



# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**ROCKYPC SERIES COMPANION**

Term 2-3, 2020

# LIMITLESS

## THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

In the book of Acts, we're going to see the gospel spread from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth, just as Jesus said it would, and despite a number of obstacles and trials that come along nothing can stop it. We're going to see the gospel spread to all different kinds of people, inviting them all into God's kingdom. We're going to see the power of the Holy Spirit, who enables people to see the glory of Jesus.

- We're going to see that the gospel is limitless — It's for everyone!
- The spread of the gospel is limitless — Nothing can stop it and nowhere is too far for it to go.
- The Holy Spirit is limitless — Bringing power, healing and faith to everyone who believes the good news.
- The power of the gospel is limitless — Bringing new life to the ends of the earth.

We're hoping this series will give us greater confidence to know that God is at work in us and at work in our city and region. There is no one beyond the reach of the gospel, so we can have confidence to bear witness to Jesus and his resurrection.

There is also a call to consider the resurrection for ourselves. The main characters in each chapter stake their lives on the truth of the resurrection. Rather than a comfortable existence, this book should shake us and provoke us to consider our own walk with Jesus. Are we prepared to stake our lives on it, to the point of expecting and rejoicing in suffering for the name of Jesus?

It is our hope that we'll press on to grow as disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others, to grow the renown of the gospel and to grow the church, all for the glory of Jesus. We can only do this, under God, in the power of His Spirit, so will you join us in praying that God's Spirit would be powerfully at work in us.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ACTS TO GET STARTED

Acts was written by Luke, who accompanied Paul on his missionary journeys, and it's second in a two part series that shows all Jesus began and continues to do in the world, through and for his people.

In Luke 1v1-4, we're told:

<sup>1</sup> Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, <sup>2</sup> just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. <sup>3</sup> With this in mind, since I myself have *carefully investigated everything from the beginning*, I too decided to write *an orderly account* for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Luke carefully investigated all that he wrote down so we may know the certainty of the things taught to us about Jesus and it's fair to say that the same method and goal is intended for Acts. In Acts 1v1-11, Luke writes:

<sup>1</sup> In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about *all that Jesus began to do and to teach* <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

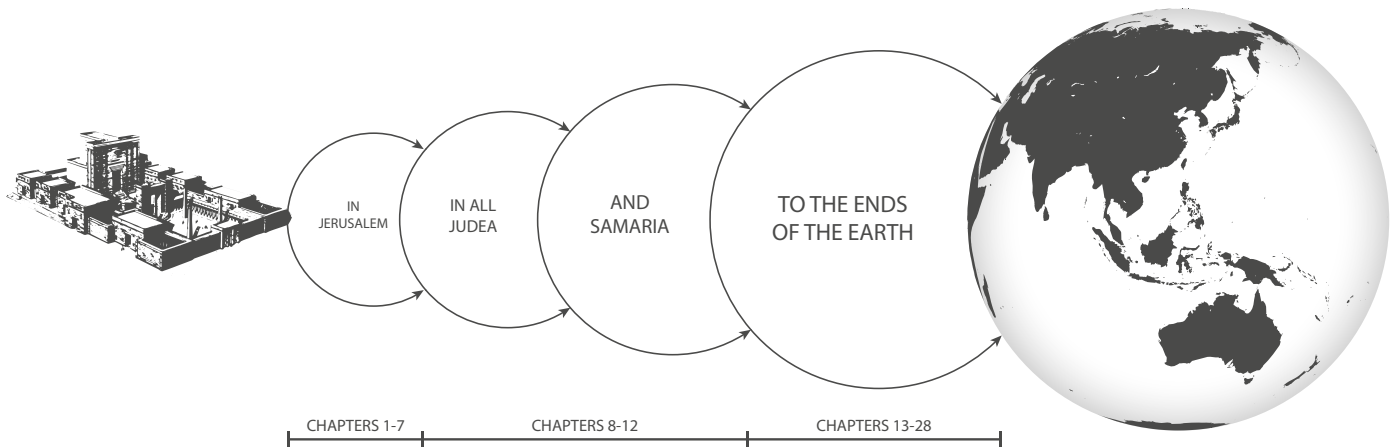
<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? *This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.*"

Where Luke's Gospel is about what Jesus began, Acts is about what Jesus continues through the work of His Spirit and through the witness of His Apostles. Acts tells the story of the gospel, that is, the story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, spreading to the ends of the earth. The diagram below shows how the gospel grows and shows how the spread can be tracked through the chapters in Acts.

# WITNESSES



μάρτυς = pronounced 'martus' = **witness**

one who testifies in legal matters

one who affirms or attests

one who witnesses at cost of life

## THE PLAN FOR TERM 2

On Sundays, we'll have the videos on [facebook](#), [youtube](#), [rockypc.org.au](#), [rockypc KIDSCHURCH](#) and [rockypc YOUTH](#) will be following the same series. Growth Group meetings from week to week will take place over ZOOM — speak to Matt for the details.

Week Starting	Passage for Bible Talk (click link to go to page)	pg. #	Growth Group Study (following Bible Talks)	pg. #
Sunday 19th April	<a href="#">Acts 1v1-11</a>	1	<a href="#">Witnesses!</a>	2
Sunday 26th April	<a href="#">Acts 1v12-2v47</a>	4	<a href="#">Word &amp; Spirit</a>	5
Sunday 3rd May	<a href="#">Acts 3v1-4v31</a>	7	<a href="#">No Other Name!</a>	8
Sunday 10th May	<a href="#">Acts 5v12-42</a>	10	<a href="#">It'll Never Fail</a>	11
Sunday 17th May	<a href="#">Acts 6v1-8v1</a>	13	<a href="#">Trouble, Inside &amp; Out</a>	14
Sunday 24th May	<a href="#">Acts 8v1-40</a>	16	<a href="#">The Great Power Of God</a>	17
Sunday 31st May	<a href="#">Acts 9v1-31</a>	19	<a href="#">Changed Lives</a>	20
Sunday 7th June	<a href="#">Acts 9v32-12v24</a>	22	<a href="#">Everyone!</a>	23
Sunday 14th June	<a href="#">Acts 12v25-13v52</a>	25	<a href="#">Joy &amp; Jealousy</a>	26
Sunday 21st June	<a href="#">Acts 14v1-28</a>	28	<a href="#">Turning To The Living God</a>	29
Sunday 28th June	<a href="#">Acts 15v1-35</a>	31	<a href="#">No Burdens</a>	32
Sunday 5th July	<a href="#">Acts 15v36-16v40</a>	34	<a href="#">Set Free</a>	35
Sunday 12th July	<a href="#">Acts 17v1-18v22</a>	37	<a href="#">Knowing God</a>	38
Sunday 19th July	<a href="#">Acts 18v23-21v16</a>	40	<a href="#">Divine Majesty &amp; Honour!</a>	41
Sunday 26th July	<a href="#">Acts 21v17-26v32</a>	43	<a href="#">Resurrection Hope</a>	44
Sunday 2nd August	<a href="#">Acts 27-28</a>	46	<a href="#">Rome, or Bust!</a>	47
Sunday 9th August	CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER - WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?			
Sunday 16th August	CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER - WHY IS THERE EVIL?			
Sunday 23rd August	CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER - IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH?			

