



What to Know

WE ARE
JUMPING BACK INTO
THE BOOK OF ACTS

THIS IS A
FOUR WEEK SERIES

THE BOOK OF ACTS
CHRONICLES THE
EARLY YEARS OF THE
CHURCH AND IS
RECORDED BY LUKE,
THE PHYSICIAN.

THE "MOODY BIBLE
COMMENTARY" COVERS
THIS SERIES ON PAGES
1682-1689

WEEK 1 - ACTS 4:32-5:11
WEEK 2 - ACTS 5:12-42
WEEK 3 - ACTS 6:1-8
WEEK 4 - ACTS 6:8-7:53

What to Do

I hope you know that I desire each individual Life Group to operate as a unique family unit. A Life Group is made up of individuals that contribute to the overall health and function of the group. But no two Life Groups will look the same, just like no two families will look the same.

Because of this, one group may be in a season where deep Bible study is desired and easily achievable. While another group may be in a season where the most you can do is check in on one another and briefly pray because of the busyness of life.

The goal of Life Groups is to help each other learn to live the life that God through Christ has called us to. As with nature, our lives have seasons in which growth, rest, or even death is a natural part of the season. If we are trying to plant flowers in the dead of winter, we will be angry and frustrated because they won't bloom. Knowing what season you're in will help you as you plan and meet each week as a group.

For the rest of this semester, I want us to work hard at meeting our group members where they are, finding out what season they are in so that our group life reflects what they need the most. This document is only a guide, something to help you lead, not tell you everything.

Generosity vs Selfishness

Acts 4:32-5:11

Opening Questions:

Who is the most generous person you know? What makes them generous?

How are you when it comes to sharing? Are you known as a generous person?

Read: Acts 4:32-5:11; *If needed, briefly review previous events from the first part of Chapter 4. You may also consider reading Acts 4:32-5:11 from multiple translations.*

Discuss: What is something that stood out to you in the text? Why do you think that stood out to you?

The ESV translates verse 32 as *"Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common."*

What does it mean that they were of one heart and soul? How did the Christians' actions and attitudes provide a stark contrast to the unbelieving world around them? Why is that important to know?

In many ways, according to one commentator, the idea of one heart and one soul corresponds with a deep and real friendship. What are some of the most

meaningful Christian friendships that you have? What new friendships have you developed over the last year at Legacy? Why are friendships in the church important, especially outside of the Life Group? What is one practical step you can take to begin a relationship with someone new at Legacy?

Verse 33 says *"And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all."* Great Power and Great Grace, that sums up what is taking place among the believers of the early Church. Consider the stories found in Acts and the letters of the New Testament. Where do you see (God's) great power being manifested through the Church? Why is it important to notice such displays? What about examples of great grace in the New Testament? Now consider Legacy. Where have you recently seen great power and great grace at work in our church?

Darrell Bock, in his commentary on Acts, said *"All of these descriptions of the mutual care within the community are presented positively by Luke. These acts evidence the community's piety and mutual commitment to God*

and one another. It is a sign that they see each other as family or friends, worthy of compassionate care." How have you grown in your ability to care for other Christians? Where do you need to grow in caring for others?

The story of Ananias and Sapphira is unique and challenging. Especially on the heels of the introduction to Barnabas. What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira? And what can you learn from the lies of Ananias and Sapphira? What can you learn about the generosity of Barnabas?

In the past, has there been a sin that you have sought to hide from others? Without deep details, how did attempting to hide sin go? Why does God desire for you to confess and repent of your sin? Is there a sin that you need to confess and repent of now? Who is someone you trust to help you?

***"When you realize what God has done for you, your nature is changed."* - J.M. Boice**

Conclude: How do we apply what we have learned? As a group, share ways that you will seek to be more generous with the church and your neighbors. Then commit to following through by asking one another to hold you accountable.