

Currently our Community Groups are on Summer Break, which means that it is up to each group to decide if and when they will meet over the summer months. It isn't a time away from growth, though, and so we will continue to prepare these Growth Guides as a tool that you can use individually, as a family, or as a group. Community Groups will resume again during the week of September 16, 2012.

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## Consider...

Use the summary and questions to consider this week's message and its implications in your life:

### Message Summary

This week we started on what will be an incredible journey through the story of the early church, or what is commonly called the book of Acts in the Bible. Our goal is to reflect on the experiences they had and then ask ourselves a simple question: "What could happen today if we simply followed the lead of Someone far greater than us?"

To help frame the journey, Pastor Paul shared 2 truths about Acts:

1. **Acts is more story than book:** Seeing Acts as a big book can make it easy for some to discount it, but understanding that it is a collection of stories from individuals just like us begins to help it take on a bit more life for us. Jesus said in John 14:12 that we would do greater works than even He did, and Acts is really just the collection of those stories of ordinary people doing those extraordinary things.
2. **Acts is more doing than knowing:** The first verse of Acts explains that Jesus "began to do and to teach" and that order is critical for us as we walk this journey. There are weird things in Acts, and our Western minds will want to understand before we try, but often Jesus' approach is for us to trust Him, do what He says, and then let understanding come fully in the process. The Big Idea for the week sums it up: when we try without the why, God's kingdom comes alive.

## Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's service did you find to be the most helpful, eye opening, or troubling? Explain.
- Have you ever met someone or heard someone's story and it made Christianity more real? Describe that experience.
- All of us want to be better at something, and the church that started with 120 people in Acts now has over 2 BILLION members. Do you think there might be some things that they did that we should do, too, even if we aren't fully convinced about the "Christian" thing?
- Pastor Paul talked a lot about faith, and why, at the end of the day, faith is the F-word that none of us like. Why is it so easy for us to ask others to trust us, but hard for us to place trust in others (or God)?
- Are you willing to take a journey of faith? Write down what you believe God will do in and through you as we walk through the stories of Acts.

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## Commit...

Think and pray through your answers to the following questions in order to commit your life to living out what you've learned this week:

- What are some of the main truths/passages that God wants you to know from this message?
- Based on that truth/passage, what is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?