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**BIBLE  
TALK**

## WEEK 1 — WITNESSES!

ACTS 1v1-11

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 1 — WITNESSES!

ACTS 1v1-11

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

Have you ever had the experience where you've worked towards a specific goal, a project completion or a big day? Did everything go as expected? How did you feel after you'd accomplished it?

### READ LUKE 1v1-4

1. Why did Luke carefully investigate everything as he was writing his two books (Luke & Acts)?

### READ ACTS 1v1-3

2. Why do you think Luke starts Acts this way?

3. Why is it important that Jesus was physically present with his disciples "after his suffering"?

### READ ACTS 1v4-8

4. In Luke 11v1-13, 12v4-12 and 24v47-49, Jesus promises to send the Spirit to his disciples. There are also references to the coming Spirit in the Old Testament — e.g. Isaiah 32v15, 44v1-5; Ezekiel 36v25-27 and Joel 2v28-32. Why do you think the disciples hear Jesus speaking about the Spirit in Acts 1 and then expect that Jesus will "restore the kingdom to Israel"?

5. When you read that Jesus' disciples will be his "witnesses", what comes to mind?

6. What specific things will these witnesses bear witness to/about?

The Greek word used for *witnesses* is where we get the English word for *martyr*. So, while it carries the sense of testifying in legal matters and affirming the truth of something, it also means someone who bears witness at the cost of their life. As the book of Acts unfolds, we'll see the cost for the disciples as they stake their lives on the truth of Jesus' resurrection and we'll be challenged to consider whether we're prepared to stake our lives on Jesus too.

## READ ACTS 1v9-11

7. How is v11 both an encouragement and also a rebuke to stop gazing into the sky?

### *growing disciples*

At **rockypc** we want to be **growing disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

#### **SACRIFICE** ATTITUDE BEFORE ACTION

Are you convinced about the resurrection of Jesus? Are you ready to stake your life on it? — What is one practical step you can take to investigate the proof for the resurrection for yourself? Below are a few suggestions:

- Read the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Start in Luke, then read Matthew, John and Mark (Mark has the least about what happened after Jesus' death).
- Ask a Christian friend what convinces them about Jesus' resurrection.
- Read ch 13 in [THE REASON FOR GOD by Tim Keller — "The Reality of the Resurrection"](#)
- Read [THE CASE FOR CHRIST by Lee Strobel](#)

Do you expect that being a follower of Jesus will be comfortable? — How will you let the promise of God's Spirit encourage you to step outside your comfort zone and bear witness about Jesus?

#### **SERVE** HUMILITY BEFORE HONOUR

Even with the Holy Spirit, we aren't all equipped to be outdoor evangelists. However, the Spirit enables us all to be witnesses to Jesus' resurrection. What role can you play in making sure the gospel goes out in our city, our region and around the world?

#### **SPEAK** TO GOD ABOUT PEOPLE TO PEOPLE ABOUT GOD

How would you explain what Acts 1v1-11 is all about to someone who is investigating Jesus?

Who can you speak about Jesus with this week? Ask God for His Spirit to powerfully act in you, and them, so that you speak boldly and so that they hear and respond.

#### **Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 1:**

- *We'll praise Jesus because he is the Risen and Ascended King who is coming back to claim his people.*
- *We'll give thanks for God's Spirit at work in us and ask for His help to make Jesus known in our region.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that he would boldly proclaim Jesus as Lord and bear witness about His resurrection at every opportunity.*

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**BIBLE  
TALK**

## WEEK 2 — WORD & SPIRIT

ACTS 1v12-2v47

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

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Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

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A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 2 — WORD & SPIRIT

ACTS 1v12-2v47

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

Everyone has different skills, abilities and achievements. Share something “extraordinary” about yourself and list the groups’ skills, abilities and achievements below.

### READ ACTS 1v12-26

1. What are the qualifications for being an apostle?

### READ ACTS 2v1-13

2. The apostles are ordinary Galileans. What does the coming of the Spirit enable them to do?

### READ ACTS 2v14-21

3. Who can receive God’s Spirit?

4. What does the coming of God’s Spirit show?

### READ ACTS 2v22-36

5. How do we know God is in charge of what happened to Jesus?

6. King David wrote Psalms around 1000 years before Jesus. What do these songs show about Jesus?

### READ ACTS 2v37-47

7. How do the people respond to Peter’s message?



8. What does repentance mean?

9. What does God promise for anyone who repents?

## *growing disciples*

At rockypc we want to be **growing disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

**SACRIFICE** How do you respond to Peter's message? Is your response similar or different from those first disciples?

What questions do you still have about Jesus as Lord and Messiah?

**SERVE** How is God's Spirit transforming your life?

**SPEAK** Have you called on the Lord and repented? Has God given you his Holy Spirit? How can you know? How would you explain what Acts 1-2 is all about to someone who is investigating Jesus?

Who can you speak about Jesus with this week? Ask God for His Spirit to powerfully act in you, and them, so that you speak boldly and so that they hear and respond.

