs.

Available now on iTunes

Our prayer is that this song would be a blessing for churches and youth ministries who want to sing about the incredible love Jesus has shown us and encouraging one another to take it to the world. The lyrics of this song are the heart behind the Take Love message. The funds raised from the purchase of We Take Love, go towards the work Anglicare does to help those in need in our community.

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Something as simple as giving away the clothes you've grown out of or no longer wear, can help turn life around for someone else.

Each year thousands of people turn to Anglicare Shops for affordable clothing. There is always a great demand for good quality used clothes, and we're looking to you to help us stock the shelves. This is a great opportunity to give away your old t-shirts, jackets, jumpers, jeans, accessories and more!

Take Love is a youth initiative of Anglicare



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