

Launching a Movement: Acts 1:1-11

Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing



group discussion flow

connect with needs

hear what God says

apply that to life

tell someone they know

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: "Sometimes it is easy to completely miss the main point."
- Then, surface experiences:
 - "Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
 - "Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in the Christian life."

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

Choices:
Acts 1:1-11

Commentary:

Acts 1:1-11 — This is the story of Jesus' last moments on Earth. He is entrusting the global success of Christianity to 11 men. After sharing with them for forty days about the kingdom of God (kind of like a "mini-seminary"), He tells them to wait until they receive the gift of the Spirit. The disciples don't understand what He is talking about and instead focus on the timing of events of the end of the world. Jesus refocuses their attention on His true mission and explains that they are going to receive the Spirit so they can be His witnesses even to the ends of the earth.

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below:

"What do you think this passage teaches us?"

"What can we learn about God or our response to God?"

"

How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "Sometimes it is easy to completely miss the main point."

- State the main lesson: "We are to be Spirit-filled witnesses for Jesus." Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.

- Discuss:
Why do we tend to focus on other aspects of our faith and forget about walking in the Spirit and sharing the gospel with others?

What is one thing that keeps you from being a Spirit-filled witness?

"What is one action you can take this week to walk in the Spirit and be a witness for Jesus?"

- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.

- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.

- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes & preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- **Acts 1:1-11**
 1. What is the former book that the author is referring to?
 2. From just reading this passage, who is going to be the major character of the book of Acts?
 3. What are some things we can learn about our tendencies as disciples from this passage?
 4. What is the job description for a Christian (according to what Jesus said in this passage)?

notes & preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

notes & preparation checklist

tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

Launching a Movement: Acts 2:42-47

A Familia that Changes the World



group discussion flow

connect with needs

hear what God says

apply that to life

tell someone they know

- Find out how they are doing.
 - Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
 - Start by stating: "Your familia is a major influence on your development."
- Then, surface experiences:
- "Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
- "Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in the Christian life."

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

Choices:
Acts 2:42-47

Commentary:

Acts 2:42-47 — In this section Luke gives a summary of what community in the early Christian movement looked like. The movement focused on four things: 1) The apostles teaching, 2) Fellowship, 3) Breaking of Bread, 4) Prayer. God also was doing many miraculous signs through the apostles.

The end result of this vibrant community is that God was adding to their number daily those who were being saved. They never lost sight of the fact that a movement must continually be sharing the gospel.

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below:

"What do you think this passage teaches us?"

"What can we learn about God or our response to God?"

"What do we learn about what God desires from us?"

How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "Your familia is a major influence on your development."

- State the main lesson: "God wants to change us and the world through a new kind of familia." Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.

- Discuss:
Of the four main areas the early Christian movement focused on, which is your movement missing or neglecting?

What is one thing that keeps you from helping to create a transformational community like the one in this lesson?

"What is one action you can take this week to create a familia that changes the world?"

- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes & preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- **Acts 2:42-47**
- 1. Why do you think this movement was so appealing to outsiders?
- 2. How was this group different from what had previously existed?
- 3. Which aspect of the community most sticks out to you?

notes & preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

notes & preparation checklist

tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

Launching a Movement: Acts 3:11-26

Good News and Good Deeds



group discussion flow

connect with needs

hear what God says

apply that to life

tell someone they know

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: "You have to give credit where credit is due."

Then, surface experiences:

"Let me tell you how I have experienced this."

"Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in the Christian life."

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

Choices:
Acts 3:11-26

Commentary:

Acts 3:11-26 — Peter and John have just healed a beggar crippled from birth. The healing causes quite a commotion in the temple, but Peter uses the opportunity to share the gospel about the recent death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah.

Notice that Peter doesn't allow people to focus on the healing of the lame man. He immediately takes the opportunity to share the gospel and invite people to respond so "that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that He may send the Christ..." (3:19-20)

(It might be a temptation in this lesson to get off track and discuss whether healing still happens today. Some people will believe that it does, others not. It is okay to discuss it briefly, but follow Peter's example and keep the focus on what Jesus did on the cross and don't allow a side issue to take up too much time from the study.)