### ***Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 1-2:***

- *We'll praise Jesus because he has poured out His Spirit to bring new life to all kinds of different people around the world and in Rockhampton.*
- *We'll ask for God's help to understand the day-to-day significance of Jesus' life, death and resurrection for our lives, so that our repentance might be from our hearts and make a real difference every day.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that as he speaks about Jesus, he would see people cut to the heart and ready to repent, believe and be baptised so that our Risen King would be praised.*

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**BIBLE**

**TALK**

**WEEK 3 — NO OTHER NAME!**

ACTS 3v1-4v31

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

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GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 3 — NO OTHER NAME!

ACTS 3v1-4v31

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

Many people in our culture are offended by the claim that Jesus is the only way to be saved. Why do you think that is?

### READ ACTS 3v1-10

1. Why are the people so amazed?

### READ ACTS 3v11-26

2. Peter speaks to the astonished crowd. What do we learn here about God's purposes through Jesus?

### READ ACTS 4v1-22

3. It's the next day, and Peter is now speaking to the religious rulers. What can Jesus' name do?

4. Why can't the apostles be forced to stop speaking in Jesus' name?

### READ ACTS 4v23-31

5. How do the Christians interpret what's happened to Peter and John?

6. How has the Holy Spirit been at work through the events of these 2 days?

## *growing disciples*

At rockypc we want to be **growing disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

Do you believe that Jesus' name is the only way to be saved? — Have you called on his name?

### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

When are you most tempted to obey or please people rather than pleasing God?

What are the implications of Peter's statement in 4v12 for how you speak to different people, from different worldviews, with different firmly held beliefs?

### **SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

How can Peter and John's experience encourage you to keep speaking about Jesus?

How would you explain what Acts 3-4 is all about to someone who is investigating Jesus?

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

Who can you speak about Jesus with this week? Ask God for His Spirit to powerfully act in you, and them, so that you speak boldly and so that they hear and respond.

### ***Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 3-4:***

- *We'll praise Jesus because there is no other name under heaven by which we can be saved and we know that he is reigning now, ready to accept and forgive everyone who calls on him.*
- *We'll ask for God's help to cry out to Jesus in repentance and to proclaim his name above every other name.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that he would keep proclaiming salvation in Jesus' name alone, so that people in his country would be saved.*

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**BIBLE  
TALK**

**WEEK 4 — IT'LL NEVER FAIL**

ACTS 5v12-42

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

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GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 4 — IT'LL NEVER FAIL

ACTS 5v12-42

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

Australian media has been reporting for some years now that church attendance is declining, and Christian truths are constantly under fire. Are you worried that Christianity will eventually fade out altogether? Where does your confidence come from?

### READ ACTS 5v12-18

1. Describe the different reactions that people have to what the apostles are doing.

### READ ACTS 5v19-26

2. Are you surprised to learn that the apostles escape prison and immediately begin teaching again in the temple? Why/why not?

### READ ACTS 5v27-42

3. According to the apostles, are the Jewish religious leaders responsible for killing Jesus?

4. What about according to the leaders themselves?

5. Summarise Peter's response to the Sanhedrin in 1-2 sentences.

6. Why does Gamaliel think they shouldn't kill the apostles? From the perspective of history, is he right?

## *growing disciples*

At rockypc we want to be **growing disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

Are you fighting against God by sitting on the fence/denying your sin/refusing to repent/pleasing people rather than God? — Who can you ask for help to consider your response to Jesus?

How does this passage give you confidence that the gospel won't fail?

### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

Sometimes the only way we can help those who are suffering for the name of Jesus is by praying that God would sustain them through their trials. — Do you personally know people who are currently suffering in any way for proclaiming Jesus? How might this passage help you to pray for them?

Check out the [OPEN DOORS WORLD WATCH list](#) for information about Persecuted Christians Worldwide and for ideas about how to pray for them.

### **SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

Are you at risk of suffering for speaking about Jesus this week? — How can this bring you joy?

How would you explain what Acts 5 is all about to someone who is investigating Jesus?

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

Who can you speak about Jesus with this week? Ask God for His Spirit to powerfully act in you, and them, so that you speak boldly and so that they hear and respond.

### **Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 5:**

- *We'll praise Jesus because we know that nothing can stop his kingdom going forward because God won't let it fail.*
- *We'll ask for God's help to persevere in the face of suffering and persecution and we'll ask him to strengthen those suffering for Jesus around the world. We'll ask for God's strength to please him, rather than shrinking back in fear.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, under the threat of persecution himself, that he would have confidence to keep proclaiming Jesus so that people would be saved.*

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**BIBLE**

**TALK WEEK 5 — TROUBLE, INSIDE & OUT**

ACTS 6v1-8v1

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# LIMITLESS

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GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 5 — TROUBLE, INSIDE & OUT

ACTS 6v1-8v1

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

Recently someone said: "People keep saying good things will come out of this bad situation, but how can anything good come out of bad? Bad can't lead to anything good, can it?" How would you respond?

### READ ACTS 2v42-47 & 4v32-37

1. What effect did the good news about Jesus have on his earliest disciples?

2. Do you think Jesus' disciples today demonstrate the same attitude? Why/Why not?

Things seem to be going really well for the early church, but as we'll see, they were not free from trouble.

### READ ACTS 5v1-11

3. What do you think motivated Ananias and Sapphira?

4. What should we guard against as we read this story?

### READ ACTS 6v1-7

5. What problem did the early church encounter in this part of the story?

6. What lessons can we learn from their solution?

Even though the early church starts well, there is still trouble inside that arises because of greed and a desire to look good. During this time, the church was also facing increasing trouble from outside.

## READ ACTS 6v8-8v1

7. Why do you think Stephen recounts the entire history of Israel as a nation in his defense? What is his point and which verses are most pointed?

8. There is trouble inside and outside the church, but how to these episodes still leave us with hope?

## *growing disciples*

At **rockypc** we want to be **growing disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

### **SACRIFICE** ATTITUDE BEFORE ACTION

Do you think you could be described as "stiff-necked" and "resisting the Holy Spirit"? — What might repentance look like for you as you turn to God for forgiveness?

The early church shared everything they had in fellowship together because of their great joy and confidence in the good news of Jesus. Do you share their confidence? — How might that attitude shape your actions?

