

THE ACTS OF THE OHANA CONTENTS

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WAIT ON GOD BEFORE YOU GO FOR GOD

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and *hook* into the session topic by briefly describing some time in your life when you had to wait for some special thing. How did it feel to wait?

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs, concluding with a song about the Holy Spirit, such as "Spirit of the Living God," "Come, Holy Spirit," etc.
- ❖ Invite someone to pray and invite the Holy Spirit to meet with the group.

WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 1:1-14 and Acts 2:1-4.
- ❖ **Look** at what the passage *says* and *means*:
- ❖ How many days was Jesus with His disciples between the time of His resurrection and His ascension into heaven? (vs. 3)

- ❖ Go to 1 Corinthians 15:3-6 and find out how many people beside the apostles saw Jesus during this time:

- ❖ What did Jesus command His disciples? (Acts 1:4,5) Compare with Luke 24:49, the NIV version, which says:
"I am going to send you what my Father has promised;
but stay in the city until you have been clothed
with power from on high."

- ❖ What did Jesus say this gift would do for the disciples? (Acts 1:8) Also read John 14:16-18 and 26.

- ❖ Why do you think the disciples asked the question they did in Acts 1:6? And what do you think of Jesus' answer? (Acts 1:7, 8)

- ❖ If you had been one of the eleven disciples, what thoughts would you have had when you suddenly saw Jesus go up into heaven?

- ❖ This passage of scripture tells us that the apostles waited on God before they acted for God. What were they doing during this waiting time? (Acts 1:14; 2:1)

- ❖ **Took:** The Day of Pentecost always occurred fifty days after Passover. Since Jesus was crucified and resurrected at Passover time and then spent 40 days with them before He went back to heaven, this means His followers *waited another ten*

days in the upper room in Jerusalem. How would you have felt about waiting for ten days?

- ❖ Have you ever experienced a time when God seemed to say “wait”? How did it feel to be put on “hold”? What did you do during that time? Compare what you did while waiting with what the disciples did.

WITNESS

- ❖ As an Ohana group, let’s do what the apostles did in the Upper Room. Let’s pray for each other and this will bring unity into our group.
- ❖ **The Ohana leader will give each of you a small piece of paper** on which to write your name. Exchange papers with others in the group so each person has the name of another person to pray for during the coming week.
- ❖ Close your time together by joining hands in a circle for prayer. Invite each person to pray for the Ohana person on his/her piece of paper. If anyone feels uncomfortable praying aloud in a group, let them squeeze the hand of the person next to them as a signal that they wish to pass, but they will pray silently for the name on their paper.

This next week:

- ❖ Pray during the week for the Ohana person on your piece of paper.
- ❖ Think of someone you would like to invite to the Ohana group. Pray for this person daily that God will give you an opportunity to invite them.

SPEAK UP FOR GOD

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other. Get better acquainted and *hook* into the session topic by discussing the fear that people have about public speaking. Some researchers say this is one of the top fears of people. Have you experienced this fear? Briefly share some time when you were afraid of speaking publicly. What did it feel like? How did you cope with it?

WORSHIP

- ❖ Invite someone to read the following:

**For God has not given us a spirit of fear,
but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (1 Timothy 1:7)
God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.
There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear. (1 John 4:16, 18)**

- ❖ Sing together “He Is Able.” (#55 in the Maranatha! Music Praise Book, 3rd edition)
- ❖ Sing three to four more praise songs; then invite two people to pray prayers of thanks for God’s power to give us courage and power in the place of fear.

WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 2:1-41 together.
- ❖ **Look** at what it *says* and *means* by discussing the following questions:
- ❖ What would you say was the mood of the crowd that gathered? Skeptical? Hostile? Curious? Other?
- ❖ How many verses are devoted to Peter’s actual sermon? _____ Of this number, how many verses were quotes from other parts of the Bible? _____ What does this say about Peter’s reliance on scripture? Where and from whom do you think he learned the scriptures so well?
- ❖ What would you say was the main point of Peter’s sermon?
- ❖ What was the response of the crowd? (verses 37-41)

❖ The day started with 120 believers in Jesus and ended with 3,000! Imagine what that must have been like! What did the 120 do with all these people? What would your church or Ohana group do if it experienced growth like that? What challenges would this kind of growth pose? What opportunities?

❖ What reasons can you list for it being a scary thing for Peter and the others to speak about Jesus?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

❖ What reasons can you list for why they overcame their fears:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

❖ **Took:** Check the things that scare you the most about talking about Jesus to your family, friends, neighbors and others:

- Ridicule
- I don't know what to say.
- I don't think anyone I know wants to hear about Jesus.
- I'm too busy.
- Other people are too busy to listen to me.
- Rejection
- I have a speech impediment.

