

AWAKEN | ABIDE | **ABOUND**



EMPOWERED

TO BOLDLY SHARE THE GOSPEL

BIBLE STUDY LEADERS GUIDE

BOOK OF ACTS SEASON: 1

EMPOWERED

TO BOLDLY SHARE THE GOSPEL

Formation Focus: Abounding

Key Theme

The Holy Spirit Empowers us to reach people with the good news of Jesus.

The Big Idea

This series is about learning to abound in love by stepping into the everyday challenges of sharing Jesus.

We'll walk through key moments in Acts as well as in historic movements where ordinary believers faced real obstacles and saw the Holy Spirit move through bold faith and simple obedience. And we'll discover that we are invited into that same story today.

The Key Pattern

Throughout the series we want to reiterate the simple pattern we read of in Acts, and see throughout Church history:

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:31-32)

- The believers pray together
- They were filled with the Holy Spirit
- They spoke the gospel with boldness
- And the Church grew and spread

This pattern reminds us of several key truths:

- The Holy Spirit empowers us to do what we cannot do on our own
- Sharing Jesus is not just for the few - but for every believer
- Boldness is not about personality - but about empowerment
- The Church grows when believers step out in faith

Series Structure

This series is based on the first 10 Chapters of Acts. (We will return to finish the book in 2027.)

Sermon	The Challenge...	Empowered to...
Empowered to Oneness (Acts 2:42-47)	Consumer Christianity / isolation	Belong deeply & live differently
Empowered to Witness (Acts 3:1-11)	Feeling like “I have nothing to offer”	See and serve people in with supernatural power
Empowered to Boldness (Acts 4:1-31)	Fear of people / tempted to keep faith private	Speak about Jesus with courage
Empowered to Suffer (Acts 5:17-42)	Resistance, criticism, discomfort	Stay faithful even when it's costly
Empowered to Serve (Acts 6:1-7)	Busyness / consumer mindset	Take responsibility for others
Empowered to Sacrifice (Acts 7)	Fear of sacrifice	Lay down comfort for the mission
Empowered to Scatter (Acts 8:4-25)	Disruption / life not going to plan	Carry Jesus wherever life takes you
Empowered to Move (Acts 8:26-40)	Preference for comfort	Follow God's prompting
Empowered to Go (Acts 9:1-31)	People who feel impossible to reach	Take a bold step of faith
Empowered to Cross Boundaries (Acts 10)	Comfort zones / “people like us”	Love and reach different people

The Bible Study Method

Three Thirds Discipleship and AAA

This Bible Study runs on a simple engine: Three Thirds Discipleship + our AAA formation rhythm.

Three Thirds isn't just a structure, it's a discipleship pattern that multiplies. It moves us beyond "learning about God" into living like Jesus and making disciples who make disciples.

This isn't information transfer. It's formation. And if we do it well... it reproduces.

The Three Thirds

The Three Thirds structure is a proven framework that reproduces disciples. It splits the study into three sections:

1. Look Back

We start with people, not content.

We check in on the week, follow up on commitments, and actually care for one another. We ask: *"How are you really going?"*

We also keep recentering on the mission because we forget easily:

"We are making disciples who make disciples."

2. Look Up

Now we turn to God.

We open Scripture together, read it, and discuss. Not just for information, but for revelation.

We ask questions like: What is God like, What is God saying and What is He inviting us into?

3. Look Forward

Now we respond.

We don't stop at insight, we move to obedience.

We decide what this looks like in real life this week and commit to putting it into practice. Then we follow up in "Look Back" next time we meet.

AAA – Our Formation Engine

Jesus said His disciples would be known by one thing: **love**. So our goal is simple: Awaken to love. Abide in love. Abound in love.

This is not extra content... it's the lens we see everything through. And it's woven straight into the Three Thirds rhythm so it doesn't get lost.

The Questions We Keep Coming Back To

Each week we will go over the same questions. But don't worry, it won't get boring because these questions are action based and will lead to transformation and multiplication.

The first question in bold is the main question, with the following questions there to help you tease out helpful conversation.

AWAKEN (Look Back)

- **Where have you noticed God at work this week?**
- How have you experienced the love of God this week?
- What has been challenging or encouraging lately?
- What do you sense the Holy Spirit has been saying?

ABIDE (Look Up)

- **How is God inviting you into this story?**
- What challenges the way you currently live?
- What does this reveal about how Jesus calls His followers to live?
- Where are you being invited to shift your mindset or response?

