

Act Normal

Christianity according to Acts

The book of Acts shows us what standard-issue Christianity looks like. At times, the disciples drifted from it and we see the Lord bring the church back.

We can drift from acting on God's word to only agreeing with it. Lent is a time for repentance; that is, course correction. This series is a refresher course on the basics of the Way of Christ that we teach in the Equipping Track.

Week 1 Feb. 26th Invite the Spirit

Text: Acts 2; Acts 19:1-2ff (*While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples² and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."*)

Course correction moment: Ephesian believers trying to live without Spirit.

Want People to Know: The presence, fruit, and the gifts of the Spirit are our birthright for the asking.

Want People to Do: Receive prayer to be filled with the Holy Spirit

Week 2 March 5th Be Generous

Text: Acts 5

Course correction moment: Ananias and Saphira fake generosity.

Want People to Know: Giving is a normal response for Spirit-led people.

Want People to Do: Plan tithe and help someone financially

Week 3 March 12th Witness

Text: Acts 4 & 5; Acts 8:4

Course correction moment: Believers staying in Jerusalem rather than obeying Jesus to go into all the world. Persecution drives them out, and "they preached the Gospel wherever they went."

Want People to Know: Grippled by the wonder of the Gospel we share it wherever we go.

Want People to Do: BLESS, as individuals and/or as a Lifegroup

Week 4 March 19th A Bigger Family

Text: Acts 10

Course correction moment: Peter won't enter Cornelius' house until he gets a vision of "Kill and eat."

The Church today is a community that transcends race, tribe, ethnicity.

Want People to Know: God calls us to welcome all he does into the family.

Want People to Do: Have a conversation with someone who is different from you socially, politically, spiritually, or racially.

Week 5 March 26th Get a (prayer) life

Text: Acts 12

Course correction moment: Church praying for Peter – but without faith, so they are surprised when Peter shows up at their door.

Contrast with gathering in Upper Room.

Meeting daily with God (SOAP) is indispensable to living with Christ.

* Listening prayer allows us to hear from God

Prepares us for what we will face

Keeps us in tune with heaven

* Intercession: blesses others

* Petition/asking: makes things happen

Want People to Know: Living for Christ without prayer is like working out without breathing.

Want People to Do: Commit to a time of daily prayer.

Week 6 April 2nd Obey God

Text: Acts 21:10-13

When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Course correction moment: Believers beg Paul not to go to Jerusalem, but he explains he is ready to obey God.

Want People to Know: Jesus followers value radical obedience higher than safety

<https://radical.net/podcasts/pray-the-word/embracing-costly-obedience-acts-2110-13/>

Want People to Do: