



Unified.
Empowered.
Missional.

WEEK 11 LEADER GUIDE: ACTS 27-28:31

Our final week! Thank you for leading your group through Acts with us this fall, for pointing your group towards unity, and for engaging conversations about the Holy Spirit. We've loved walking through God's Word with you.

This week is a little different. As we wrap up our final week of Acts, we want to help you lead your group through a time of communion and prayer. Various groups have been watching the teaching video at different times but for this last week, you'll want to save it for after your discussion so you can transition out of it into communion. **Here is a quick example of how to schedule your evening:**

15 mins – Catch-Up / Icebreakers

25 mins – Reading Discussion

15 mins – Watch Teaching

10 mins – Communion

20 mins – Prayer Experience

Here is how it will work coming out of the teaching video:

Mary Mercer, Wexford Discipleship Director, will be teaching the material for Acts 27 and 28. After the teaching, she will then lead your group through a communion experience. Remember that you will need to gather supplies ahead of time for communion. Or, if your group is virtual ask them to bring a form of bread and grape juice to your zoom call a couple days before you meet so that they can be prepared.

After sharing communion, Mary will ask the groups to continue the experience together. You may want to use this experience or lead your group through your own prayer time. See possibilities below.

Prayer Experience:

If you would like to continue with the theme of hope, here are some specific ideas to help you navigate an experience.

Items needed: One blank card for each person, One card with words of hope for each person, pen for each person

After the video communion segment, stay in the moment of worship by playing some soft instrumental music. Have each person think about anything that is an obstacle to their hope. It might be a lie they are believing, a thought pattern, a sin pattern, a focus on circumstances etc. Have them take some quiet time to think and then write on the blank card what they need to “lay down” in order to make a way for hope to be released in them.

- Have them bring that card to a bowl or a fireplace or anything that represents a place that they will be leaving that thing behind. *(If you are on zoom, they can tear up the card or throw it away).*
- On a table nearby, have some cards laid out (more cards than people so they have choices) with messages that speak of hope (e.g. peace, trust, mercy, goodness, gentleness, love, surrender, strength, faith, courage, prayer, armor, purpose, perspective etc). *(If you are on zoom, you can create this in a word cloud. [One is attached for your use](#)).*
- Each person will choose one word that will represent the thing they need to “pick up” in this season to move them toward hope.
- Allow them to go back to their seats with music still playing and listen to God about that word. What does He want to speak about that word to them? Then have them write it down.
- After everyone is finished, have each person share what he/she heard from God and how they can begin to remember this word when they want “pick up” their old way of thinking.
- If you would like to close with a song, here are two song options that fit with Mary’s talk: [Promises](#) by Maverick City Music or [It’s Your Nature](#) by Kari Jobe.

Other prayer experience possibilities:

1. Show your group the story of Acts from the [Spoken Gospel](#). Spend time together in prayer after.
2. Prayer for an outpouring of Holy Spirit on your group. You may have group members who have never experienced a release of the spirit in their lives or do not feel as though they are living an empowered life. Others may sense that they desire a fresh outpouring. This could be an excellent way to end this study.
3. Commissioning Prayer – You may want to pray a prayer of commissioning into greater boldness and purpose as we take our place in the story of God and move the gospel forward to the nations.