### **SERVE** HUMILITY BEFORE HONOUR

Some in the church were set aside for prayer and the ministry of the word, but there are other ways to serve God's people. How can you use the gifts, abilities, interests and skills that God has given you to serve others?

How can you guard against the danger of being like Ananias and Sapphira as you serve others?

### **SPEAK** TO GOD ABOUT PEOPLE TO PEOPLE ABOUT GOD

Is there anything you need to confess to God from what you've read today?

What can you praise God for as you reflect on his work in the early church?

How would you explain what Acts 6-7 is all about to someone who is investigating Jesus?

Who can you speak about Jesus with this week? Ask God for His Spirit to powerfully act in you, and them, so that you speak boldly and so that they hear and respond.

Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 6-7:

- We'll praise Jesus because he has done everything necessary for us to be saved, fulfilling all God's promises to his people and guaranteeing we'll have everything we need while we wait for his kingdom.
- We'll ask for God's help to place our confidence in Jesus to provide and ask Him to guard our hearts against selfishness and pride as we serve others.
- We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.
- We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that God would provide all he needs as his people generously share and grow as his disciples.

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**BIBLE**

**TALK WEEK 6 — THE GREAT POWER OF GOD**

ACTS 8v1-40

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

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GROWTH  
GROUP  
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## WEEK 6 — THE GREAT POWER OF GOD

ACTS 8v1-40

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

Tell your group about someone you've met or seen that captured your attention or who you found to be impressive. What was it about them that engaged you?

In this section of Acts, we meet two impressive men and see their response to the gospel.

### READ ACTS 8v1-4

1. Based on what you know from Acts so far, why are these verses surprisingly good news?

### READ ACTS 8v5-13

2. Compare Philip and Simon. What did they do and why were people attracted to them?

3. Why was Simon so captivated by Philip's message?

### READ ACTS 8v14-25

4. In v19, the word translated *ability* can also be *power*. Given what you noticed in v13, what do you think is going on in Simon's heart? What does he want the good news of Jesus to do for him?

5. Peter's response seems harsh, but what does he want *from* Simon and *for* Simon?

### READ ACTS 8v26-40

6. What things do you notice about the man in the chariot?

7. He's reading Isaiah 53 (See 52v13-53v12). How would you explain the link between Isaiah's Suffering Servant and Jesus?
  
8. Read Deuteronomy 23v1 & Isaiah 56v1-7. Why is the coming of Jesus such good news for this man with Philip?
  
9. How is the Ethiopian Eunuch's response different to Simon's?

## *growing disciples*

At rockypc we want to be **growing disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

### **SACRIFICE** ATTITUDE BEFORE ACTION

Simon wanted to be someone great. The Ethiopian Treasurer humbly turned to Jesus. Which man are you more like? What will humble repentance look like for you?

### **SERVE** HUMILITY BEFORE HONOUR

How are you using your gifts/talents/passions/abilities to proclaim Jesus wherever you go?

### **SPEAK** TO GOD ABOUT PEOPLE TO PEOPLE ABOUT GOD

How would you explain what Acts 8 is all about to someone who is investigating Jesus?

Who can you speak about Jesus with this week? Ask God for His Spirit to powerfully act in you, and them, so that you speak boldly and so that they hear and respond.

### **Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 8:**

- *We'll praise Jesus because he is the Suffering Servant who bore our sins so we can have peace with God and be included in his family.*
- *We'll ask for God's Spirit to soften our hearts so that we might be humble and repent*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that he would rejoice as many people turn to Jesus in repentance and faith.*

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**BIBLE  
TALK**

## WEEK 7 — CHANGED LIVES

ACTS 9v1-31

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 7 — CHANGED LIVES

ACTS 9v1-31

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

Think of all your friends/acquaintances/family/co-workers. Who do you think is the least likely to accept Jesus as Lord. Who is least likely to talk about Jesus at all? Who is the most antagonistic when it comes to God?

### READ ACTS 8v1-3 & 9v1-2

1. What do we know about Saul? What kind of man is he?

2. What is Saul's mission at this stage?

### READ ACTS 9v3-9

3. Think back to Gamaliel's words in 5v38-39. Who has Saul found himself fighting against? (See Acts 22v1-5 for an interesting link between Saul and Gamaliel.)

### READ ACTS 9v10-22

4. Saul went to Damascus hunting Jewish Christians, but what was God's plan for him instead?

### READ ACTS 22v12-21

5. What additional things do you learn about Saul's conversion from his own account? What change did he have to make according to v16?

### READ ACTS 9v23-31

6. What effect did Saul's conversion have on his own life?

7. What effect did his conversion have on the growth of other disciples?

## *growing disciples*

At rockypc we want to be **growing disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

### **SACRIFICE** ATTITUDE BEFORE ACTION

Think again about your friends/acquaintances/family/co-workers — particularly about the least likely to turn to Jesus, and in human terms, the closest or most likely. In either case, what do they need to make it happen? Think of both the supernatural or spiritual aspects and the human.

What fears stop you from:

- a) turning to Jesus, and/or
- b) speaking boldly about him

Pause now to confess your fears to God and ask his Spirit to change your heart and mind.

### **SERVE** HUMILITY BEFORE HONOUR

God said that Saul would suffer for proclaiming Jesus. It's possible, even likely, that serving Jesus will mean we have to suffer like Saul. What confidence and encouragement can we draw from Saul's conversion as we face suffering?

### **SPEAK** TO GOD ABOUT PEOPLE TO PEOPLE ABOUT GOD

How would you explain what Acts 9 is all about to someone who is investigating Jesus?

Think again about your friends/acquaintances/family/co-workers — Ask God for an opportunity to speak to them about Jesus. Ask for His Spirit to powerfully act in you, and them, so that you speak boldly and so that they hear and respond.

### ***Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 9:***

- *We'll praise Jesus because He is Lord and he is powerful enough to change anyone's heart and mind. We'll praise him for giving us his Spirit so that we can see the truth about Jesus and keep following him.*
- *We'll confess our fears about speaking to others and our failures to take the opportunities that God has given us, and we'll ask for God's help to proclaim Jesus, even if suffering comes our way because of it.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that he would know the joy of seeing, even the least likely people, come to put their faith in Jesus and proclaim him in the face of persecution.*



# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**BIBLE  
TALK**

## WEEK 8 — EVERYONE!

ACTS 9v32-12v24

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 8 — EVERYONE!

