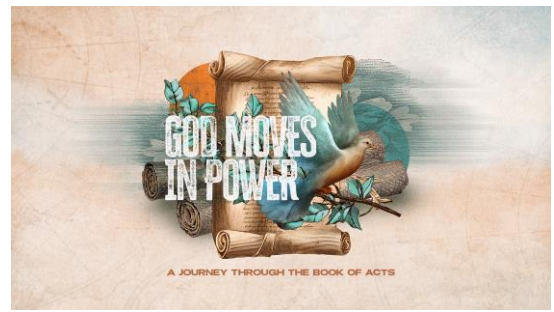


Group Discussion Guide | October 18

God Moves in Power through the Church

Series overview and leader instructions



Overview

Our current sermon series, “God Moves in Power,” is a journey through the book of Acts, where we witness the Holy Spirit at work through prayer, the gospel, the Church, and ordinary people. As we explore the story of the early church, we’ll discover that the same God who moved powerfully then is still moving today. This series will challenge and encourage us to live with bold faith, expectant prayer, and a willingness to join God’s ongoing mission in the world. The story of Acts is far from over and we’re invited to be a part of it.

Note: This series will be a thematic walk through the Book of Acts rather than a chapter by chapter or verse-by-verse study.

Bible Lab

Each week, in addition to sermon discussion questions, groups are invited to participate in “Bible Lab,” an interactive Scripture reading experience. Your group will read a different text each time you gather, but the questions you ask will be the same, inviting you to consider what you notice about God, humanity, and yourself in each passage. By providing the same questions each week, we hope to offer a Bible-reading strategy that puts the emphasis first on God and the church/others before drawing a personal application.

It could be tempting for your group to skip the Bible Lab, but we *strongly* encourage you to engage with it each week, allowing God’s Word to form your group and each person in it.

Reading Plan

We have created a reading plan to accompany this sermon series. You can find it here: [Acts Series Resources](#). You can download the reading plan or subscribe to receive the daily devotional guide each week, which contains the reading plan and reflection questions.

Consider committing to completing the reading plan as a group. Here are questions you can use (during your life group time, over a meal, or however you choose) to reflect on the reading plan each week:

- As you read, what resonated with you?
- What questions came up in your mind?
- What challenged you from God’s Word?

Opening reflection questions (10 minutes)

This week we will explore Paul’s time in Ephesus, along with the city and region-changing impact of the gospel.

- Imagine for a moment that Christianity never took off and impacted the entirety of the Western world (Europe, America, etc.). What do you think life might have been like had Christianity not become “the air we breathe?”
- What characteristics do you think make a church a “faithful church?”

Bible Lab (20 minutes)

All through the God Moves in Power series, we’ll be spending time each week in what we’re calling “Bible Lab.” Bible Lab consists of three “movements.” In the first movement, we will read the passage out loud, paying attention to what is happening in the passage. In the second movement, we’ll read it out loud again, noticing what it teaches about God, people, and ourselves. In the third movement, we will silently read the passage and share what next step the passage has for us. **Note:** *See the last page of this document for a guide you can provide your group members if desired. You could print one for each person, collect them after Bible Lab, and reuse the same guide each week.*

Movement 1

*Invite everyone to turn to **Acts 19:1-22**.*

The first time through, we want to get an overview. As we listen, ask yourself:

- What is going on in this passage?
- What caught your attention?
- What questions arise as you listen?

Read Acts 19:1-22 out loud or invite someone else to do so. When you are finished, discuss your group’s answers to the questions above. Feel free to break into groups of 2–3.

Movement 2

The second time through, we want to consider what the passage reveals about God and His people. As we listen, ask yourself:

- What does this passage show you about God? The work of the Holy Spirit?
- What do these verses reveal to us about the body of Christ, the Church?

Read Acts 19:1-22 out loud or invite someone else to do so. When you are finished, discuss your group’s answers to the questions above. Feel free to break into groups of 2–3.

Movement 3

Each of us will now take a few moments to *read Acts 19:1-22* silently to ourselves. As you read, prayerfully consider this question:

- Lord, what are You inviting me to believe, receive, or do in response to this passage?

