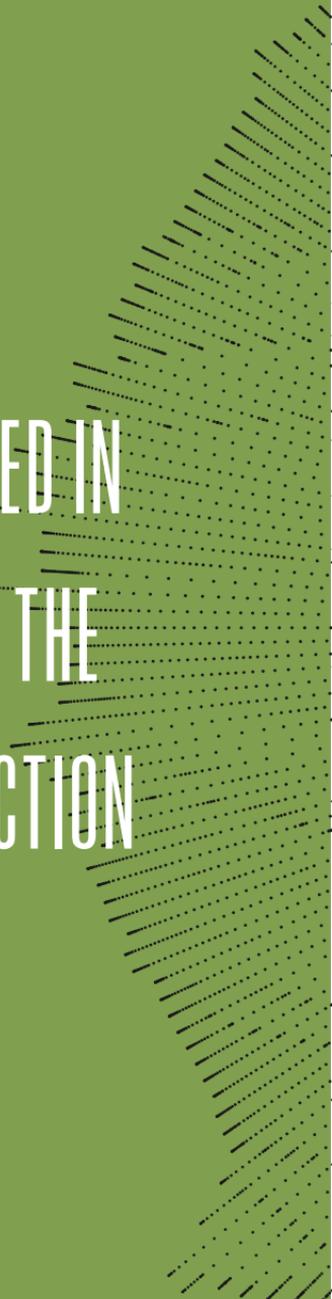


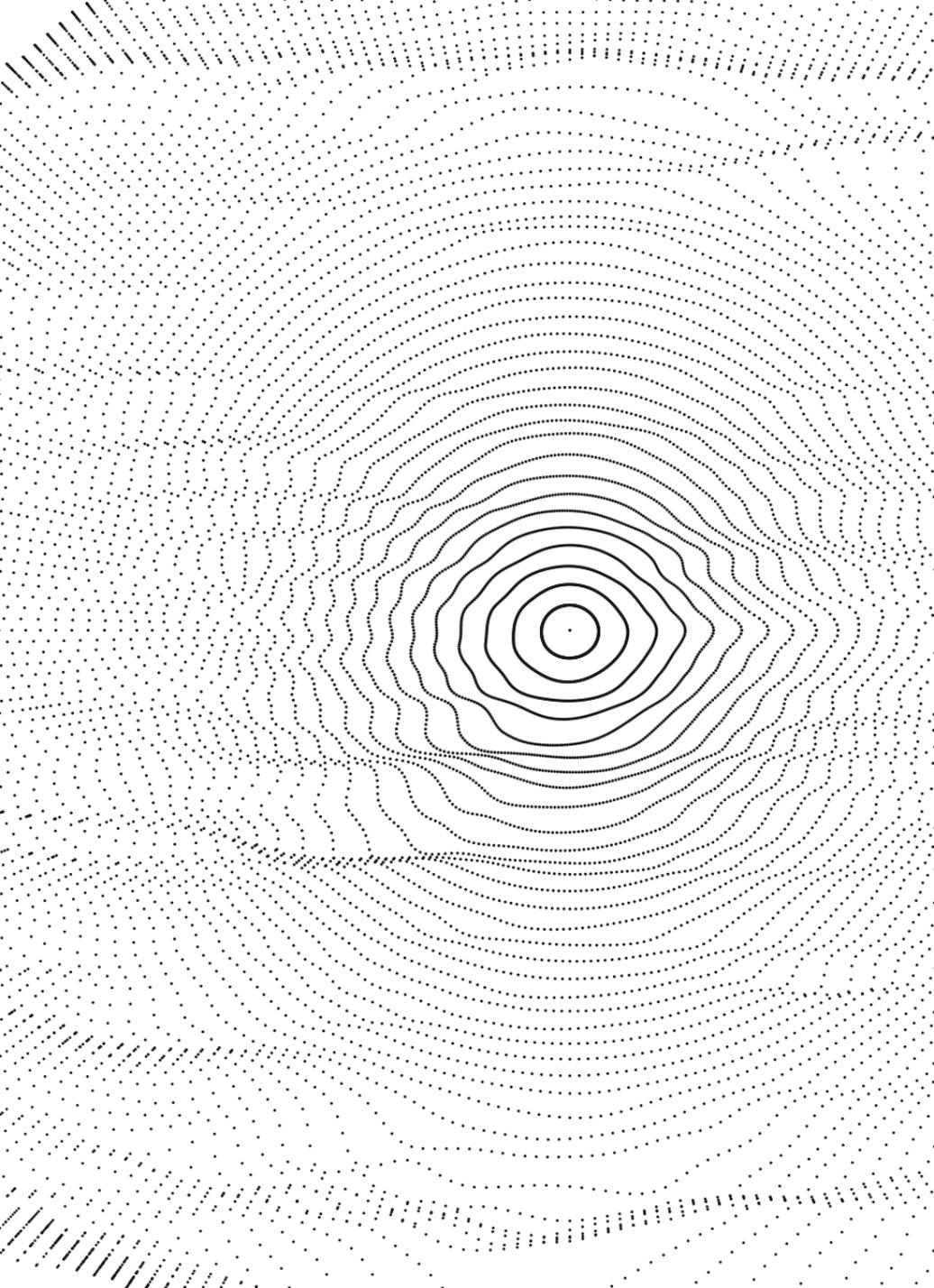


RE: ACTS

OUR RESPONSE TO THE BOOK OF ACTS

GOSPEL REACTION:
AN ACTION PERFORMED IN
DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE
DEATH AND RESURRECTION
OF JESUS CHRIST





1/3

5/7

9/11

31

33

35

OUR MISSION

4/6

8/10

12/14

38

RESERVES

RESERVES

13

15

RESERVE



37

39

41



1. BE A DISCIPLE

2. MAKE A DISCIPLE

16

RESERVE



RESERVES

RESERVES

RESERVES



BEING AND MAKING

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

.....