ACTS 9v32-12v24

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

Is there anything you would absolutely refuse to eat — What & Why?

### READ ACTS 9v32-43

1. What episodes in Jesus' ministry do these stories about Peter remind you of?

2. What did Jesus' miracles demonstrate? cf. Luke 5v17-26

### READ ACTS 10v1-23

3. In Leviticus 11, God gave the Israelites a list of foods that were clean and unclean. **Read Leviticus 11v44-45.** Why was distinguishing between foods so important?

### READ ACTS 10v24-43

4. How did Peter interpret his vision for his present circumstances? What did he realise?

5. In a couple of sentences, how would you summarise Peter's explanation of "the good news of peace" in these verses?

6. If it's not achieved by eating certain foods, how are God's people made clean?

### READ ACTS 10v44-11v18

7. Why was Peter criticised?

8. By the end of this story, what have the believers in Jerusalem realised? What is their response?

## *growing disciples*

At **rockypc** we want to be **growing disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

### **SACRIFICE** ATTITUDE BEFORE ACTION

Do you sometimes feel unclean and unworthy of being part of God's family? — How does this story help? What do you need to do to be clean?

If you have turned to Jesus, how does this story shape your attitude towards others, whether they are already believers or not?

### **SERVE** HUMILITY BEFORE HONOUR

If the good news of peace is for everyone, who can you make more of an effort to welcome into your life, so they can hear about Jesus and/or be encouraged to live for him?

### **SPEAK** TO GOD ABOUT PEOPLE TO PEOPLE ABOUT GOD

Is there someone that you think is (or should be) excluded from hearing the good news and beyond repentance? — How should this story shape your prayers – for you first, and for them?

How would you explain what Acts 9-12 is all about to someone who is investigating Jesus?

Who can you speak about Jesus with this week? Ask God for His Spirit to powerfully act in you, and them, so that you speak boldly and so that they hear and respond.

### ***Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 9-12:***

- *We'll praise Jesus because he has made peace with God so that anyone and everyone can come to him in faith and repentance*
- *We'll ask for God's help to welcome people from all different backgrounds into our lives so that they might hear about Jesus and be encouraged to live for him.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that he might not show favouritism, but would share the gospel with anyone and everyone, so that some might turn to Jesus.*

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**BIBLE  
TALK**

## WEEK 9 — JOY & JEALOUSY

ACTS 12v25-13v52

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

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Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 9 — JOY & JEALOUSY

ACTS 12v25-13v52

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

Have you ever been struggling to figure something out (e.g. a problem, making a decision), and then you've finally had a light bulb moment and found the solution? Tell the group about how you felt. Did you come up with the answer yourself, or did someone step in to help? Did someone try to help but you resisted along the way?

### READ ACTS 13v1-12

1. These verses mark the start of Saul's missionary endeavours (note that he's called Paul from v9 onwards). What work has God called him to do? cf. 9v15-16
2. Does the interaction between Paul and Elymas remind you of any other story in Acts? Compare the result in chapter 13 with Paul's conversion. What similarities and differences do you see?

### READ ACTS 13v13-41

3. Why do you think Paul and Barnabas go first to the synagogue in Salamis and Pisidian Antioch?
4. Who does Paul address in the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch?
5. From v17-37, what are some of the key things Paul wants them to understand?
6. There's a promise and a warning in v38-41. What are they?

Paul is quoting Habakkuk 1v5 which is a part of the Old Testament that comes just before God sent his people into exile. Through Habakkuk, God said he was going to use the Babylonians to judge the unrighteous and unjust people of Israel — the ones who remain unconvinced about God's plans and purposes for his people. Paul is using Habakkuk to say to the crowd that they need to decide which side of the cause they will be on. Those who believe in Jesus will be set free, but those who scoff and doubt God's plans and purposes will face judgment.

## READ ACTS 13v42-52

7. Bearing in mind the promise and the warning, what do you notice about the different responses to Paul's message?

8. **Read Isaiah 49v1-7.** This passage comes at a time in Israel's history, like Habakkuk, when God said he'll punish his people for their disobedience but after that he'll restore them. What do you find interesting or exciting about what's being fulfilled as the story of Acts continues?

## *growing disciples*

At **rockypc** we want to be **growing disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

### **SACRIFICE** ATTITUDE BEFORE ACTION

Do you need to take care that 13v40-41 isn't true of you? — What steps can you take to investigate Jesus more completely? Who can you ask to answer your questions? Make a plan to catch up with them.

### **SERVE** HUMILITY BEFORE HONOUR

How can you help make sure that you don't stand in the way of the gospel spreading?  
How can you help make sure that others don't wonder and scoff and miss out?

### **SPEAK** TO GOD ABOUT PEOPLE TO PEOPLE ABOUT GOD

How would you explain what Acts 13 is all about to someone who is investigating Jesus?  
Who can you speak about Jesus with this week? Ask God for His Spirit to powerfully act in you, and them, so that you speak boldly and so that they hear and respond.

### **Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 12-13:**

- *We'll praise Jesus because he is the light for the Gentiles so that people like us can be included in God's people with our sins completely forgiven.*
- *We'll ask for God's help to make sure we don't stand in the way of the gospel spreading to others and we'll ask him to fill us with joy, rather than jealousy, as we see new people put their faith in Jesus.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that those who are appointed for eternal life would repent and trust in Jesus as he faithfully proclaims Jesus overseas.*

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**BIBLE**

**TALK**

**WEEK 10 — TURNING TO THE LIVING GOD**

ACTS 14v1-28

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

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Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 10 — TURNING TO THE LIVING GOD

ACTS 14v1-28

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

What's one thing you're thankful for today? Who do you think people in our community are thanking when they come up with lists of thankfulness?

### READ ACTS 14v1-7

1. Describe the different reactions to the message of God's grace that Paul and Barnabas are speaking?

### READ ACTS 14v8-18

2. Who are Paul and Barnabas mistaken for? What do you know about these gods?

3. Compare Paul and Barnabas' reaction in v14 with Herod in Acts 12:21-23. What do you notice?

4. What is unique about Paul's God?

5. How has God testified about himself to the whole world?

6. Why do you think that not everyone acknowledges God's kind provision of rain, food and joy?

The technical term for God's testimony through his gracious provision for all people is *general revelation*, as anyone and everyone can know who God is as Creator and Provider. *Special revelation* is the way that God can be known for salvation through his Son, Jesus. Both ways that God reveals himself are present in this passage, but the gospel of grace about Jesus is not detailed as it was in Chapter 13. Rather, Paul is focusing on how the Greek gods pale in comparison with the living God who is over all. He wants the people of Lystra to turn to him.



## READ ACTS 14v19-28

7. How do Paul and Barnabas view being misunderstood, targeted and almost stoned to death?

### *growing disciples*

At rockypc we want to be **growing disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

#### **SACRIFICE** ATTITUDE BEFORE ACTION

Are you a self-sufficient person? How often do you acknowledge God's provision for you?

Are you convinced that the God of the Bible is unique? What's your biggest question? — [Consider reading 'A Spectator's Guide to World Religions' by John Dickson](#)

#### **SERVE** HUMILITY BEFORE HONOUR

Who can you encourage to persevere in faith this week?

#### **SPEAK** TO GOD ABOUT PEOPLE TO PEOPLE ABOUT GOD

How can you grow in thankfulness to God? What habits/practices might help?

How can you talk to others about God's kind provision in this time of fear and uncertainty?

#### **Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 14:**

- *We'll praise Jesus because He has not only provided rain and food and life, but also because He has revealed God as Saviour and Redeemer, so that we can turn to him.*
- *We'll ask for God's help to stop going our own way, in selfishness and superstition, and instead to follow Jesus every day. We'll ask him to grow our thankfulness for all the good things He has provided, so that we acknowledge him in every area of our lives.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that people in his country would turn to the living God and praise Jesus alone.*

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**BIBLE  
TALK**

## WEEK 11 — NO BURDENS

ACTS 15v1-35

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

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Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 11 — NO BURDENS

ACTS 15v1-35

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

What different clubs and organisations are you a member of? Were there any special conditions or requirements for your membership to be allowed?

### READ ACTS 15v1-2

1. What have we already seen in the story of Acts that helps us understand the concern in v1?
2. What possible motivations might lie behind this statement, positive or negative?

### READ ACTS 15v3-12

3. According to Peter, what did God require of the Gentiles for them to be saved?
4. How does Peter describe the law and circumcision? What does v10 mean?

For a Jew, the law of Moses and circumcision were central to their identity as the people of God. The problem was that they were unable to keep the law, and circumcision was only an outward sign that didn't necessarily translate into a life that brought glory to God. In this story, clearly some Jews have recognised that Jesus is the Messiah who fulfils the law and prophets, but they haven't moved on from their allegiance to Moses and the law.

5. What has changed so that non-Jewish people can now come to God without the need for outward signs and a commitment to the Old Testament laws?

### READ ACTS 15v13-29

6. What is James' verdict on the issue and on what basis does he come to this position?

7. What do you think 15v20-21 are trying to convey?

In his first letter to the Corinthian church, Paul picks up on these concerns.

**READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6v12-20, 8v1-13 & 10v14-11v1**

8. Has Paul now imposed a “law” for the Gentiles that the apostles didn’t in Acts 15? How do you understand it? How should Gentile Christians use their freedom?

*growing disciples*

At **rockypc** we want to be **growing disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God’s word helps us grow.

**SACRIFICE**  
ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

Have you fallen into the trap of thinking God wants an outward sign and obedience from you in order to be saved? — How is Acts 15 helpful if this is the case?

Have you laid a heavy burden on others who are coming to faith in Jesus? — How might the reminder that we’re all saved by grace, through faith in Jesus, guide your repentance and your conversations?

**SERVE**  
HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

Law and circumcision are not required now. We have freedom in the gospel. But have you taken that freedom for granted by not considering the impact of your actions on others? — What needs to change in your attitude and actions to help you serve those around you?

**SPEAK**  
TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE  
TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

Someone says to you “Christians have to keep the Old Testament law”. How do you respond? How is Acts 15 helpful?

Who can you speak about Jesus with this week? Ask God for His Spirit to help you express your freedom in the gospel, but also for wisdom to consider the needs of others without burdening them with laws they cannot keep.

***Here are a few things we’ll be praying about as we consider Acts 15:***

- *We’ll praise God for his undeserved grace and kindness to us so we don’t have to behave in a certain way in order to be saved, no matter how impure we are. We’ll ask him to grant us faith that he will purify us and make us his people.*
- *We’ll ask God to change our allegiance to the idols we follow, to be wholehearted in following Jesus instead. Because he has saved us, we’ll ask God to change our thoughts, motives, actions and desires.*
- *We’ll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We’ll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We’ll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that he would continue to preach that anyone can be saved and transformed by Jesus, and that he’d have the joy of seeing God do that work.*

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**BIBLE  
TALK**

**WEEK 12 — SET FREE**

ACTS 15v36-16v40

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

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Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 12 — SET FREE

ACTS 15v36-16v40

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

Are you much of a singer? What makes you want to sing? What stops you from singing? Name a song that gets stuck in your head.

### READ ACTS 15v36-16v10

1. This is the start of Paul's second missionary journey. What questions does it raise for you regarding:
  - Paul and his companions?
  - Paul's conduct with Timothy?
  - The Holy Spirit's guidance/direction of events?

### READ ACTS 16v11-15

2. What do you learn about Philippi and its inhabitants? What might you expect to happen when Paul starts preaching about Jesus?
3. How is Lydia affected by Paul's message?

### READ ACTS 16v16-24

4. Paul's encounter with the demon-possessed slave girl is strange because she seems to be telling the truth and yet Paul stops her proclamation. Why do you think he does it? How is the slave girl's life transformed by the gospel?
5. In previous chapters of Acts, the problems for Paul and his companions arise because of jealousy from the Jews. Now there is a different motivation. What are the girl's owners concerned about?

