



**A FIVE-WEEK GROUP STUDY  
IN THE BOOK OF ACTS**

**WEEK TWO**

**WHAT HAPPENED  
NEXT**



## WEEKLY READING

**Read:** Acts 3-4

**For extra background, read:** Matthew 18:1, Matthew 20:28, Mark 9:33-34, and Luke 9:46

**Read ahead for next week:** Read Acts 5-8

## GETTING STARTED

**Goals for this session:** To better understand our role as the church.

**Missed the sermon?** Watch it at [www.youtube.com/venturamissionary](http://www.youtube.com/venturamissionary)

**Break the Ice:** We all have embarrassing moments in our past. What's one embarrassing moment from your past that you can laugh about now?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. As you reflect back on Sunday's message, what thoughts, ideas, phrases, or Scriptures stand out to you? Was there anything that specifically spoke to you? Is there anything you disagreed with or had questions about?
2. In **Acts 3:1-10**, we read about the first miracle of the church age. Why is it significant that God used Peter to perform this miracle? Do you think God still performs miracles like this today? Why or why not?
3. In **Acts 3:12**, Peter makes it clear that the healing miracle was not the result of his own power or godliness. When you read the disciples' discussions in **Matthew 18:1**, **Mark 9:33-34**, and **Luke 9:46**, why are Peter's words in **Acts 3:12** so significant?
4. Read **Acts 4:12**. In our modern pluralistic and tolerant culture, do you agree with Peter's statement? Does it feel exclusive and narrow? How do you think our non-Christian friends would respond to Peter's claim?
5. In **Acts 4:18-20**, the religious leaders forbid Peter and John from speaking about Jesus, but they refused. In a culture that is becoming increasingly hostile towards Christians, do you feel pressured to keep quiet about your faith? How do you resolve that tension in your life?
6. Pastor Doug listed three dangers when we misunderstand the meaning of the church: **(1)** *we compartmentalize our faith*, **(2)** *we limit the work of the Holy Spirit*, and **(3)** *we become consumers instead of Christians*. Talk about each of those and discuss some of the ways those tendencies try to work their way into your own life.
7. As you think about the early church described in **Acts 4:32-35**, reflect on your current involvement in the church. How do you feel God stirring you to get more involved?



**PRAY**

**Pray for each other:** Have the group leader or a volunteer from the group pray that God would reveal himself in a powerful and fresh way this week.

**Pray on your own:** Every day this week, pray that God would help you apply Sunday's message that "the church is not a place, the church is a people" to your life.

**ACTION STEPS**

Read **Acts 2:42-47** again and look for opportunities to **be** the church in someone else's life. Be prepared to share your experience next week.

**NOTES**

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