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the year 2017 at Grace Community Church! Thanks for joining with us and others who follow Jesus on this transformational journey. Following Jesus is more than a decision to align with an organization, root for a team, associate with a set of principles, or hold to a certain ideology. Following Jesus begins with a decision of faith to trust in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of sin, and that decision gives way to the Holy Spirit of God living in our hearts and igniting a transformative process in us.

That “transformative” process has two elements; at Grace we describe them like this: 1) be a disciple and 2) make disciples. Being a disciple means that you worship God by giving him more and more of your heart in obedience, living alongside others in community, and being equipped, coached, and encouraged in your walk

with Christ. Making disciples means that you are actively engaged in the mission of the Gospel where you live, work, and play as well as around the world. We are to be about being and making disciples.

What we know about this transformative process of being and making disciples is that the Word of God is the catalyst for this transformation. This reality makes the study of God's Word vital for progressing in the Christian life. At Grace we believe it is important to study the Word both corporately and individually. Though we believe it to be a vital part of spiritual growth, the Sunday morning sermon should not be the only nourishment you receive in the Word; we believe that all of us need to be in the Bible on our own.

Our hope is that you will agree and join us weekly at one of the 9 services we do across our campuses each weekend, and we also hope that you will be reading through and studying the verses from the sermon on your own each week. This book is designed to help you do just that. We are so glad you have chosen to join us on this year's journey. Here's to transformation in us all!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

STUDY QUESTIONS

USING THIS STUDY

🔍 READ THE SCRIPTURE 5
TIMES A WEEK AND ANSWER
THESE QUESTIONS

DAY 1 - PRAY

Read through the passage, again if you've already done so. Spend time in prayer, confessing your sin and asking God to help you understand what His Word says. Pray for humility and courage to be obedient to the truth He reveals. Pray for the Church as we study this passage together.

DAY 2 - OBSERVE

Write down any people, places, or things that stand out to you in this passage. What do you know about them? Are there any phrases that stand out?

DAY 3 - UNDERSTAND

What is the author saying? What message is he trying to convey? Write it in as few words as possible. What does it say about God? Humanity?

DAY 4 - REFERENCE

What other scriptures in the Bible address this same topic or issue? If you aren't sure, use some of the words or names you identified on day two and see if they appear anywhere else using a concordance, usually located in the back of any Bible.

DAY 5 - APPLY

What implications does this scripture have for your life? How does it apply? To you? To the culture around you? To the Church? Write down one application of this scripture and think of ways you can actively work to respond in obedience to God's Word.

5 X 5

USING THIS STUDY

⑤ PRAYERS

.....

One of the greatest moments in the book of Acts is the ascension of Christ (Acts 1:9-11). After the ascension, the disciples journeyed to Jerusalem and gathered together in the upper room. What must that conversation have been like? We can only imagine. But one thing we do know is they devoted themselves to prayer together in “one accord” (Acts 1:14). From this moment, we learn that the art of being disciples and making disciples is praying in one accord with each other. Therefore, this is exactly what we are going to do this entire year.

To pray in unity and with devotion, we are going to provide a structure that is congregation-centered yet with a personal bent. We are referring to this structure as our “5 x 5 Prayers.” Here’s how it will work:

5 PEOPLE

Choose 5 people, people who need to know God or who need to grow in God, that you will pray for during this portion of the Re:Acts series. Write them down below.

1	
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2	
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3	
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4	
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5	
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5 DAYS OF THE WEEK

Get into a rhythm in your life. The prayers don't need to be long, but they need to be consistent.

Please keep track of how God answers your prayers. We ask you to consider sharing your answered prayers by sending an email to 5x5answered@gcc.org.

Let's move together, as disciples, praying together for more people to make the name of Jesus known.



TRANSMIT THE TRUTH

STUDY
THE WORD
TOGETHER



ACTS 1:1-10

BY JON JENZ

.....

RE:ACTS

I grew up a pretty big Michael Jordan fan. Drafted by the Chicago Bulls in 1984, he quickly became a superstar in the NBA. However, as good as Jordan was, the Bulls were terrible in the mid to late 80's. It wasn't until 1990 when the Bulls started figuring out how to win. What changed? All of the players, including Jordan, realized they had an important role to play for the team to be successful. It was tempting for every player to be in awe of Jordan and watch him play each night instead of playing the role they were being asked to play, but that kind of thinking would not lead to a winning team.

Similarly, in Acts 1:6, the disciples are looking to Jesus asking Him when He will restore the kingdom to Israel. When will He get this done? While Jesus doesn't dismiss the disciples' question, He turns the table on them and tells them they have a role to play in the coming of the kingdom, a role that carries incredible responsibility.

Jesus tells the disciples they are to be witnesses of His life, death, and resurrection to the ends of the earth. Jesus did not say they would be theologians, or scholars, or leading philosophers. They were to be witnesses of Christ. A witness tells of what he has experienced and does so with as much detail as possible. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon them, giving them the power of God. This power would equip them to be witnesses in their town, region, country, and throughout all the earth.