**READ ACTS 16:25-40**

6. How is the jailer's life transformed? What makes the difference for him? What is the effect on him?

7. Imagine the jailer going back to work the next day. What difference do you think his new found faith in Jesus would make?

*growing disciples*

At **rockypc** we want to be **growing disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

**SACRIFICE**  
ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

Have you asked God to open your heart so you can accept his word? — What is stopping you from making that request? Do it today.

How is your life being transformed by Jesus? Can you think of specific examples of the difference he is making to your life every day?

**SERVE**  
HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

Lydia's life was transformed and she immediately opened her home to Paul. The jailer's life was transformed and he immediately opened his home too. It would seem that hospitality is one possible mark of a transformed life. Brainstorm with your group different ways that you, your families and the wider **rockypc** community might demonstrate the same openness and welcome to others.

**SPEAK**  
TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE  
TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

From Acts 16, how would you explain the difference Jesus makes to someone who is investigating Jesus?

Who can you speak about Jesus with this week? Ask God for His Spirit to powerfully act in you, and them, so that you speak boldly and so that they hear and respond.

**Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 16:**

- We'll praise God for sending Jesus to set us free from all of our sin, guilt, and shame.
- We'll ask God to change our hearts that we might live transformed lives that show the reality of Jesus resurrection.
- We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities everyday, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus
- We'll pray for our mission partner Cam, that he might boldly share the gospel and people in his country might turn to Jesus and be transformed and set free.

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**BIBLE  
TALK**

## WEEK 13 — KNOWING GOD

ACTS 17v1-18v22

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:



# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 13 — KNOWING GOD

ACTS 17v1-18v22

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

If your friends/family only had one word to describe you, what would they say?

### READ ACTS 17v1-15

1. What pattern do you see emerging when Paul travels to a new city?
2. What is the basis for the argument against Paul? Is it true?
3. What is notable about what happens in Berea?

### READ ACTS 17v16-34

EPICUREANS	STOICS
believed the greatest pursuit in life was simple pleasures like living peacefully with good friends and no worries.	believed living virtuously with good morals made you happy, so they focused on being wise, just, courageous and self-controlled.
believed that the gods were distant and disinterested and death was the end of your existence.	believed reason was the ultimate god, and when you died you were re-absorbed into the universe.

4. Even though they have different beliefs, what does Paul want to make known to both groups? How is this message different from what he's been saying in the synagogues?
5. What part of Athenian culture is Paul's entry point to talking about his God? In what ways do you think this approach and message might be helpful to your friends and family in Rockhampton and Gracemere?
6. What do we learn about God in 17v24-31? How does he differ from the Greek gods?

## READ ACTS 18v1-22

7. Compare the charge against Paul in Corinth with the one in Thessalonica. What is different? Is this accusation true?

8. Do you think God's reassurance to Paul in 18v9-10 is just as applicable to us today? Why/why not?

## *growing disciples*

At **rockypc** we want to be **growing disciples who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

What is something that has amazed you about the way God is described in this passage?

Some people were always offended by the news about Jesus. If Paul preached this sermon in Rockhampton, what do you think people would find offensive?

What is stopping you from seeking God and repenting?

### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

What steps can you take to understand the culture and time we live in so that you can understand the worldview of your non-believing family and friends? Books? Podcasts? Blogs? Questions to ask?

### **SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

What can you learn from Paul's approach to preaching the gospel that will help you speak with your family and friends about Jesus?

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

Our post-modern culture is often wary of a meta-narrative when someone claims to have the one true story that explains and overrides all other stories. So how would you explain what Paul says to someone who is investigating Jesus?

### **Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 17-18:**

- *We'll praise God as the creator and sustainer of the universe and everything in it and who gives everyone life, breath and everything else and we'll thank God for Jesus the just judge who conquered death once and for all.*
- *Pray that we would worship the one true God who offers forgiveness and new life to all who believe in Jesus.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that as he speaks people in his country would recognise the true God and that they would rejoice in knowing Him.*

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**BIBLE**

**TALK WEEK 14 — DIVINE MAJESTY & HONOUR!**

ACTS 18v23-21v16

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 14 — DIVINE MAJESTY & HONOUR!

ACTS 18v23-21v16

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

Imagine you're going to die in 1 minute. What would you like to be your final words?

Paul continues travelling in Chapter 18 and we hear of several people who've heard the start of Jesus' story, but only as far as John the Baptist. So when they hear the full story, they repent and believe. Paul spends some time with them in Ephesus.

### READ ACTS 19v8-20

1. What impact does God's word have in Ephesus?

### READ ACTS 19v21-41

2. What motivates Demetrius to start a riot?

Paul continues on his travels, preaching and encouraging believers (even though he was sometimes a little boring, see 20v9-12)! Paul is hurrying to get to Jerusalem so he doesn't stop in Ephesus, but the elders of that church come to see him.

### READ ACTS 20v17-38

3. Why does Paul give this teary speech? What is he expecting to happen in Jerusalem? Who does this remind you of?

4. What is Paul concerned will happen to the church and what does he want them to do about it?

5. Describe how Paul has acted amongst the people. How does this match with the message he's preaching?

### READ ACTS 21v1-16

6. What is Paul's attitude to the certainty of persecution?

## *growing disciples*

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### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

Are you remaining firm in the truth of the gospel? How are you doing this?

If you're a leader, how are you going at watching over God's flock? If you aren't a leader, how are you going at following and submitting to those who shepherd you?

### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

In what ways could greed endanger the message of the gospel in your life?

### **SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

Does the message about Jesus, full of grace and truth, shape the way you share it with others? Are you humble, generous and faithful? How can you grow in this area?

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

How would you explain what Acts 18-21 is all about to someone who is investigating Jesus?

