**Summer 2020 Journey Through Acts**

We are spending the the summer of 2020 whilst we are seeing together to find out what it means to be a kingdom community in a time of dislocation and lockdown looking at the Book of Acts as a model of how the followers of Jesus decided to be, to live and to act in the very beginnings of the ‘church’ of Jesus Christ. There are similarities and differences between the circumstances they found themselves in and where we are now, but if there has ever been an opportunity to imagine and re-imagine what it means for us to be followers of Jesus, that time is arguably now.

This document is designed as an outline for you to work through, either individually or as part of a group. All feedback and suggestions for modification is most welcome.

**A Session Outline - 40 mins total, but can be longer or flexible if you wish**

**Introduction - 10 mins (longer if you’re in a group I suspect!)**

1. How are you?
2. What notable things have happened recently?
3. Is there anything distracting you from focusing on God today? If yes, think or talk about that and then pray and give it to God as you begin.

**Time With the Bible - 15-20 mins**

*What does this passage tell me abbot God?* To answer this question, you might want to think about whether the passage speaks about God directly or indirectly. Is there a prophecy quoted, or does the passage remind you of another part of scripture? If so, spend some time following the leads. How does the passage remind you of what you’ve known about God before? Does it make you think differently about God than you have done before?

*What does this passage tell me about myself?* To answer this question you might want to ask how you felt as you read the passage and how you feel as you reflect on it now. Do you identify with a particular character? Does it make you feel happy or sad, hopeful, excited, confused or any other emotions?

If you feel challenged, or as if something in the passage is really speaking to your or feels personal to you today, spend a few minutes thinking: what is it? What about it feels important to you?

*What is this passage inviting me to do differently?*

As Christians we are meant to live according to the truth that is in Jesus and to not be the same as before we knew him (Ephesians 4:20-24). As we learn the good news of Jesus and the truth about his love we are bound to change.

Spend time thinking about things in your life you might want to be or to do differently as a result of today’s study and pray about those things.

For each session, we will also provide a few questions to pick out the key elements of the passage and try and help you to be guided through the study.

**Time in Prayer - 10 mins**

Each time you meet or spend time reflecting alone, make sure you leave plenty of time to pray. You could pray about:

The Church and its leaders, both ours, Churches nearby and the worldwide Church

Situations locally or in the world around us

Things shared by people during your time together

Those who are afraid, sick or those who are bereaved

Committing to God that you will follow through on what you’ve been invited to do by today’s study.

Your neighbours and the street you live in.

Those who govern us locally, nationally and internationally.

**Week 3: Acts 42-47**

1. The first thing we hear after Peter’s sermon of Acts 2:14-40 is that about three thousand people turned to God that day. Straight after this ‘they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer’. Have you modelled your life as Christian on learning, being together, eating together and prayer? I (Haydon) sometimes wonder if the balance of my life as a Christian is weighted too far in a given direction. Think and talk together about whether there is a particular element of these key priorities that we might bring more into focus as a Church.
2. The apostles performed signs and wonders. Do you think we are meant to see signs and wonders in our day now?
3. Why do you think it is that we find it so difficult to ‘have everything in common’? Why don’t we sell what we have and give to everyone who has need?
4. When was the last time you invited someone from Church round for dinner?
5. What do you think helps a Church to have ‘favour in the sight of all the people’? What might stop it? What could we do to show God’s love to people today?
6. What stops people being saved daily today do you think?

**Something To Do This Week**

1. Having carefully read this passage, pray and ask God which of these things we do well as a Church. Then ask God to show you which of these things we don’t do well and ask him how we might improve on this part of our life together. If you come up with an idea, send it to Haydon.
2. Ask God to show you one person or family he wants you to invite to break bread with. At the moment it will probably have to be virtually, or even on the phone, but make a deliberate effort to share a meal with someone this week.
3. Ask God to show you 5 people who are not yet Christians who you can pray for every day this week. Pray for them every day this week, asking God to save them. Find out if anything happens. Whatever does, make a note of it and keep praying.