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below:

"What do you think this passage teaches us?"

"What characteristics do we learn about that are true of a movement?"

"What can we learn about God or our response to God?"

"What do we learn about what God desires from us?"

How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "You have to give credit where credit is due."

- State the main lesson: "It's not enough to just do good deeds for people, we must be sure to share the Good News with them as well." Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- Discuss:
Why is it easy to just do good deeds for people but not also share the good news?

What is one thing that keeps you from sharing the good news with people for whom you do good deeds?

"What is one action you can take this week to give credit where credit is due?"

- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes & preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

○ Acts 3:11-26

1. Why do you think Peter quickly shifted the focus of the crowd from his actions to Jesus?
2. What had the audience done just 2 months earlier?
3. What parts of the gospel does Peter emphasize? (i.e. How does he change his message to fit his audience?)

notes & preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

notes & preparation checklist

tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

Launching a Movement

Give Credit Where Credit is Due



Launching a Movement

Give Credit Where Credit is Due



Launching a Movement

Give Credit Where Credit is Due



Good News & Good Deeds



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Good News & Good Deeds



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Good News & Good Deeds



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement

Give Credit Where Credit is Due



Launching a Movement

Give Credit Where Credit is Due



Launching a Movement

Give Credit Where Credit is Due



Good News & Good Deeds



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Good News & Good Deeds



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Good News & Good Deeds



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement: Acts 4:1-31

Living and Speaking Courageously



group discussion flow

connect with needs

hear what God says

apply that to life

tell someone they know

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: "Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. – Nelson Mandela"
- Then, surface experiences:
 - "Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
 - "Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in the Christian life."

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

Choices:
Acts 4:1-31

Commentary:

Acts 4:1-31 — After healing the lame man Peter and John are arrested and taken before the religious leaders for a trial. They are told to stop speaking about Jesus and sharing the Gospel with people. Filled with the Holy Spirit they responded, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:19-20)

Upon being released from the trial they return to other believers and reported all that happened. Then they spent time praising God and praying that He would allow them to continue to speak boldly about what Jesus had done.

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below:

"What do you think this passage teaches us?"

"What characteristics do we learn about that are true of a movement?"

"What can we learn about God or our response to God?"

"What do we learn about what God desires from us?"

How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it."

- State the main lesson: "God wants us to be filled with His Spirit and live and speak courageously about Him." Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.

- Discuss:
 - Why is it easy shrink back in fear and not live and speak courageously?*

What is one thing that keeps you from living and speaking courageously with your friends or family?

"What is one action you can take this week to share the gospel courageously to the people God has put in your life?"

- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes & preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- **Acts 4:1-22**

1. How do you think Peter and John must have been feeling after being arrested? (Remember, it has been less than 2 months since Jesus was arrested and killed.)
2. What stands out to you the most about Peter's response when questioned?
3. There are descriptions of Peter and John throughout this section. Which stands out the most to you? (see verses 8, 13)

- **Acts 4:23-31**

1. What is the first thing the group of believers does after hearing the events of the day? Why do you think that is significant?
2. Their prayer emphasizes the sovereignty of God (the idea that He is in control of every situation) very highly. Why was that so important to them? (and to us?)
3. The French philosopher Albert Camus once said, "There is always a philosophy for a lack of courage." How do you think that might apply to this passage?

notes & preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

notes & preparation checklist

tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

Launching a Movement

Courage is not the absence of fear, but triumph over it.



Speaking Courageously



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement

Courage is not the absence of fear, but triumph over it.



Speaking Courageously



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement

Courage is not the absence of fear, but triumph over it.



Speaking Courageously



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement

Courage is not the absence of fear, but triumph over it.



Speaking Courageously



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement

Courage is not the absence of fear, but triumph over it.



Speaking Courageously



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement

Courage is not the absence of fear, but triumph over it.



Speaking Courageously



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement: Acts 5:1-11

God is Deadly Serious About Sin



group discussion flow

connect with needs

hear what God says

apply that to life

tell someone they know

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: "Failing to treat a serious situation appropriately can lead to terrible consequences."
- Then, surface experiences:
 - "Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
 - "Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in the Christian life."

