

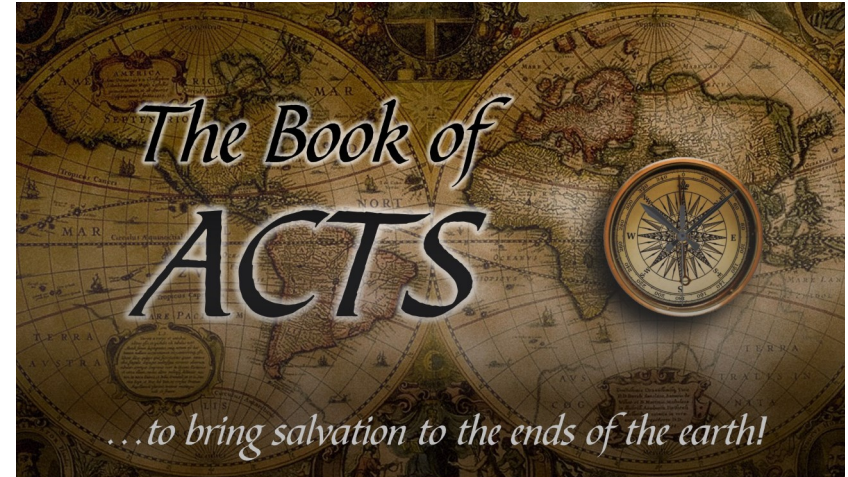
“A spiritual battle rages in every ministry setting.” What would be a good response in that situation?

- 5) Can you identify values in our broader culture hinder our/ your fuller embrace of God’s purpose in the world? How can we strengthen our ability to better be God’s witnesses?

- 6) Is there anything in Ephesians 6:10-20 that you sense would be especially valuable to you right now in your *MINISTRY OF PRESENCE*? How might that be incorporated into your life?

- 7) What is your reaction to Matthew 24:14 and Revelation 7:9?

Prayer Requests



February 5, 2023/Acts 8:4-40

Scripture References

Acts 1:8 • Acts 8:4-40 • Psalm 67 • Luke 8:4-15 • John 20:21
Colossians 1:13-14 • John 12:46 • 1 Peter 2:9 • Psalm 139:23

- 1) We start in the Old Testament to get a historical perspective on God’s redemptive plan.

- 2) From Isaiah 43:10-12 through Acts 1:8 we see that our part as God’s people is to be his witnesses.

- 3) So Psalm 67 makes it clear that God blesses us for a PURPOSE — and that purpose is to make God known in the whole world. God is not just blessing US. He blesses us so that we will be able to share our blessings with the world, to glorify Him.

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- 4) Being available for being a witness begins with ministry of presence.
- 5) Believe that it is no accident that you live in a place God has chosen for you to represent Him.
- 6) Proclamation of the gospel will confront darkness.
- 7) A spiritual battle rages in every ministry setting.
- 8) Only God's power can transform a sinful, rebellious heart into a heart of loving worship.
- 9) Only God can forgive and do the powerful work of changing hearts.
- 10) Like Philip we are better representatives of God's values as we partner in ministry, are available, obedient, and prepared.
- 11) Remember that it is God who initiates relationship with us, "For not one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me..." (John 6:44)



Small Group Discussion Questions

Please try to think these over and jot down some ideas prior to discussing them at the meeting, it will improve the discussion.

- 1) If Acts 8 reveals the DNA in the early church, what are the DNA components that you believe would reflect God's work in His church today?
- 2) Psalm 67 helps us to understand something of God's purposes for His people and the world. Identify and discuss what God's purposes are as you see it in Psalm 67.
- 3) What might you hope to see as God's people grow in their understanding of God's purposes?
- 4) Suppose someone commented that it's rather dramatic to say,

Continued on reverse.