ABOUND (Look Forward)

- **What is your next step of faith this week?**
- What might God be asking you to do?
- Who is one person you could encourage or reach?
- What is one thing you will do differently this week?

Don't worry, you won't have to remember all this. The questions are all in the weekly "Bible Study Plans" on the next page.

Final Word to Leaders

Don't overcomplicate it. Don't over-teach it.
Ask the questions. Listen. Pray. And trust the Holy Spirit to speak and lead.

Remember, The goal isn't a great Bible study.
It's a disciple who follows Jesus every day of the week.

// **WEEK 1: Empowered to Oneness**

Acts 2:42–47

AWAKEN: LOOK BACK

Vision:

Outline the purpose of this series: This series is about learning to abound in love by stepping into the everyday challenges of sharing Jesus. The goal is not information: it's mobilisation. We don't want to be a people who just believe the gospel... but a people who share it with confidence.

Discuss: Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you this week?
How have you experienced the love of God this week?
What is challenging/encouraging you at the moment?

ABIDE: LOOK UP

Read: Acts 2:42–47

MOVEMENT STORY: In Northern Africa, simple disciple-making movements described in *Miraculous Movements* have formed networks of house churches that grow through obedience-based discipleship rather than institutional structures. New believers quickly become disciple-makers, and communities are shaped around Scripture, prayer, and shared life rather than programs or buildings. The result is rapid multiplication and deep relational unity that mirrors the early church in Acts 2.

Discuss: How is God inviting you into this story this week?

What in this story challenges how you currently live?
What does this reveal about how Jesus calls His followers to live?
Where are you being invited to change your mindset or response?

ABOUND: LOOK FORWARD

Discuss: What is your next step of faith this week?

What might God be asking you to do?
Who is one person you could reach or encourage?
What is one thing you will do differently this week?

Pray:

Pray for one another to be empowered by The Holy Spirit to form spiritual communities like the early Church.

Extra Resources

Activation: “Cross the Line of Comfort”

Intentionally connect with someone outside your normal social or cultural circle this week. Share a meal, coffee, or conversation with them, and ask: “*What’s your story?*” Listen without trying to fix or preach.

Extra Resources

- *The Jesus People Movement* — Larry Eskridge
- *Out of the Comfort Zone* — George Verwer
- *The Cross and the Switchblade* — David Wilkerson
- Movie: Jesus Revolution

Related Passages:

- Acts 10:34–35 — God shows no partiality
- Galatians 3:28 — One in Christ Jesus
- Ephesians 3:6 — Gentiles fully included in the promise

Quotes:

- “In Christ there is no outsider.” — Galatians 3:28 (theme paraphrase)
- “The gospel breaks every barrier.” — early church conviction
- “Love the stranger.” — Deuteronomy 10:19
- “The church is called to be a bridge, not a wall.” — modern mission saying
- “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” — Romans 5:8

// **WEEK 2: Empowered to Witness**

Acts 3:1-11

AWAKEN: LOOK BACK

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Discuss: Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you this week?
How have you experienced the love of God this week?
What is challenging/encouraging you at the moment?
Did you do what you said you would last week?

ABIDE: LOOK UP

Read: Acts 3:1-11

MOVEMENT STORY: Jackie Pullinger entered Hong Kong's Walled City with no formal training in addiction recovery or urban ministry. Instead of programs, she relied on prayer and the Holy Spirit. Over time, thousands of heroin addicts experienced freedom and transformation as believers simply prayed, served, and trusted Jesus to work in impossible situations.

Discuss: How is God inviting you into this story this week?

What in this story challenges how you currently live?
What does this reveal about how Jesus calls His followers to live?
Where are you being invited to change your mindset or response?

ABOUND: LOOK FORWARD

Discuss: What is your next step of faith this week?

What might God be asking you to do?
Who is one person you could reach or encourage?
What is one thing you will do differently this week?

Pray:

Pray for one another to be empowered by The Holy Spirit to form spiritual communities like the early Church.

Extra Resources

Activation: “Notice + Pray + Act”

Each day, ask the Holy Spirit to highlight one person you would normally overlook. When you notice them, stop for 10 seconds and pray a silent prayer: “*God, what do You want to do here?*” Then take one small step—kind word, encouragement, or offer to pray.

Extra Resources

- *Chasing the Dragon* — Jackie Pullinger
- *Something Beautiful for God* — Malcolm Muggeridge (Mother Teresa)
- *Power Evangelism* — John Wimber

Related Passages:

- Luke 10:1–9 — Jesus sends disciples with power and authority
- Acts 1:8 — You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes
- Mark 16:20 — The Lord worked with them as they preached

Quotes:

- “You are the only Bible some people will ever read.” — John Stott
- “Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.” — Francis of Assisi (attributed)
- “Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.” — MLK Jr.
- “God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called.” — common saying
- “These signs will accompany those who believe...” — Mark 16:17 (short ref quote)

// **WEEK 3: Empowered to Boldness**

Acts 4:1-31

AWAKEN: LOOK BACK

Vision:

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Discuss: Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you this week?
How have you experienced the love of God this week?
What is challenging/encouraging you at the moment?
Did you do what you said you would last week?

ABIDE: LOOK UP

Read: Acts 4:1-31

MOVEMENT STORY: The underground church in China has multiplied despite decades of persecution, imprisonment, and restrictions on public worship. Rather than shrinking, the church has grown through simple gatherings in homes and workplaces, with ordinary believers sharing Jesus at great personal cost. Estimates now range into tens of millions of believers, largely through relational evangelism and bold witness.

Discuss: How is God inviting you into this story this week?

What in this story challenges how you currently live?
What does this reveal about how Jesus calls His followers to live?
Where are you being invited to change your mindset or response?

ABOUND: LOOK FORWARD

Discuss: What is your next step of faith this week?

What might God be asking you to do?
Who is one person you could reach or encourage?
What is one thing you will do differently this week?

Pray:

Pray for one another to be empowered by The Holy Spirit to form spiritual communities like the early Church.

Extra Resources

Activation: “One Sentence Boldness”

Have one intentional spiritual conversation this week where you simply say ONE sentence about Jesus (your story, what God has done, or what you believe). No pressure to explain everything—just speak one clear, honest sentence.

Extra Resources

- *The Heavenly Man* — Brother Yun
- *God's Smuggler* — Brother Andrew
- *The Global Church and the Underground Christians of China* — Xiaowen Zuo

Related Passages:

- Acts 5:29 — We must obey God rather than men
- 2 Timothy 1:7 — Spirit of power, love, and sound mind
- Philippians 1:14 — Boldness grows through suffering

Quotes:

- “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.” — Tertullian
- “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.” — Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- “Courage is fear that has said its prayers.” — Karl Barth (attributed)
- “I am not ashamed of the gospel.” — Romans 1:16
- “The darker the night, the brighter the light of the gospel.” — Chinese house church saying

// **WEEK 4: Empowered to Oneness**

Acts 5:17-42

AWAKEN: LOOK BACK

Vision:

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Discuss: Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you this week?
How have you experienced the love of God this week?
What is challenging/encouraging you at the moment?
Did you do what you said you would last week?

ABIDE: LOOK UP

Read: Acts 5:17-42

MOVEMENT STORY: The Salvation Army began as a mission movement focused on reaching the poorest and most marginalised in society. Early Salvationists preached in the streets, outside pubs, and in public squares, often facing ridicule, violence, and organised opposition from groups such as the "Skeleton Army," which actively tried to disrupt and intimidate them. Despite this, they continued their mission with courage, combining practical care for the poor with bold proclamation of the gospel, believing that suffering for Christ was not something to avoid but something to endure faithfully for the sake of love.

Discuss: How is God inviting you into this story this week?

What in this story challenges how you currently live?
What does this reveal about how Jesus calls His followers to live?
Where are you being invited to change your mindset or response?

ABOUND: LOOK FORWARD

Discuss: What is your next step of faith this week?

What might God be asking you to do?
Who is one person you could reach or encourage?
What is one thing you will do differently this week?

Pray:

Pray for one another to be empowered by The Holy Spirit to form spiritual communities like the early Church.

Extra Resources

Activation: “Faith Under Pressure”

When faith feels awkward or costly this week, choose one moment to quietly but clearly identify yourself as a follower of Jesus (e.g., in conversation, workplace, or social setting). Don’t argue, just stand firm with calm conviction.