If you are a follower of Christ, this is your role, too! You and I are to be witnesses of what Christ has done in our lives. This is how we respond to God's love, mercy, grace, blessing, and justice in our lives: we obediently do as Jesus instructs and tell people where we live, work, and play of the things He has done in our lives.

REACT	④ Read 1 Peter 3:14-17. Reflect on what Jesus has done in your life. Choose 3 people, this week, that you will witness to what Jesus has done in your life.										
5X5	⑤ Pray 1 Peter 3:14-17 over your 5 people. Specifically, pray that they will come to faith in Christ and be Spirit-filled witnesses for Jesus.										
STUDY	<table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="222 706 362 756">Day 1</td><td data-bbox="362 706 481 756">Day 2</td><td data-bbox="481 706 600 756">Day 3</td><td data-bbox="600 706 720 756">Day 4</td><td data-bbox="720 706 869 756">Day 5</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="222 756 362 856">Pray</td><td data-bbox="362 756 481 856">Observe</td><td data-bbox="481 756 600 856">Understand</td><td data-bbox="600 756 720 856">Reference</td><td data-bbox="720 756 869 856">Apply</td></tr></table>	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Pray	Observe	Understand	Reference	Apply
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5							
Pray	Observe	Understand	Reference	Apply							

ACTS 2:14-41

BY DANNY LOEFFELHOLZ

.....

RE:ACTS

Profound, significant, and brilliantly intentional all describe Peter's sermon at Pentecost. Just days after Jesus's ascension to Heaven, an emotionally and physically weary disciple named Peter stands before thousands of men and women, many who played key roles in having Jesus crucified, and he courageously delivers an incredible explanation of the Gospel. Peter's brilliance was not rooted in a seminary education, eloquent speech, or engaging personality; Peter's brilliance was in demonstrating to his listeners that God has been telling His redemptive story throughout all of human history! Have you ever thought of life in this way, that from creation until this very second there is a main story line that God has and is unfolding?

If you are like me, far too often I get sidetracked by different story lines that compete for my time, energy, resources, and heart. The most common story that sidetracks me is my own story; I tend to see all of life through the lens of my story. I think Peter would have related to this struggle; as we read Scripture, we see Peter making events about himself. Peter, like many of us, saw life through the lens of his own story. However, something profound happens between Peter's denial of Jesus and his proclamation of the Gospel at Pentecost: everything changes when Peter sees life through the lens of God's redemptive story, the Gospel!

Do you see your life, your story, underneath the umbrella of the Gospel? Or do you simply view your life as a

disconnected story that you are writing on your own? How different and significant would you view your life if you viewed it through God's redemptive story? How differently would your interactions be with your neighbor, co-worker, spouse, barista, or even strangers if you viewed their stories in the same light?

How profound, significant, and brilliantly intentional is your life and all lives around you because of your place in God's redemptive story!

REACT	Think about your life through the lens of the Gospel. Specifically, how do you see God's hand in it, both past and present? Write it down, whether in bullet points or a paragraph. Be sure to identify specific ways in which you see God's redemptive hand. Take a moment to thank Him for His work.					
5X5	Pray for your 5 people, that they would begin to sense and see God's working on earth and in their lives. Pray that they would come to see their lives through God's redemptive story.					
STUDY	<table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="222 1006 357 1092">Day 1 Pray</td><td data-bbox="357 1006 481 1092">Day 2 Observe</td><td data-bbox="481 1006 606 1092">Day 3 Understand</td><td data-bbox="606 1006 730 1092">Day 4 Reference</td><td data-bbox="730 1006 869 1092">Day 5 Apply</td></tr></table>	Day 1 Pray	Day 2 Observe	Day 3 Understand	Day 4 Reference	Day 5 Apply
Day 1 Pray	Day 2 Observe	Day 3 Understand	Day 4 Reference	Day 5 Apply		

ACTS 3:1-10

BY LEWIS POLLARD

.....

In Acts 3:1-10, we see Peter and John going to the temple to pray. On their way they see a lame man asking for money. It would have been completely normal for them to give to him, walk by without even acknowledging him, or apologize for not being able to give to him at all. They did none of those things. They stopped what they were doing, pressed the pause button on everything else, and gave the man not what he was asking for but what he thought he never deserved to have: complete healing.

RE:ACTS

To what are you tethered? What has you so gripped that you are missing all that you could be doing in the lives of people around you? Many of us are tethered to our schedules or technology, not realizing that these things can be the very things that keep us from engaging people who need us most.

Religious activities can even be a hurdle to engaging the people around us. Good things can keep us from being obedient to our call. Opportunities exist all around us, opportunities filled with people who have a need only Jesus can fill.

Consider the rhythms of your day and week. Who are the lost and disconnected people that you see regularly? How can you go about life with an awareness of the people

in your path? Ask the Lord to show you the lost and disconnected, and then commit to engaging with them as He shows them to you.

REACT

Ⓐ

This week, prayerfully find one person with whom you can begin to engage and build a relationship, and eventually share Christ with them. In fact, have you intentionally connected with any of the 5 people you are praying for this week? If not, make it a point to write or call. Reach out to them as you pray for them to know Christ.

5X5

Ⓟ

Read Romans 10:1. Pray for your 5, that they would come to know Christ and connect to the body. Pray that God would continue to give you a desire to see them come to know Christ.

STUDY

Ⓚ

Day 1
Pray

Day 2
Observe

Day 3
Understand

Day 4
Reference

Day 5
Apply

ACTS 4

BY EDGAR GALDÁMEZ

.....

