

Weekly Message Study Guide

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Date: July 25, 2021 **Contemporary Service:** Pastor Rob Kastens

The Book of Acts

CONTEXT | Spend some time and engage with the Scriptures in this creative and informative way provided by the Bible Project and then reflect on the questions based on Pastor Rob's message.

- Bible Project Video Overview of [Acts 1-12](#). & [Acts 13-28](#).
- When you think about the local church, what comes to mind?
- How would you respond to a friend who asks, "I see you going to church all the time, what do you know about God?"

Jesus' Commencement Address: Read Acts 1:8-9.

- Where in your life, group or church have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit? Where have you seen the Holy Spirit at work?

Early Church's Progress Reports: Recall and reflect on what Pastor Rob shared for each progress report, and then read the context (verses before and after) of each of the progress reports to share on the questions below.

Acts 2:47 - And the Lord added to their number daily.

- Of course God's grace was involved but what does the context of this progress report show God used to prepare and nurture the Church for this amazing daily growth?
- How does your life, group, our church compare in practice?

Acts 6:7 - a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

- Why would this be so surprising to everyone? What is a modern day equivalent?
- Do you have anyone in our life you've "given up on" in the sense you might believe they could never know and love Jesus? Pause and pray for that person and your view of that person and what God can do in their life and heart.

Acts 8:1-4 - persecution broke out and the church was scattered...and they preached the word wherever they went.

- Pastor Rob states persecution broke out partly because they stayed in Jerusalem instead of going because they were comfortable. Where in your life are you comfortable and as a result perhaps your faith has stalled and gotten away from God's calling for you?

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Acts 9:31 - throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria...enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened...encouraged by the Holy Spirit the church increased in numbers.

- What can be harmful if we, as a church, simply focus on “nickels and noses” as they say?
- How do we keep our focus on people and not get lost in the numbers as Pastor Rob encourages?

Acts 13:2-3 - set apart for me Barnabas and Saul resulting in Acts 13:48-49

- What stands out to you from this last progress report?
- How is the Holy Spirit calling YOU out? What is the Holy Spirit calling you to do in the flow of your everyday life to be witnesses for the living Christ?
- When you think about the above point how do you feel? Why?

Read Ephesians 6:10-20 highlights the battle and struggle we are involved in as followers of Jesus.

- How do you see this passage from Ephesians pairing with what you’ve discovered through the Book of Acts today?
- What are you fighting with? Are you aware of how the enemy shows up in your life?
- Have you considered, in your troubles or frustration, an enemy that you cannot see?
- Who is your advocate, your resource in that fight?
- Who do you know that needs the light and power of God’s grace, hope and love? How can you be that for them? How can you show them that the power of the Spirit of God is available in their life, as you live yours by that same power?

Pastor Rob shared, “We fight violence with peace, hatred with love, and oppression with servanthood. Our greatness is unleashed in the context of community. And friends, when we move together, God is most perfectly revealed in us.”

- As you hear this inspirational encouragement from Pastor Rob share one or two practical take aways from today’s message that helps you follow Jesus more faithfully.