

WEEK 1

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

# Life Group

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## INTRODUCTION N ACTIVITY

God Encounters:  
Share some way you  
saw God interact in  
your life this week.

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## MEMORY VERSE

Acts 1:8

"And the Holy Spirit will  
come upon you and  
you will be my  
witnesses in Jerusalem,  
Judea, Samaria and to

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## SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8:1-4; 1:8

## Discussion Questions

1. Read Acts 8:1-4. What stands out to you? What are these verses sharing with us (there is A LOT in these few verses).
2. What do these verse teach us about Saul? He is beginning to become a central character in the book of Acts. What does Luke think we need to know about him as he introduces him to the reader of the text?
3. The church is scattered throughout the ancient world after these verses. The Gospel is moved out into the world through these disciples bearing witness to what they've seen and heard. Read Acts 1:8. Consider the identity given to Jesus' disciples by Jesus Himself and how HE orchestrated the events of the book of Acts so far to fulfill His mission through His people.

# Questions to ask when

Sometimes when we read a passage in the Bible it can be confusing or we may not know how to best figure out what it is saying. Below are some good questions to ask when reading the Bible to help make the Bible make sense.

## 1. What stands out to me?

Note that this does not say “What does this passage mean?” Consider what stood out to you? What did you notice? What did the Holy Spirit highlight for you as you read it?

## 2. What does the text say about the character/nature of God?

The Scriptures are primarily about God so ask first what the text says about Him before moving to what it says about us, about His plan, or about anything else.

## 3. What does the text say?

Look at what the text literally says first (this may not be the intent of the text but it is important to look at it as read... at least initially).

## 4. How is it saying it?

What is the genre of the text and how should we read text in that genre?

## 5. Why does it say it that way?

Speculate about why the author chose this method of saying what they've said.

## 6. What is it trying to say?

Getting behind the Scripture, looking at its context, its original audience, its author, etc., what is the text trying to get across to the reader (both the original audience and us today?)

## 7. How does this fit into the whole of the book and the whole of Scripture?

Looking at the whole book, does what is being said jive with the whole book, with the whole of Scripture?

## 8. What questions do I have?

Do you have questions about the text? If they aren't answered in the text, are they good questions or are we asking questions that the text isn't meant to answer?

## 9. How do I feel about this teaching/text? Why do I feel that way?

What does your gut say? Are you frustrated with it? Are you trying to make it say something else than what it says? Does it make you uncomfortable? Where are these feelings coming from? Is there sin in my life I need to repent of?

## 10. What is the universal application of this text/teaching?

What are we to do with this text? Consider the original audience as well as us today.

## 11. What is my personal application?

What is God calling you to apply with what you've learned with this text?

## 12. How will I apply what it calls me to?

Make a plan to apply what God has taught you. Seek to be faithful and obedient to His leading, wherever it may go.