

TAKEAWAY

EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE



Part One: Acts 1:1-3

At Maybridge we want to be a church of disciples who make disciples – we hope this takeaway session encourages practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in your group. The focus of group discussion should be on becoming 'doers of the word' and not just hearers or people who enjoy a good discussion!

As always, there are more questions and discussion prompts than you'll have time for, so feel free to use what is helpful for your group as time allows and discussion flows.

PRAY

If you have not met up as a group over the Easter break, now is a good time to catch up and spend some time praying for each other, together for a few minutes.

INTRODUCTION

Like Christians through the ages, we believe the Bible to be full of timeless truth that can be applied anytime, anywhere; it's God speaking to us. We're beginning a new teaching series working our way through a book of the New Testament known as 'Acts'. Our hope as we unpack this pivotal book, is to try to understand it, in context, and then think about what it has to say to us as followers of Jesus today. We've called the series 'Everyone, Everywhere' because at heart Acts is *a message for everyone everywhere, about a person who is for everyone everywhere.*

WATCH

Book of Acts Summary: Part One – The Bible Project

<https://youtu.be/CGbNw855ksw?si=MXjnDZfg89KHoywD>

You may find it helpful to watch the first 2 mins and 45 secs of this helpful introduction to The Book of Acts from The Bible Project.

As the weeks go on, as time allows, you could continue to watch the rest of the clip.

SHARE

- What does the name "The Acts of the Apostles" imply and why is this perhaps not the best title for the book?
- What other name or title could you give to the book of Acts? Explain why.

READ

Acts 1:1-3

DISCUSS

What stands out to you about the way Luke introduces the book of Acts?

Why do you think he begins by pointing back to Jesus rather than immediately telling new stories?

How does knowing Acts was written relatively close to the events it describes affect how you think about its reliability? What difference does it make to your faith that Christianity is rooted in historical claims rather than just ideas or philosophies?

Why do you think the disciples still needed the Holy Spirit even after seeing miracles, hearing Jesus' teaching, and witnessing the resurrection? How does that challenge the idea that Christianity is mainly about knowledge or information?

What does it look like practically to depend on the Holy Spirit rather than just our own effort when following Jesus?

What does it mean that Jesus' suffering for sin is finished and "done"?

Why do you think the early disciples were willing to suffer and die rather than stop talking about the resurrection?

Jesus focused on teaching about the kingdom of God. How is the kingdom of God different from political power, moral improvement, or private spirituality?

Why is it important that the kingdom grows through sacrificial love rather than power or control?

What does it mean for you personally to live as part of God's kingdom rather than simply believing Christian ideas?

How could studying Acts change the way you think about your role in God's mission?

PRAY

TRY OUT

- Think of one or two things that you have learned from this session that you'd like to work on in the coming weeks.
- Reflect on what makes you hesitant to share your faith with those who don't know Jesus. Commit to pray for five people from your neighbourhood, leisure activities, family, work or studies over the coming weeks and for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with them.
- Read through Acts Chapter 1.