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

Choices:
Acts 5:1-11

Commentary:

Acts 5:1-11 — Ananias and Saphira are killed because they lied about giving the full sale price to the community. Peter makes the point that they have not lied to men, but to God. The seriousness of sin is seen in the consequences God brings upon them because of it.

Joshua 7:1-26 – While conquering the promised land Achan sins against God by keeping some of the spoils of Jericho for himself. He is found out and stoned to death, he and his whole family, for his sin.

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below:

"What do you think this passage teaches us?"

"What characteristics do we learn about that are true of a movement?"

"What can we learn about God or our response to God?"

"What do we learn about what God desires from us?"

How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "Failing to treat a serious situation appropriately can lead to terrible consequences."

- State the main lesson: "God is deadly serious about our sin." Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.

- Discuss:
Why don't we view sin as seriously as God does?

Think about the consequences of sin in your life. What keeps you from living in the power of the Holy Spirit daily?

"What is one action you can take this week to seek victory over a sin you just can't seem to get rid of?"

This would be a great place to go through the Satisfied? Booklet with every member in your group.

- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes & preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- **Acts 5:1-11**

1. Why does God take sin so seriously?
2. Why doesn't sin always have such immediate consequences?
3. What were the ultimate consequences of their sin?

- **Joshua 7:1-26**

1. The story in Acts is at the beginning of the church. The story in Joshua is at the beginning of life in the promised land. Why do you think these similar stories are featured prominently in both situations?
2. What were the consequences of Achan's sin?
3. Why do you think they raised a big heap of stones over Achan after his death?

notes & preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

notes & preparation checklist

tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

Launching a Movement

God is Deadly Serious About Sin



Launching a Movement

God is Deadly Serious About Sin



Launching a Movement

God is Deadly Serious About Sin



Taking Sin Seriously



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Taking Sin Seriously



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Taking Sin Seriously



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement

God is Deadly Serious About Sin



Launching a Movement

God is Deadly Serious About Sin



Launching a Movement

God is Deadly Serious About Sin



Taking Sin Seriously



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Taking Sin Seriously



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Taking Sin Seriously



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement: Acts 6:1-7

Why Can't We All Just Get Along?



group discussion flow

connect with needs

hear what God says

apply that to life

tell someone they know

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: "Sometimes what you need comes from where you least expect it."

Then, surface experiences:

"Let me tell you how I have experienced this."

"Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in the Christian life."

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

Choices:
Acts 6:1-7

Commentary:
Acts 6:1-7 — A situation arose in the early church movement where ethnic minority widows were being overlooked. They were not receiving the same care as the majority ethnicity. God raised up leaders from the ethnic minority community to solve the problem and used them to rapidly grow the movement.

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below:

"What do you think this passage teaches us?"

"What characteristics do we learn about that are true of a movement?"

"What can we learn about God or our response to God?"

"What do we learn about what God desires from us?"

How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "Sometimes what you need comes from where you least expect it."

- State the main lesson: "God delights in using overlooked ethnic groups to change the world." Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- Discuss:

Why does it seem so hard to get along with people who are different?

Think about this in your life. What keeps you from living in the power of the Holy Spirit daily?

"What is one action you can take this week to use your ethnicity for God's glory?"
- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes & preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- **Acts 6:1-7**
 1. Why do you think this situation occurred?
 2. What was the main qualification for the men they chose? Why is that important?
 3. What was the end result of choosing these men?

notes & preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

notes & preparation checklist

tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

Launching a Movement

Why Can't We All Just Get Along?



Launching a Movement

Why Can't We All Just Get Along?



Launching a Movement

Why Can't We All Just Get Along?



Using Our Ethnicity



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Using Our Ethnicity



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Using Our Ethnicity



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement

Why Can't We All Just Get Along?



Launching a Movement

Why Can't We All Just Get Along?



Launching a Movement

Why Can't We All Just Get Along?



Using Our Ethnicity



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Using Our Ethnicity



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Using Our Ethnicity



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement: Acts 7:1-53

Learning from the Past



group discussion flow

connect with needs

hear what God says

apply that to life

tell someone they know

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: "Understanding our past helps us know what we need to change for the future."
 - Then, surface experiences:
 - "Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
 - "Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in the Christian life."

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

Choices:

Acts 7:1-53 (maybe just read a subsection)

Commentary:

Acts 7:1-53 — Stephen, one of the first deacons, has been brought before the Sanhedrin (religious ruling council) to testify about what he has been doing. He responds by giving a Spark Notes version of the Old Testament and how God's people have responded to Him. **The key verse is verse 51.** He shows them that they have responded to Jesus in the same way that their forefathers responded to the prophets. "Like father, like son."

Stephen's main point to the men who have him on trial is that they are continuing to make the same mistakes as the people in the past. If they would have understood the past then it would have helped them see that Jesus was sent from God. Because they didn't understand the past, they made mistakes in the present.

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below:

"What do you think this passage teaches us?"

"What characteristics do we learn about that are true of a movement?"

"What can we learn about God or our response to God?"

"What do we learn about what God desires from us?"

How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "Understanding our past helps us know what we need to change for the future."

- State the main lesson: "We need God's help to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past." Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.

- Discuss:
 - Why does it seem so easy to continue to make the same mistakes in our lives?*

Think about this in your life. What patterns from the Bible stories do you see in your life that need to change?

"What is one action you can take this week to write a new future for your relationship with God?"

- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.

- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.

- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes & preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- **Acts 7:1-53**

1. What is a common theme that appears in this passage?
2. Out of all the stories in the Old Testament to share, why do you think Stephen picked these?
3. What was God's history of interaction with Israel?
4. What was Israel's history of interaction with God?

Application Points:

For some people their application for the week is going to be to learn more about what is written in the Old Testament. Maybe they need to know what is in the Bible so they can apply it to their lives.

For other people they need to think through what mistakes they continue to make in life and what stories in the Bible may speak to those.

notes & preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

notes & preparation checklist

tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

Launching a Movement

Learning from the Past



Launching a Movement

Learning from the Past



Launching a Movement

Learning from the Past



Help for the Present



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Help for the Present



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Help for the Present



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement

Learning from the Past



Launching a Movement

Learning from the Past



Launching a Movement

Learning from the Past



Help for the Present



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Help for the Present



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Help for the Present



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement: Acts 8:26-40

Listening to God and Sharing the Gospel



group discussion flow

connect with needs

hear what God says

apply that to life

tell someone they know

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: "When opportunity knocks we need to be ready to answer the door."

Then, surface experiences:

"Let me tell you how I have experienced this."

"Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in the Christian life."

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

Choices:
Acts 8:26-40

Commentary:

Acts 8:26-40 — Philip is told by an angel to walk down the road to Gaza. While on that road God provides an opportunity for him to interact with an Ethiopian eunuch about the gospel. Philip hears what the eunuch is reading and takes the opportunity to share the gospel with him.

Philip is faithful to listen to what God is telling him to do and act. He also is prepared to share the good news of Jesus with anyone he meets. Listening to the Spirit and sharing his faith, together those are a powerful combination.

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below:

"What do you think this passage teaches us?"

"What characteristics do we learn about that are true of a movement?"

"What can we learn about God or our response to God?"

"What do we learn about what God desires from us?"

How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "When opportunity knocks we need to be ready to answer the door."

- State the main lesson: "We need to be ready to take advantage of the opportunities God provides." Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.

- Discuss:
Why is it easy to let opportunities to share our faith pass us by?

Think about this in your life. What patterns from the Bible stories do you see in your life that need to change?

"What is one action you can take this week to listen to the Spirit to provide an opportunity to share your faith?"

- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.

- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.

- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes & preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- **Acts 8:26-40**
 1. How would you transition to the gospel from the passage that the eunuch was reading?
 2. Why do you think it was so important to God that this eunuch hear the gospel?

notes & preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

notes & preparation checklist

tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

**Launching a
Movement**
Listening to God



**Launching a
Movement**
Listening to God



**Launching a
Movement**
Listening to God



Sharing the Gospel



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Sharing the Gospel



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Sharing the Gospel



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

**Launching a
Movement**
Listening to God



**Launching a
Movement**
Listening to God



**Launching a
Movement**
Listening to God



Sharing the Gospel



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Sharing the Gospel



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Sharing the Gospel



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement: Acts 9:1-31

Changed Lives



group discussion flow

connect with needs

hear what God says

apply that to life

tell someone they know

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: "Sometimes after a major event its like you're a totally different person."
Then, surface experiences:
"Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
"Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in the Christian life."

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

Choices:
Acts 9:1-31

Commentary:

Acts 9:1-31 — Saul (also known as Paul, depending which culture he was in) was determined to stop the growth of Christianity at all costs. He traveled to Damascus to arrest any believers he found there. On the way he met Jesus and his life was changed forever.

The change was so instantaneous and radical that neither Ananias nor the disciples in Jerusalem could believe it was even possible. After his conversion Paul immediately began sharing with others why Jesus must be the Christ.

- Discuss each passage using these questions, or the alternate questions below:

"What do you think this passage teaches us?"

"What characteristics do we learn about that are true of a movement?"

"What can we learn about God or our response to God?"

"What do we learn about what God desires from us?"

How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "Sometimes after a major event it is like you are a totally different person."

- State the main lesson:
"Changed lives are a central part of any movement of God." Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.

- Discuss:
What is your changed life story?

Think about this in your life. Who do you need to share your faith with that you think it would take a miracle for them to respond?

"What is one action you can take this week to listen to the Spirit to provide an opportunity to share your faith?"

- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes & preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- **Acts 9:1-31**
 1. What are the different instances in this story where people are forced to trust God and take a risk?
 2. What did Jesus want Paul to do with his life?

notes & preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

notes & preparation checklist

tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

Launching a Movement



Launching a Movement



Launching a Movement



Changed Lives



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Changed Lives



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Changed Lives



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement



Launching a Movement



Launching a Movement



Changed Lives



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Changed Lives



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Changed Lives



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement: Acts 10:1-48

Good News for Everyone!



group discussion flow

connect with needs

- Find out how they are doing.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: "Cultural differences can keep people from getting along."
Then, surface experiences:
"Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
"Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in the Christian life."

notes & preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

hear what God says

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

Choices:

Acts 10:1-48

Commentary:

Acts 10:1-48 — The cultural differences between Jews and Gentiles were so great that it took a vision from God before Peter would enter the home of a Gentile. God used the vision to show Peter that all people are loved by God and that the Gospel is good news for everyone.

Peter went to visit Cornelius and shared the gospel with him. Then the Holy Spirit came upon the Gentiles and it was proof to Peter that the Gospel was for them too.

notes & preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- **Acts 10:1-48**
- 1. What was the main point of Peter's vision?
- 2. Why do you think it took a vision from God for Peter to get that the gospel was for all people?
- 3. Why was Peter finally convinced? (hint: see Acts 11:17)
- 4. What were some of the cultural boundaries Peter was crossing?
- 5. Who ultimately is responsible for helping people from different cultures get along?

apply that to life

- State the main lesson: "A movement of God crosses cultures with the Gospel." Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.

- Discuss:

What differences have you experienced crossing cultures?

Think about this in your life. Who is someone in your life from a different culture that you need to share the gospel with (like Peter)?

"What is one action you can take this week to listen to the Spirit to provide an opportunity for you to overcome a cultural difference for God?"

- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

notes & preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print Mini Journal

tell someone they know

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes & preparation checklist

tell

- Commit to encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who "tell" easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.

Launching a Movement

Good News for Everyone!



Launching a Movement

Good News for Everyone!



Launching a Movement

Good News for Everyone!



Crossing Cultures



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Crossing Cultures



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Crossing Cultures



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Launching a Movement

Good News for Everyone!



Launching a Movement

Good News for Everyone!



Launching a Movement

Good News for Everyone!



Crossing Cultures



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Crossing Cultures



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell

Crossing Cultures



lesson learned



action to take



person to tell