Extra Resources

- *Blood and Fire* — Roy Hattersley (William Booth)
- *I’ll Fight! Holiness at War - Phil Wall*
- *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs* — John Foxe

Related Passages:

- 1 Peter 4:12–14 — Rejoicing in suffering for Christ
- Matthew 5:10–12 — Blessed are those persecuted
- Romans 8:17 — Sharing in His sufferings and glory

Quotes:

- “Suffering is never for nothing.” — Elisabeth Elliot
- “The safest place to be is in the centre of God’s will.” — Corrie ten Boom
- “A faith that has not been tested cannot be trusted.” — unknown revival saying
- “They rejoiced because they had been counted worthy.” — Acts 5:41
- “The world looks for comfort; the cross calls for courage.” — paraphrase of early church teaching

// **WEEK 5: Empowered to Serve**

Acts 6:1-7

AWAKEN: LOOK BACK

Vision:

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Discuss: Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you this week?
How have you experienced the love of God this week?
What is challenging/encouraging you at the moment?
Did you do what you said you would last week?

ABIDE: LOOK UP

Read: Acts 6:1-7

MOVEMENT STORY: The Franciscan movement, formed around the life and teachings of St Francis of Assisi, embraced radical simplicity, humility, and service to the poor. Rather than seeking status or influence, Francis and his followers chose to live among ordinary people, especially those who were forgotten or marginalised. Their way of life became a living expression of the gospel, showing that the love of Jesus is not only preached with words but demonstrated through presence, humility, and practical care for others.

Discuss: How is God inviting you into this story this week?

What in this story challenges how you currently live?
What does this reveal about how Jesus calls His followers to live?
Where are you being invited to change your mindset or response?

ABOUND: LOOK FORWARD

Discuss: What is your next step of faith this week?

What might God be asking you to do?
Who is one person you could reach or encourage?
What is one thing you will do differently this week?

Pray:

Pray for one another to be empowered by The Holy Spirit to form spiritual communities like the early Church.

Extra Resources

Activation: “See and Step In”

Look for one practical need you can meet this week (inside or outside church). Don't wait to be asked. Do one act of unseen service—something that helps someone else's life be easier without needing recognition.

Extra Resources

- *Life of St Francis* — Bonaventure
- *Francis of Assisi: A Revolutionary Life* — Adrian House
- *The Little Flowers of St Francis* — Anonymous medieval text

Related Passages:

- Mark 10:45 — Jesus came not to be served but to serve
- Philippians 2:3–7 — Christ's humility and self-emptying
- Galatians 5:13 — Serve one another in love

Quotes:

- “Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” — attributed to Francis of Assisi
- “Faith working through love.” — Galatians 5:6
- “The Son of Man did not come to be served.” — Mark 10:45
- “If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.” — Mother Teresa
- “The greatest among you will be your servant.” — Matthew 23:11

// **WEEK 6: Empowered to Die**

Acts 7

AWAKEN: LOOK BACK

Vision:

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Discuss: Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you this week?
How have you experienced the love of God this week?
What is challenging/encouraging you at the moment?
Did you do what you said you would last week?

ABIDE: LOOK UP

Read: Acts 7

MOVEMENT STORY: Despite intense persecution, the underground church in Iran continues to grow because many believers have decided that following Jesus is worth any cost even prison, torture, or death. Rather than retreating in fear, they keep gathering in homes, sharing the gospel, and standing firm; as one Iranian Christian couple explained when asked why they were willing to suffer for Christ, "Because we have tasted and we have seen."

Discuss: How is God inviting you into this story this week?

What in this story challenges how you currently live?
What does this reveal about how Jesus calls His followers to live?
Where are you being invited to change your mindset or response?

ABOUND: LOOK FORWARD

Discuss: What is your next step of faith this week?

What might God be asking you to do?
Who is one person you could reach or encourage?
What is one thing you will do differently this week?

Pray:

Pray for one another to be empowered by The Holy Spirit to form spiritual communities like the early Church.

Extra Resources

Activation: “Let Go Offering”

Identify one comfort, habit, or preference that competes with obedience to Jesus. This week, intentionally lay it down in a practical way (time, money, convenience, control) and choose obedience instead of comfort at least once.

Extra Resources

- *The Insanity of God* — Nik Ripken
- *Persecuted* — Paul Marshall, Lela Gilbert & Nina Shea
- *Jesus Freaks* — DC Talk & Voice of the Martyrs
- Movie: *Sheep Among Wolves*

Related Passages:

- Luke 9:23 — Take up your cross daily
- Philippians 1:21 — To live is Christ, to die is gain
- Revelation 12:11 — They did not love their lives unto death

Quotes:

- “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep...” — Jim Elliot
- “When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.” — Bonhoeffer
- “I have been crucified with Christ.” — Galatians 2:20
- “The martyr’s crown is not loss but gain.” — early church tradition
- “Because He first loved us.” — 1 John 4:19

// **WEEK 7: Empowered to Scatter**

Acts 8:4-25

AWAKEN: LOOK BACK

Vision:

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Discuss: Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you this week?
How have you experienced the love of God this week?
What is challenging/encouraging you at the moment?
Did you do what you said you would last week?