RE:ACTS

The most basic definition of persecution is hostility and ill-treatment because of race, or political or religious beliefs. No one likes to experience persecution, but it should be expected by Christians when we follow Christ and live for Him. Our lives, lived in obedience to Him, will challenge the culture as we boldly proclaim the Gospel. Scripture affirms this expectation. We see in John 15:20 that Jesus told his disciples to expect persecution! The Apostle Paul also wrote in 2 Timothy 3:12 about persecution saying, “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

Since her conception, the Church has experienced persecution; but this in no way has stopped her perseverance and growth. Today, in many countries such as Africa, China, North Korea and in the Middle East, the Church continues to flourish under persecution. There are at least 15 countries where religious persecution is “systemic, egregious, and ongoing.”¹

For many of us here in America, persecution is a foreign idea; however, even if we don’t experience it, our lives should be ones that are determined to be faithful to Christ in all circumstances. Furthermore, we need to ask God for the same boldness for the Gospel that the Church prayed for in Acts. If those who are persecuted continue to share

the Gospel with others, why do we hesitate? Why should we retreat when we haven't been attacked?

This week, think about your boldness for Christ. Are you living out your faith openly before others? Are you actively seeking opportunities to share the Gospel? Pray that God would give you boldness and opportunities to share the Good News of Christ.

REACT A	Maybe you've not yet shared the Gospel with someone else, or maybe you've never considered the power of your own story of what He's done, your testimony. This can feel intimidating! This week, practice having that conversation with someone else. Write it down! Remember that your testimony is very simply the story of God's redemption in your life.					
5X5 S	Pray for your 5 and for an opportunity to tell your story to them. Pray also for their testimony, that they would come to know the fullness of God's story and how it can impact their lives.					
STUDY Q	<table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="274 1011 347 1063">Day 1 Pray</td><td data-bbox="372 1011 450 1063">Day 2 Observe</td><td data-bbox="481 1011 559 1063">Day 3 Understand</td><td data-bbox="611 1011 688 1063">Day 4 Reference</td><td data-bbox="725 1011 802 1063">Day 5 Apply</td></tr></table>	Day 1 Pray	Day 2 Observe	Day 3 Understand	Day 4 Reference	Day 5 Apply
Day 1 Pray	Day 2 Observe	Day 3 Understand	Day 4 Reference	Day 5 Apply		

¹The Church Around the World, August 2013

BROADCAST HIS GRACE

WRITE AND SHARE YOUR STORY

A pair of black over-ear headphones with a coiled cable, resting on a dark, textured surface. The headphones are positioned on the right side of the frame, with the earcups facing downwards and slightly to the right. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly leather or a similar material, with a subtle grid pattern. The overall tone is dark and professional.



ACTS 4:32-36

BY CHRIS WITT

.....

I will own this: I generally struggle over the decision whether to take the last slice of pizza or not. But not for long. I will most likely take it and walk away thinking, “You snooze, you lose.”

Then I read about the wild days of the early church in Acts 4 and witness how they worship the God of sacrifice through the sacrifice of themselves for their neighbor. You see them give from what they have been given in dramatic fashion. Not only do they give the last slice of pizza away, they sell their house so that they can buy more pizza! In doing so, they display a challenging picture of what life in Christ is supposed to look like in any century or culture. The heart of a believer, when submitted to Jesus, restructures itself around one idea: “For where your treasure lies, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

How do they become so generous when the world around them is so threatening? If there was ever a time to retreat and protect self-interests, they were living in it. However, they did the opposite because they embraced the truth that life is a dish best served, not hoarded. They restructured their lives and resources to serve a greater purpose. Therefore, the acts of the early church beg a deep questioning in me: around what purpose have I centered my heart? As I gather and apply the resources of my life, whose kingdom do I seem to be seeking?

To deny myself is to start the day with a goal to give life as it has been given, not to live life as if it is simply mine to live.

RE:ACTS

CS Lewis says this about living generously: “Christ says, ‘Give me all. I don’t want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it...I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself: my own will shall become yours.’”

Acts 4 reminds me of this idea. The Gospel implies that the world does not exist for my benefit, but in Christ, I exist to bless the world. Therefore, the self-protecting, self-fulfilling, self-actualizing way of life is wrong. It is contrary to my new nature. It prohibits me from embracing life as it is meant to be lived. It is something to be given away before I can ever expect to truly find it.

REACT	④ Make a list of your resources (time, treasures, and talents) Now, worship God this week by giving something from that list to someone on your 5x5 list. Do so out of gratitude for what you have been given. You may give time to listen, words in a letter of encouragement, your hands in service, or treasure towards a financial situation, or even just free pizza! Seek the Lord and His kingdom and respond with a generous heart towards your neighbor.					
5X5	⑤ Read 1 Timothy 2:4 and pray this verse over your 5 people for the week.					
STUDY	⑥ <table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="269 1156 362 1213">Day 1 Pray</td><td data-bbox="362 1156 455 1213">Day 2 Observe</td><td data-bbox="455 1156 549 1213">Day 3 Understand</td><td data-bbox="549 1156 642 1213">Day 4 Reference</td><td data-bbox="642 1156 735 1213">Day 5 Apply</td></tr></table>	Day 1 Pray	Day 2 Observe	Day 3 Understand	Day 4 Reference	Day 5 Apply
Day 1 Pray	Day 2 Observe	Day 3 Understand	Day 4 Reference	Day 5 Apply		

2 COR 8:8-9

BY DANNY LOEFFELHOLZ

.....