Allow time for everyone to read and reflect. Then invite anyone who would like to share a brief response.

*When the time of sharing is done, pray a short prayer. You may use these words based on Matthew 5:14-16: "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden... In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." **Lord, Your Gospel impacts not just the heart, but the city too. Help us to be a city on a hill to the city of Indianapolis and beyond. Empower us by Your Spirit. Amen.***

Discussion of sermon and Scripture (20 minutes)

In his sermon, Pastor Dan explained how In Acts 19 we see the Spirit-empowered ministry of the church, the culture-changing impact of the church, and the heartfelt shepherding of the church.

- Which of these three do you see most at work here at The Creek? Explain.
- Have any of these impacted you personally? How?

Let's talk for a moment about Spirit-empowered ministry. For Paul, this was characterized by faithful preaching, miraculous healing, but also subverted by spiritual gifting!

- On faithful preaching: Paul seemed to proclaim God's Word even when people rejected him. When have you found it difficult to let God's Word challenge your own opinions, habits, or desires? How did you respond?
- On miraculous healing: Have you ever experienced God's miraculous intervention in your life? Where might you be desiring his miraculous intervention now?
- On spiritual gifting: What makes someone a spiritual grifter? What are some ways a person can appear spiritually mature without actually becoming more like Jesus? What might be some steps one can take to discern this in themselves?

In Acts 19:17-27, we see the gospel turn the city of Ephesus upside-down!

- The Ephesians, after hearing the gospel, confessed their sins and burned their valuable scrolls. They did this despite the great financial loss they would incur! What is something you know is hindering your spiritual growth that you are hesitant to let go of? What's holding you back?
- What does the Ephesians response teach you about the nature of repentance?

- In his sermon, Dan said that “When the gospel really captures a city, it changes the culture and the landscape.” What is one aspect of our city that you’d love to see the gospel change? Explain.

Our Acts passage ends with Paul meeting with the elders of the Ephesian church, and we see how much the leaders loved one another, how much they loved the people in the church, and how deeply they wanted the people of the church to be cared for well. So, lastly, let's pause and pray for the leaders of The Creek. Take a few moments to designate persons in your group to pray for the following: (1) The elders of the Creek; (2) the staff at The Creek; and (3) the volunteers at The Creek. Pray for strength, wisdom, and humility.

Prayer and upcoming events (15 minutes)

To close your time together, spend a few moments to break into groups of 2–3 to share and pray over one another’s prayer requests.

When finished, come back as a large group to go over upcoming events!

Upcoming Events

- Created to Serve Life Group Content

Created to Serve is a booklet designed to help people discover how God has uniquely shaped them to contribute to His Kingdom through their spiritual gifts, life experiences, passions, skills, and abilities.

Groups will engage with Created to Serve during the weeks of **October 25** and **November 1**. A workbook with guided readings and reflection questions will be offered to help each person prayerfully consider how God has wired and gifted them.

Then, when your group gathers, you'll have the opportunity to discuss what you're noticing and how God may be inviting you to respond.

Leaders should have picked up the Created to Serve Guides on Sunday, October 18. If you missed picking up the content on Sunday, please email rachelwarren@thecreek.org.

- Thursday Night Services kick off on October 22!

Bible Lab Questions

The following may be used to guide each week's Bible Lab time.

Movement 1

The first time through this week's Scripture, we want to get an overview. As we listen, ask yourself:

- What is going on in this passage?
- What caught your attention?
- What questions arise as you listen?

Listen as the passage is read out loud then discuss your answers to the questions above.

Movement 2

The second time through, we want to consider what the passage reveals about God and His people. As we listen, ask yourself:

- What does this passage show you about God? The work of the Holy Spirit?
- What do these verses reveal to us about the body of Christ, the Church?

Listen as the passage is read out loud then discuss your answers to the questions above.

Movement 3

Each of us will now take a few moments to read the passage silently to ourselves. As you read, prayerfully consider this question:

- Lord, what are You inviting me to believe, receive, or do in response to this passage?

After a time of reflection, everyone will be given the opportunity to share their response.