Other: _____

❖ What would it take for you to overcome those fears?

WITNESS

- ❖ Take a few minutes to share with each other how it went to pray for Ohana members during the week.
- ❖ Ask each person in the group to write on a small piece of paper their name, plus the name of one person they would like to see come to Jesus and also come to the Ohana group.
- ❖ Exchange papers within the group and close by praying in a circle as you did last week.

This next week:

- ❖ Pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests.
- ❖ Think of someone you could invite to the next Ohana meeting. Pray for that person and ask God to give you the courage and the opportunity to invite them.

CARE ENOUGH TO SHARE

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other. Get better acquainted and *hook* into the session topic by each one briefly describing an incident in your childhood when you had to share something such as a toy or personal possession that you didn't want to share.

WITNESS

- ❖ Did any one of the people you have been praying for come to the Ohana gathering?
- ❖ Did anybody in the group have an opportunity to speak up for God during the last week? If so, let them share.
- ❖ Review your prayer list, adding any new names. Encourage each other to pray every day for God's Spirit to empower us to witness for Jesus.
- ❖ Invite two people to pray prayers of thanksgiving for what God is doing in people's lives and to ask for the Holy Spirit to empower us to witness for Jesus.

WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read together Read Acts 2:41-47 and *look* at what it says and means by answering the following questions:

1. The results of Peter's preaching " _____ souls were _____ to them." (verse 41)
 2. These new Christians put four things in place in their lives: (verse 42)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 3. They worshipped God in two arenas. (verse 46)
 - a. "Continuing daily with one accord in the _____ and
 - b. breaking bread from _____
 4. Read Acts 5:42 where you find that teaching and preaching occurred "daily in the _____, and in every _____."
- ❖ Why do you think most churches of today no longer follow the practice of small groups meeting in homes? What would happen if congregations followed more

closely the New Testament model of meeting in small groups in homes as well as in large gatherings in the church building?

- ❖ Notice the growth rate of the early church (Acts 2:47 and Acts 4:4) What would it take for this kind of growth to occur among God's people today?
- ❖ Read Acts 4:32-35 and discuss the following:
- ❖ Why do you think these early believers shared their personal possessions with each other?
- ❖ **Took:** Under what circumstances and to what extent should believers today share their goods with each other?
- ❖ Discuss together: Do we know of any believer(s) who is(are) in need right now? How could our Ohana group help? Be specific. Invite one person to pray and ask God to bless what you plan to do.

WORSHIP

- ❖ Read the following verses together in unison:

**Above all, love each other deeply,
because love covers over a multitude of sins.
Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.
Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others,
faithfully administering God's grace
in its various forms.**

(1 Peter 4:8-10)

- ❖ Sing together "Behold, What Manner of Love," "He Is Our Peace," "Bind Us Together", (pp. 45, 102, 43 in the Maranatha Praise Chorus Book, 3rd edition)
- ❖ Form into groups of two or three and pray for each other.

This next week:

- ❖ Pray for the plans the group has made to help someone in need. Do your part in making these plans come to reality.
- ❖ Pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests.
- ❖ Think of someone you could invite to the next Ohana meeting. Pray for that person and ask God to give you the courage and the opportunity to invite them.
- ❖ Contact your prayer partner.

GIVE GOD, NOT GOLD

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and *hook* into the session topic by briefly describing your usual reaction when someone on the street begs money from you.

WORSHIP

- ❖ *Sing together* some praise songs that exalt Jesus, such as “He Is Exalted,” “I Will Bless Thee O Lord,” “I Will Sing of the Mercies,” “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.”
- ❖ *Pray together* by each completing this sentence prayer: “Jesus, I want to exalt You in my life by . . .” (Make it clear that those who feel uncomfortable praying this prayer do not have to speak aloud; they can pray silently. Simply invite those who wish to, to say this prayer.)

WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read together Acts 3:1-19.
- ❖ **Look** at what it *says* and *means* by discussing the following:
 - ❖ When, where and under what circumstances did the healing of the lame man take place?
 - ❖ What was the lame man’s expectation when he saw Peter and John?
 - ❖ How do you think he felt when he heard Peter’s words? (vs. 6)
 - ❖ What significance is there that Peter not only told the lame man to walk, but he “took him by the hand and lifted him up”?
 - ❖ **Took:** In what ways can Christians today “lift up” “down-and-outers” in our world--people with physical, emotional, mental, financial needs? Be specific in your suggestions and jot them down:
- ❖ What was the effect of this miracle upon those who witnessed it and how did Peter take advantage of the situation?

- ❖ **Took:** What one statement or verse in this passage is most significant to you and why?