RE:ACTS

Let's ask a couple of honest questions that require honest answers: "Do you consider yourself a generous person?" and "How different would your life look like if it were marked by generosity?" Generosity seems to be one of those qualities that we generally believe we should possess, but few of us truly view ourselves as generous. This is the very issue that the apostle Paul addresses with the church in Corinth (2 Corinthians 8:8-9). It seems as though this group of Christians understood they should be generous people but find themselves in a place where generosity is a trait they desire but see little to no evidence of in their lives, a reality with which we are all too familiar.

What, then, is the solution to our generosity problem? To solve this dilemma, we have to identify what motivates us to be generous. Do you notice Paul's method to motivate the Corinthian Christians to be generous in 2 Corinthians 8? His method was not to guilt or command generosity, but instead he takes these believers back to the Gospel and allows the Gospel of Jesus Christ to motivate their growth in generosity. Paul says, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." (2 Cor. 8:9). The only way Jesus could rescue us out of our spiritual poverty and into spiritual riches was to leave his riches and enter into poverty himself. This is the essence

of generosity and serves as our motivation to be generous people. As Eric Geiger writes, “When viewing discipleship through the lens of the Gospel, the goal is to apply the Gospel to all of life, to continually stand on the Gospel impacts everything.”

Because God has first been infinitely generous to you, you have the power to be generous with your entire life, your talents, your time, and your treasure. May your motivation be these words, “God so loved the world that He gave...”

REACT	④ What motivates you to be generous? Why? Does your motivation align with Scripture? Scripture says in 2 Corinthians 10:5 to take captive every thought to obey Christ. If your motives are wrong, confess them to God and then search scripture for truth.
5X5	⑤ Read 1 Timothy 2:3-4 and pray this scripture over your 5 people this week.
STUDY	⑥

Day 1 Pray	Day 2 Observe	Day 3 Understand	Day 4 Reference	Day 5 Apply
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PSALM 24:1

BY KYLE SMITH

.....

My son and I found evidence that a long-tailed rodent was working to make a home in our attic, so we set out to catch this rodent. After we set the traps, it wasn't long before we caught the intruder. I showed my son, and I could see his gentle spirit processing what had happened. He turned to me and asked, "Why?" After realizing he may have been too young for this, I tried to diffuse the situation with humor and said, "Because this is our home, and he wasn't paying rent!"

RE:ACTS

Several weeks later, I heard our kids discover a lizard outside. Our son chased it away yelling, "This is our home, and you don't pay rent!" I knew this needed to be addressed before the kids asked family and friends to leave our home unless they contributed to the bills. That night I told our kids that we live in our home and take care of it, but it ultimately belongs to God; it's our home, but everything we own was created by and belongs to God.

Have you considered this? Everything in existence was created by God and belongs to Him. Beautiful sunsets? His. The juiciest hamburger you've tasted? His. The stuff piled up in the garage? His. Your family? His. The abilities, talents, and skills that enable us to make money? All from God. We're tempted to credit ourselves for what we have and how it was acquired, but as Scripture says, the "earth is

the Lord's and the fullness thereof." God provides for our needs and trusts us with great resources, but it's all His.

God generously supplies our needs in this life, but His greatest act of generosity was giving His son for our salvation. Almighty God, who created and owns everything, chose to give Jesus for our forgiveness and redemption.

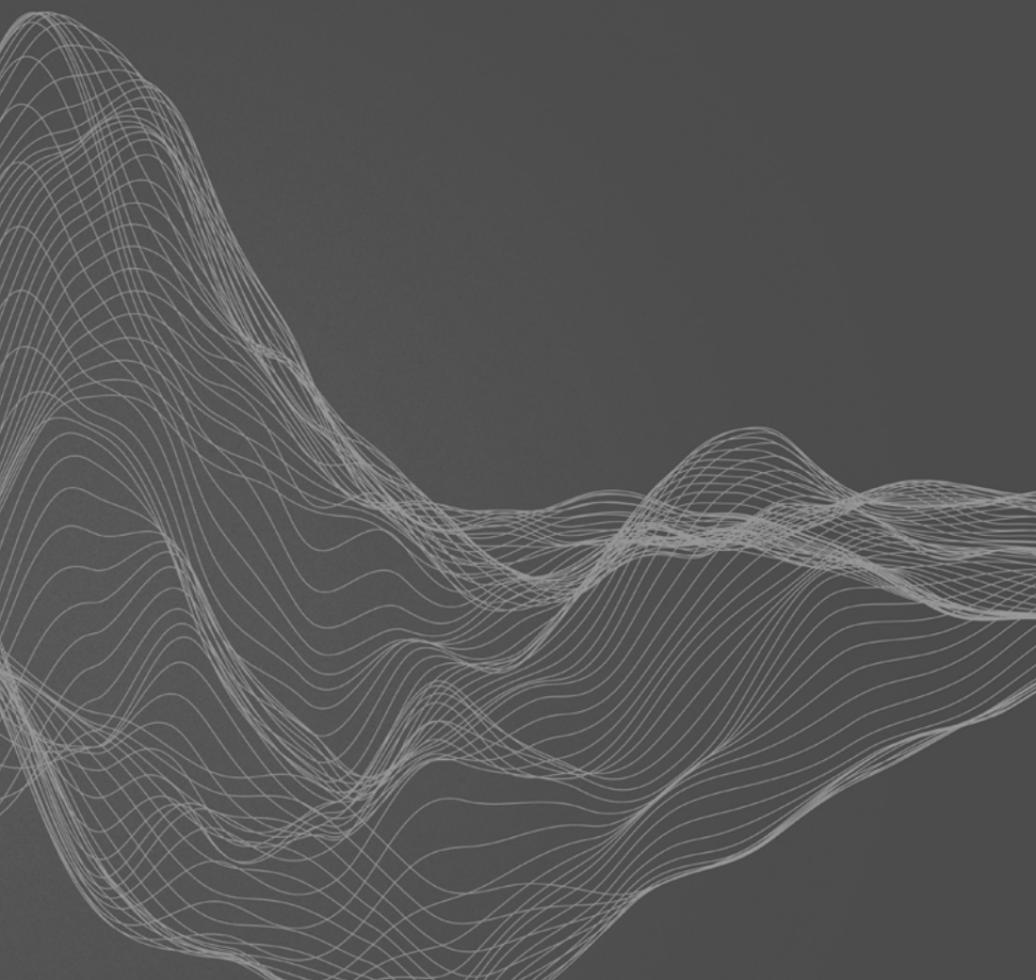
How do we respond to that generosity? We recognize that God owns all things and desires us to be generous, as He is with us. When we are generous with our time, words, encouragement, finances, and skills, we have an opportunity to emulate God's generosity.