ABIDE: LOOK UP

Read: Acts 8:4-25

MOVEMENT STORY: The Celtic Christians were known for being powerfully led by the Holy Spirit, often choosing to leave behind comfort and security in order to carry the gospel into new and unfamiliar places. Rather than building settled centres of influence, they embraced a "sent" way of life, moving wherever the Spirit led them, scattering like light across the edges of Europe to share Christ with courage and simplicity. (See St Patricks life for another great story)

Discuss: How is God inviting you into this story this week?

What in this story challenges how you currently live?
What does this reveal about how Jesus calls His followers to live?
Where are you being invited to change your mindset or response?

ABOUND: LOOK FORWARD

Discuss: What is your next step of faith this week?

What might God be asking you to do?
Who is one person you could reach or encourage?
What is one thing you will do differently this week?

Pray:

Pray for one another to be empowered by The Holy Spirit to form spiritual communities like the early Church.

Extra Resources

Activation: “Wherever I Am Sent”

Wherever you go this week (work, school, shops, gym), pray this simple prayer before you arrive: “*Holy Spirit, help me see this place as mission.*” Then look for one natural moment to bring encouragement or hope.

Extra Resources

- *The Celtic Way of Evangelism* — George Hunter III
- *How the Irish Saved Civilization* — Thomas Cahill
- *The Book of the Celts* — Alice Taylor (Celtic spirituality collections)

Related Passages:

- Acts 11:19–21 — Scattered believers preach wherever they go
- Matthew 28:19–20 — Go and make disciples of all nations
- Deuteronomy 32:10–12 — God leads His people through wilderness places

Quotes:

- “The Church is always one generation away from extinction.” — John Wesley (attributed idea)
- “Every believer is a missionary.” — Celtic Christian ethos
- “Go into all the world.” — Mark 16:15
- “The places we least expect are often where God moves most.” — revival saying
- “God writes straight with crooked lines.” — old proverb used in mission

// **WEEK 8: Empowered to Move**

Acts 8:26-40

AWAKEN: LOOK BACK

Vision:

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Discuss: Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you this week?
How have you experienced the love of God this week?
What is challenging/encouraging you at the moment?
Did you do what you said you would last week?

ABIDE: LOOK UP

Read: Acts 2:42–47

MOVEMENT STORY: Heidi Baker's ministry is widely described as being deeply led by the Holy Spirit, marked by a willingness to follow spontaneous promptings, prayerful dependence, and compassion-driven action rather than rigid planning. Through her work with Iris Global, she emphasises listening for God's voice in the moment and responding with radical love, especially toward the poor and forgotten in places like Mozambique. As a result Iris ministries has planted thousands of Churches and has reached over 1 million people with the gospel.

Discuss: How is God inviting you into this story this week?

What in this story challenges how you currently live?
What does this reveal about how Jesus calls His followers to live?
Where are you being invited to change your mindset or response?

ABOUND: LOOK FORWARD

Discuss: What is your next step of faith this week?

What might God be asking you to do?
Who is one person you could reach or encourage?
What is one thing you will do differently this week?

Pray:

Pray for one another to be empowered by The Holy Spirit to form spiritual communities like the early Church.

Extra Resources

Activation: “Prompt Obedience”

When you feel a nudge to message, encourage, call, or pray for someone—act on it within 5 minutes. Don’t overthink it. Write the message, make the call, or do the action straight away.

Extra Resources

- *Compelled by Love* — Heidi Baker
- *Expecting Miracles* — Rolland & Heidi Baker
- *Learning to Hear God’s Voice* — Andrew Murray
- Movie: *Compelled by Love*
- Movie: *Mama Heidi*

Related Passages:

- John 5:19 — Jesus only does what He sees the Father doing
- Acts 13:2–3 — Set apart by the Spirit and sent
- Isaiah 30:21 — Hear a voice behind you saying “This is the way”

Quotes:

- “Love looks like something.” — Heidi Baker
- “God is always on the move.” — John Wimber
- “Do small things with great love.” — Mother Teresa
- “The Spirit leads those who are willing to follow.” — Acts principle
- “My sheep hear my voice.” — John 10:27

// **WEEK 9: Empowered to Go**

Acts 9:1-31

AWAKEN: LOOK BACK

Vision:

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Discuss: Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you this week?
How have you experienced the love of God this week?
What is challenging/encouraging you at the moment?
Did you do what you said you would last week?