### ***Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 18-21:***

- *We'll pray that the name of Jesus would be held in high honour in our lives — by the way we speak and act and that he would powerfully transform our lives, enabling us to turn from the idols of our hearts.*
- *We'll pray for our leaders to shepherd us in humility, faithfulness and truth so that none of us would be drawn away by distorted teachings. We'll ask that our actions would match our message as we keep speaking the word of God's grace to our community.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start because Jesus is worthy of the highest honour and because he gives us an inheritance among his people. We'll pray for opportunities every day, everywhere we go to speak to everyone about Jesus.*
- *We'll ask God to give our mission partner, Cam, a determination to teach and love the people in his care with faithfulness and gentleness, so that many in his city would believe in the grace God shows us in Jesus.*

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**BIBLE  
TALK**

**WEEK 15 — RESURRECTION HOPE**

ACTS 21v17-26v32

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Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 15 — RESURRECTION HOPE

ACTS 21v17-26v32

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

Have you ever been falsely accused of something? How did it feel? Were you able to defend yourself?

### READ ACTS 21v17-36

1. What is Paul accused of? How does he attempt to show the accusation is unfounded? Does it work?

### READ ACTS 21v37-22v21

2. Why do you think Paul tells this story now? What does he want them to know about his view of the law? About Jesus? About his mission to the Gentiles?

The crowd doesn't react well - they're baying for his blood. The commander wants Paul flogged and interrogated until he realises that Paul is a Roman citizen and has the right to a trial. So instead, he takes Paul to the Sanhedrin (the Jewish religious council) to sort the matter out.

### READ ACTS 22v30-23v11

3. What does Paul say is the real reason he is on trial?

Paul is whisked back to the barracks as the trial gets violent. Meanwhile, a plot is discovered to kill him when he is next on the way to the Sanhedrin. So Paul is transferred to Caesarea and the custody of Governor Felix, who was in charge of enforcing Roman law in the area of Judea. Felix allows the high priest and his lawyer to present the case against Paul.

### READ ACTS 24v1-21

4. What is Paul accused of now?

5. What do you notice about the way Paul defends himself?

Felix doesn't decide Paul's case because he's hoping Paul will give him a bribe. Instead, he keeps him under guard for 2 years and they talk frequently about 'righteousness, self-control and the judgement to come'. Paul is still imprisoned when Felix is succeeded by Porcius Festus. Festus wants to get the matter sorted out quickly so he sets up court in Caesarea.

## READ ACTS 25v1-12

6. What is Paul's next move in his own defence? Why does he do this? (cf Acts 23v11)

A few days later, Paul is invited to speak with King Agrippa. Agrippa is the grandson of Herod, who killed John the Baptist, and is the Jewish king under Roman control. Festus wants Agrippa's opinion about what to do with Paul.

## READ ACTS 26v1-32

7. How has God used Paul's experiences to attest to the resurrection of Jesus, both to Jews and Gentiles? How does this line up with the prophets and Moses?

8. What can the gospel of Jesus do for those who have faith in him?

## *growing disciples*

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### **SACRIFICE**

ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

Do you consider it incredible that God raises the dead? Why/why not?

How does the resurrection of Jesus bring hope to you?

### **SERVE**

HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

Have you experienced God's power to bring you to light, freedom, forgiveness and cleansing? Tell the group about it.

### **SPEAK**

TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE

Who can you share your story with to help them see the hope and power of faith in Jesus?

TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

In 1-2 sentences, how would you explain Acts 21-26 to someone who is investigating Jesus?

### **Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 21-26:**

- We'll praise God because Jesus completes the Bible's story and anyone can call on his name to be saved. We'll ask him to give us confidence and hope because Jesus' resurrection means our light, freedom, forgiveness and cleansing.
- We'll pray that we'd be as bold as Paul was to share the hope we have with our city, small and great alike. As we do, pray that many more people will turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone.
- We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that he'd keep boldly speaking about Jesus so that many people in his city would not consider it incredible that God raises the dead, and would stake their life on that hope.



# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**BIBLE**

**TALK**

**WEEK 16 — ROME, OR BUST!**

ACTS 27-28

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

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# LIMITLESS

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

GROWTH  
GROUP  
STUDY

## WEEK 16 — ROME, OR BUST!

ACTS 27-28

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

### GETTING STARTED

Have you ever been in a bad storm on a boat? Tell the group about it.

Paul was arrested in Jerusalem and accused by Jewish leaders of inciting riots and causing trouble by fraternising with Gentiles and going against the Jewish law. After various trials, he appeals to have his case heard by Caesar in Rome.

### READ ACTS 27v1-44

1. What do you find interesting about this story?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How does the story show God is in control of what happens to the ship and its passengers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How is Paul treated by the centurion and other sailors?

### READ ACTS 28v1-16

4. Who does Paul remind you of? What does it show about Paul that he's compared like this?

### READ ACTS 28v17-30

5. Who does Paul want to see first in Rome? What does he want them to know?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How are the Jews of Paul's day fulfilling what was spoken by the Holy Spirit through Isaiah centuries earlier? What are they risking by their attitude?

7. What is Paul's attitude to his time of house arrest in Rome?

*growing disciples*

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**SACRIFICE**  
ATTITUDE BEFORE  
ACTION

Is it possible to be a hard-hearted Christian? Describe your own attitude to what God says through the law, prophets and apostles.

**SERVE**  
HUMILITY BEFORE  
HONOUR

Do you believe that God is in charge/sovereign over your life? How do you demonstrate this to those around you, both to those at church and to those outside church?

**SPEAK**  
TO GOD ABOUT  
PEOPLE  
TO PEOPLE ABOUT  
GOD

Are you convinced that God's words are what your friends and family most need to hear? Who do you know that thinks God's words are irrelevant and unimportant? How can you persevere in praying for them and speaking to them about Jesus?

How does Paul's example of determination and boldness encourage you to keep proclaiming that Jesus Christ is Lord in your home, work, family, social life?

**Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 27-28:**

- We'll thank God that he is in control of each aspect of our lives, just as he was for Paul. We'll ask for faith to trust that what he says happens.
- We'll ask God for soft hearts, open eyes and ears to hear and understand his words, so that we'd be persuaded by the good news about Jesus.
- We'll pray for our friends and family who think what God says is irrelevant and unimportant — that God would soften their hearts to believe in the risen Jesus, and we'll ask for boldness to speak about him with determination and faithfulness.
- We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start because Jesus is both Lord and Christ. Listening to him is salvation and ignoring him is peril.
- We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that he and his church family, might be bold to speak God's words to their city and that many might turn to Jesus and be healed.