REACT		Reflect. How has God been generous to you? Be specific. Read John 3:16-17. Make a plan for each day this week to be intentionally generous with your time, words, encouragement, finances, skills, etc.					
5X5		Pray John 3:16-17 over your 5 this week.					
STUDY		<table border="1"><tr><td>Day 1 Pray</td><td>Day 2 Observe</td><td>Day 3 Understand</td><td>Day 4 Reference</td><td>Day 5 Apply</td></tr></table>	Day 1 Pray	Day 2 Observe	Day 3 Understand	Day 4 Reference	Day 5 Apply
Day 1 Pray	Day 2 Observe	Day 3 Understand	Day 4 Reference	Day 5 Apply			

REACH A WIDE SPECTRUM

PLAN TO COMMUNICATE GENEROSITY





MATT 6:33 PHIL 3:19-20

BY CHRIS WITT

.....

At the time of this writing, it is 8 days past the so called “scariest day of the year,” Halloween. However, today seems like the ACTUAL scariest day in MANY years. It is November 8, 2016. In a matter of hours, it appears one of two incredibly flawed choices will receive the national mandate to become the 45th President of the United States.

I don’t know what happened yet. I don’t know what transpired between November 9 and today. At this moment, many people believe there will be social, economic, and spiritual Armageddon if it goes the “wrong” way. It makes Halloween seem like Arbor Day.

I know two things that didn’t change: God’s Word and my purpose. In Matthew 6, Jesus suggests I consider the birds out my window and the grass alongside the roads I drive. They “neither sow nor reap” nor “toil nor spin” yet they find provision in a world that is passing away. He asks, “are you not of more value” and “how much more” will He provide for you because you are His child? Moreover, He challenges the value of any thinking motivated by fear or any life dependent on the kingdoms we create. He exhorts me to trust Him with today as I “seek first the Kingdom of Heaven,” because it is the only thing that remains.

There will come a time when the skies open up and the end of this cyclical, systemic mess of fallen humanity comes to a screeching halt. All that we fear in this season of becoming God’s people will disappear with the sight of His face, His actual, beautiful, powerful face. On that day, we won’t thank any political leader for saving us in our time of need. Nothing we do in our workplace will improve or enhance

RE:ACTS

eternal perfection. There is literally nothing we will build for ourselves in this world that will stand in the next. Only Christ and His Church will inhabit the fullness of a redeemed creation.

In Philippians 3:20, Paul declares our citizenship in heaven first. That designation must define every act in my day. The work of my hands, the fruits of my labor, the targets of my actions must be eternally oriented because eternal things are the point. Presidents will come and go. Economies will rise and fall. Culture will writhe and shift violently on the whims of those whose “God is their stomach.” However, in a world that is passing away daily, what remains worthy of my time and energy is the mercy-filled, hope-giving, love-spreading work of Jesus towards those who need Him.

REACT

4

Invest in your next home. Saturdays are often about working around the house or investing time into our personal life. Look at your calendar for the next month. Pick a “Kingdom Saturday” and make plans to invest it in your eternal home. Plan a fun day for a lost friend in your 5x5. Serve a group that is displaying the love of Christ for people in need. Raise money for a Kingdom cause. Whatever you choose, take the time to tell someone how valuable they are to the Kingdom of God. Help them to see that this world is NOT your home, and that makes all the difference in how you live in it.

5X5

5

Read Phil 3:20 again. Pray for your 5, that they would come to know the Savior.

STUDY

Q

Day 1
Pray

Day 2
Observe

Day 3
Understand

Day 4
Reference

Day 5
Apply

2 CORINTHIANS 9

BY LEWIS POLLARD

.....

This week we are looking at 2 Corinthians 9 and considering how to give cheerfully and generously. Giving cheerfully seems like an unusual approach; however, a cheerful giver is one who does not hold too tightly to his or her possessions. The alternative to cheerful giving is begrudging giving, full of resentment and reluctance. Too often our possessions have a white knuckled grip on us; we have become so protective of what isn't meant to be kept.