ABIDE: LOOK UP

Read: Acts 9:1-31

MOVEMENT STORY: The Azusa Street Revival (1906–1915) was a catalytic moment with believers reporting powerful encounters with the Holy Spirit that sent them out with urgency to preach the gospel across cultures and nations. From the small, multiethnic gathering in Los Angeles, missionaries and evangelists quickly spread globally, helping ignite a movement that today is part of one of the fastest-growing branches of Christianity. Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity is estimated to include over 600 million believers worldwide, with growth particularly strong in Africa, Latin America, and parts of Asia.

Discuss: How is God inviting you into this story this week?

What in this story challenges how you currently live?
What does this reveal about how Jesus calls His followers to live?
Where are you being invited to change your mindset or response?

ABOUND: LOOK FORWARD

Discuss: What is your next step of faith this week?

What might God be asking you to do?
Who is one person you could reach or encourage?
What is one thing you will do differently this week?

Pray:

Pray for one another to be empowered by The Holy Spirit to form spiritual communities like the early Church.

Extra Resources

Activation: “The One Step Conversation”

Identify one person you normally avoid, feel intimidated by, or think is “too far from God.” This week, take one small relational step toward them: greet them, start a conversation, or show kindness where you normally wouldn’t.

Extra Resources

- *The Jesus Revolution* — Greg Laurie & Ellen Vaughn
- *True Stories of the Miracles of Azusa Street* - Tommy Welchel
- *When the Fire Fell* — Wesley & Stacey Campbell

Related Passages:

- Isaiah 6:8 — “Here am I, send me”
- Acts 22:10 — Paul’s response: “What shall I do, Lord?”
- Matthew 9:37–38 — The harvest is plentiful, workers few

Quotes:

- “Here am I, send me.” — Isaiah 6:8
- “The harvest is plentiful.” — Jesus (Matthew 9:37)
- “God is not looking for ability but availability.” — revival saying
- “The greatest risk is not stepping out.” — modern mission saying
- “Go therefore...” — Matthew 28:19

// **WEEK 10: Empowered to Cross**

Boundaries Acts 10

AWAKEN: LOOK BACK

Vision:

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Discuss: Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you this week?
How have you experienced the love of God this week?
What is challenging/encouraging you at the moment?
Did you do what you said you would last week?

ABIDE: LOOK UP

Read: Acts 10

MOVEMENT STORY: The Jesus People movement of the 1970s became a powerful picture of a Spirit-led Church breaking social and cultural boundaries, as thousands of young people from countercultural backgrounds encountered Jesus and were welcomed into congregations that had never looked like that before. One pastor reflecting on those days described the tension and beauty of it all, saying, **"We didn't always know what to do with them—but we knew God had sent them,"** capturing the sense that the Church was being stretched and reshaped by unexpected people and unexpected grace.

Discuss: How is God inviting you into this story this week?

What in this story challenges how you currently live?
What does this reveal about how Jesus calls His followers to live?
Where are you being invited to change your mindset or response?

ABOUND: LOOK FORWARD

Discuss: What is your next step of faith this week?

What might God be asking you to do?
Who is one person you could reach or encourage?
What is one thing you will do differently this week?

Pray:

Pray for one another to be empowered by The Holy Spirit to form spiritual communities like the early Church.

Extra Resources

Activation: “Cross the Line of Comfort”

Intentionally connect with someone outside your normal social or cultural circle this week. Share a meal, coffee, or conversation with them, and ask: “*What’s your story?*” Listen without trying to fix or preach.

Extra Resources

- *The Jesus People Movement* — Larry Eskridge
- *Out of the Comfort Zone* — George Verwer
- *The Cross and the Switchblade* — David Wilkerson
- Movie: Jesus Revolution

Related Passages:

- Acts 10:34–35 — God shows no partiality
- Galatians 3:28 — One in Christ Jesus
- Ephesians 3:6 — Gentiles fully included in the promise

Quotes:

- “In Christ there is no outsider.” — Galatians 3:28 (theme paraphrase)
- “The gospel breaks every barrier.” — early church conviction
- “Love the stranger.” — Deuteronomy 10:19
- “The church is called to be a bridge, not a wall.” — modern mission saying
- “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” — Romans 5:8