RE:ACTS

With that in mind, our giving, ultimately, should be an outpouring of thanks for the immeasurable amount of grace we have been shown. This grace reconciles us and settles forever the insurmountable debt that our sin created. What that means is that we, and all that we possess, are not our own; we have been bought with a steep price. As we live in this new identity, we begin to understand that life is meant for a greater purpose, a Gospel-inspired purpose.

This text indicates that God meets the needs of His people, according to his purpose for every good work to be accomplished. As a result, you can give with a cheerful spirit knowing that you have a God who provides for your needs. Besides, any time, talent, or material wealth you possess is on loan from the God who owns it all, and it will always be put to better use when poured out generously in obedience to the Lord.

REACT

1

This week, begin to practice cheerful giving by taking account of all that God has entrusted to you, knowing that you don't deserve any of it. Then find someone to intentionally give your time to for their benefit, another who would benefit from your talents, and then someone who would benefit from your treasure, doing so with a cheerful spirit knowing that God has shown you grace upon grace.

5X5

5

One of the most difficult and yet accessible ways to be generous is in love. Mark 12:31 reminds us of the second greatest commandment. Read that verse and then pray over your 5, looking for ways to be generous in love to them.

STUDY

Q

Day 1
Pray

Day 2
Observe

Day 3
Understand

Day 4
Reference

Day 5
Apply

ACTS 20:24

BY JON JENZ

.....

In 2016, we did a year-long series, Encountering God. In Acts chapter 9, the apostle Paul is on his way to Damascus when he encounters the Lord Jesus Christ. From that moment, everything changed for Paul. In Paul's hierarchy of priorities, Jesus Christ was now above everything else, much like what John the Baptist said in John 3:

“He [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease.”
He who comes from above is above all.”

John 3:30-31 ESV

RE:ACTS

As Jesus increased in Paul's life, a common theme emerged from Paul's writings: Paul consistently describes the selflessness and suffering he would endure because he followed Christ and proclaimed the Gospel. In Acts 20:24, Paul says,

“But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

Paul clearly saw, because of his encounter with Christ, the most important thing in life was the Gospel. He saw the life, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ and what that meant for all of humanity. Paul proceeded to live

one of the most generous and selfless lives in history. His life continues to profoundly impact the world today. In light of what he knew of Christ, how could Paul possibly live simply to please himself?

Paul knew Jesus was merciful, so he trusted. Paul knew Jesus secured eternity, so he was joyful. Paul knew Jesus was faithful, so he was confident. Because of this trust, joy, and confidence in Christ, Paul saw his life as an opportunity to worship Jesus through selflessness and sacrifice.

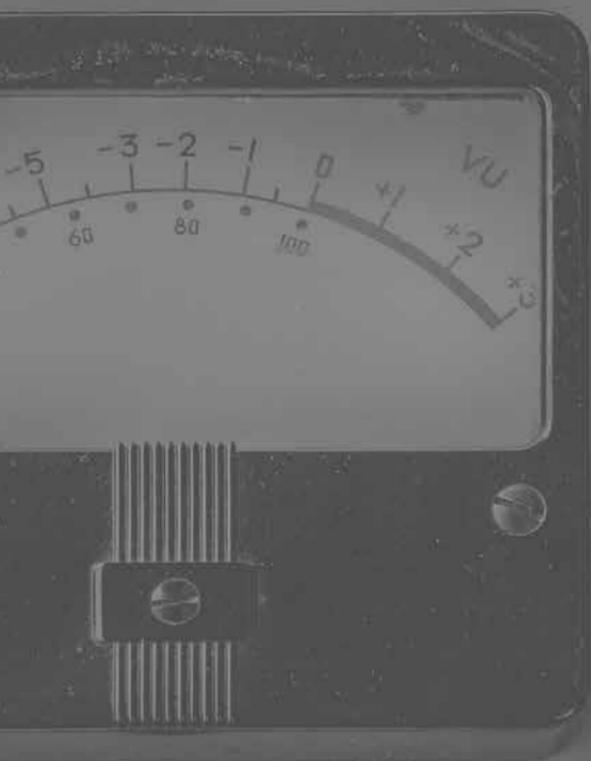
We have the same opportunity today and every day we are given breath. How will you live selflessly for Jesus today?

REACT	🕒	Memorize John 3:30-31. Make a sacrifice each day this week as an act of worship toward Jesus.				
	🗣️	Pray John 3:30-31 over your 5 people.				
STUDY	🔍	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
		Pray	Observe	Understand	Reference	Apply

DIAL YOUR HEART INTO THE WORD

MEMORIZE JOHN 3:30-31





ACTS 5:17-42

BY LOUELLEN LOWE

.....

I have a friend who loves to make people feel uncomfortable. She finds it hilarious to say or do things to make them squirm, blush, or shift nervously where they stand. I've never understood this twisted humor because, like most people, I am not a fan of discomfort. Further, I like societal "rules," even the unwritten ones. They provide the cozy blanket of steady expectations, predictable and warm in a way that helps me sleep at night.

RE:ACTS

However, I've grown to understand and appreciate that the Gospel is uncomfortable for me, a sinner, jarring me out of my complacent, warm, risk-less stasis. In this passage, we see another group of uncomfortable people, perhaps feeling displaced by the truth of the Gospel: the Sadducees. Historians tell us the Sadducees made up a majority of the Sanhedrin, the supreme council, or court, in ancient Israel. They were mostly aristocrats who ascribed only to the written Law, meaning the verbal testimony of Jesus and his apostles was extremely unsettling, even heresy. Additionally, they aimed to keep the peace with the authorities in Rome, and this Gospel "uprising" seriously threatened their standing.

No matter how hard they tried, they could not stifle the truth or the spread of the Gospel. The Gospel, no matter how uncomfortable it may be to the comfortable sinner, never ceases to be true! Furthermore, we see time and again that as God inhabits His own with the Holy Spirit, nothing can stop the spread of the Gospel. In fact, here we see God's direct intervention to preserve the Gospel as He sends an angel to free the apostles from prison.

The evidence of God's working to preserve His message caused even Gamaliel, a Pharisee, to take pause and intervene on behalf of the apostles. He had seen spiritual fanatics wander in and out of the public square, but in most cases, they died with the death or absence of their leader. However inconvenient it may have been for his own comfort and standing, he knew better than to oppose God, and he knew something was different about this group. They were imprisoned, and yet they returned to the same task for which they'd been arrested. They were severely beaten, and yet they joyfully counted themselves privileged to suffer for the Gospel and continued to teach the words of Jesus.

The Gospel and its truth cannot be stopped. We can go about life comfortable and unmoved, or we can respond in humble obedience to its message. How will you respond?

REACT



Do you understand the message of the Gospel? If you have doubts or questions, I challenge you to talk with a pastor about it and really tackle the tough spots. Is God pushing you out of your comfort zone towards something new? I challenge you to seek Him earnestly in prayer and respond in humble obedience to His Word and His call.

5X5



Read Ephesians 1:17 and pray that verse over your 5 this week.

STUDY



Day 1
Pray

Day 2
Observe

Day 3
Understand

Day 4
Reference

Day 5
Apply

ACTS 6:1-7

BY DOUG CLARK

.....

A Harvard study has determined that adults who attend a religious service at least once a week have a much lower risk of dying over the next decade and a half. That is good news for us who go to church and good reason to keep coming. But there is a better reason to be a part of a church, and that is that you get to fulfill some of who God made you to be through the use of your gifts and talents.

Every one of us brings different talents and gifts to the church. In Acts 6:1-7 we see that playing out as they seek to fulfill the mission of the Gospel. Here are some things to notice in these verses:

RE:ACTS

- The Church must proclaim the Word.
- The Church is to care for the needs of widows.
- The Church has to have a mechanism to know who has needs and what those needs might be.
- Because of the people and the mission, there has to be some sense of organization.
- No matter what gift we have, it is to be used in a servant-like manner.

The apostles were called to establish the Church and teach the Word according to their commissioning and gifting. They certainly were to care about widows and serve when they could, but it was clear that someone with a different

gift should see that people, especially widows, are not neglected. You know this type of person, the one who sees the need before it is voiced. They are fantastic at this! Meeting the needs of people, such as widows, is just one example of giftedness at work, but there are a multitude of others.

The apostles could not see to every need, every aspect of the Church, alone. It is easy to see why it is imperative that the Body of Christ come together, each utilizing his or her gifts, to further the Gospel together. The result, as we see in this passage, is that the church grows! The Church cannot flourish if only the few, with only their few giftings, are trying to go it alone. Are you using your gifts and talents to grow the Church through the sharing of the Gospel?

REACT



How can your gifts and the opportunities God has given you come together with the Church in such a way that you are using what God gave you and who He made you to be to build His Kingdom? Write down one way you will use your gift to build the body and advance the Kingdom this week, month, or year.

5X5



Read 2 Peter 3:9 and pray it over your 5 this week.

STUDY



Day 1
Pray

Day 2
Observe

Day 3
Understand

Day 4
Reference

Day 5
Apply

ACTS 7:54-60

BY EDGAR GALDÁMEZ

.....

Stephen was the first martyr of the Church, the first to receive the crown of life (James 1:12). In fact, his name means “crowned.” He was a man full of faith, full of the Holy Spirit, and full of grace and power. Scripture says he did great “wonders and signs among the people,” and his boldness and dependence in his walk with the Lord is an example for all of us.

RE:ACTS

What is astonishing is that this bold witness for the Gospel was fairly new in his faith! As he walked boldly in obedience to God, religious men opposed him but they could not resist him. Unable to shut him up, they made him a martyr. One of the men who gave approval to Stephen’s execution was a man named Saul, whom we know as Paul in the New Testament. Undoubtedly, Stephen’s testimony and martyrdom was a factor in Paul’s conversion to Christ.

Stephen’s life is an example of giving all of our life for the Gospel. His last words revealed the power of the Gospel; he not only entrusted his spirit to Christ but forgave his persecutors as they murdered him. In fact, following his Lord’s example, he used the same words as Jesus did on the cross: “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”

Stephen sacrificed everything for the cause of the One who saved him. Are you willing to sacrifice your all for the sake of the Gospel?

REACT

As you think about Stephen's life this week, evaluate your life by asking several questions and write the answers down somewhere you can later reflect:

1. Am I willing to sacrifice everything for the Lord? Am I depending on the Lord completely on a daily basis?
2. Do people around me see me as one who is full of faith, full of the Holy Spirit, and full of grace and power?
3. Am I being bold in sharing the Gospel of Christ with grace and truth like Stephen?
4. Do I have a forgiving spirit towards those who have hurt me?

Spend a few minutes praying to God to help you become a "Stephen," willing to live and die for the Lord Jesus.

5X5

Read Romans 10:9-10 and pray this scripture over your 5 this week.

STUDY

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Pray	Observe	Understand	Reference	Apply

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

GO AND SEND THE
SIGNAL OF GOD'S
LOVE OUT FROM
WHEREVER YOU ARE