- ❖ **Took:** Think of one person you know who needs some kind of healing—physical, emotional, mental, etc. Write the name below, then think of one thing you could do to “lift up” that person this week. Write down your idea of how to help:

WITNESS

- ❖ Get an update on what happened in the lives of Ohana members as they prayed for each other this week.
- ❖ Share with each other any experiences you may have had during the past week in speaking to someone about God or showing His love to someone.
- ❖ Think of someone in the group whom you would like to have as a permanent prayer partner. This would be someone you would pray for daily and would contact at least once a week so the two of you could pray together.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by forming a circle. Place an empty chair in the middle of the circle and invite one or two to pray that God will fill it.

This next week:

- ❖ Pray for Ohana members.
- ❖ Think and pray about whom you would like to team up with as a prayer partner. Speak to this person about it.
- ❖ Carry out your plan of doing one thing to help someone this week who needs some kind of healing.

BE BOLD

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other, get better acquainted and *hook* into the session topic by briefly sharing some time when you got in trouble because you helped someone.
- ❖ Invite someone to pray and invite God's presence to be with the group.

WITNESS

- ❖ Find out if anyone had an opportunity to help someone this past week who needed some kind of healing. Let them share their experience with the group.
- ❖ Also, invite people to share if they picked a prayer partner and if they have started contacting each other.
- ❖ Talk about inviting new people to the Ohana group. Make a prayer list of potential people within the community and start praying for these people.
- ❖ Set an empty chair in the middle of the group and have someone pray that God will fill it.

WORD

- ❖ Read together Acts 4:1-31 and *look* at what the passage *says* and *means* by discussing the following questions:
 - ❖ Why did the priests and rulers arrest Peter and John?
 - ❖ In spite of the opposition of the rulers, what was the response of the people?
 - ❖ What question did the rulers ask Peter and John? And what was their response?
 - ❖ What was the council's verdict?
 - ❖ If you had been Peter and John what would you have done when you heard the threats of the rulers? What did these two apostles do?
 - ❖ Re-read the prayer of the believers who listened to Peter and John's report (vs. 24-30). What part of this prayer impresses you the most?
 - ❖ Why do you think God answered their prayer the way He did? (vs. 31)

- ❖ Notice the word *boldness* as it is used in verses 13, 29 and 31.
- ❖ **Took:** Would the word “bold” describe the way you witness for Jesus? Why or why not? How do you think you could become more bold for Jesus?

WORSHIP

- ❖ Form into groups of three and pray this prayer for each other, putting in your names:
“Lord grant to _____ (put in name of person on your right) _____ boldness
that he/she may speak Your word
and that miracles might be performed through the name
of Your holy Servant Jesus.”
- ❖ Sing together a prayer song, such as “I Love You, Lord” or “In Moments Like These.”
- ❖ **This next week:**
 1. Pray for boldness to invite someone to the next Ohana gathering.
 2. Pray for Ohana members and the people they are praying for.
 3. Contact your prayer partner.

OBEDY GOD, RATHER THAN MEN

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and *hook* into the session topic by briefly sharing some time when you chose to obey God rather than go along with the customs of people around you. Was it a hard decision to make? What was the outcome?

WORSHIP

- ❖ Ask someone to read:
**God exalted Jesus to own right hand as Prince and Savior
that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.**
(Acts 5:31 NIV)
- ❖ Invite each person to focus on one aspect of Jesus as mentioned in this verse: (1) His position at God's right hand, (2) His function as Prince, (3) His work as Savior, (4) the spirit of repentance that He gives us or (5) His forgiveness of sins. In an attitude of prayer, go around the circle and let each person briefly praise God for the one aspect of Jesus which they have chosen.
- ❖ Conclude your worship time by singing some songs of praise to Jesus such as "He is Exalted," "Praise the Name of Jesus," "He Is Lord," "Thank You, Lord."

WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 5:14-42.
- ❖ **Look** at what it means by discussing the following questions.
- ❖ Why were the religious leaders so angry with the apostles?

- ❖ Imagine and describe what it must have been like when the officers reported to the religious rulers that the prisoners were missing and then were found at the temple preaching.

- ❖ What was the accusation of the rulers? (verse 28) How did apostles answer the charges and with what result? (verses 29-33)

- ❖ According to the Bible, what kind of a man was Gamaliel? List the characteristics you find in verse 34:

- ❖ What do you think of the way he handled the situation?

- ❖ What is your reaction to the way the apostles responded to the command of the council? (verses 40-42)

- ❖ **Took:** Have you had any experience recently when you were ridiculed for your belief in Jesus? How did you react?

- ❖ How does this story of the apostles encourage you for future times when you may face persecution?

WITNESS

- ❖ Review the prayer list the group started last week. Talk about the people you would like to see come to the Ohana group. How can you be tactful and still be bold when you invite people?
- ❖ Set an empty chair in the middle of the group and have someone pray that God will fill it.

- ❖ **This next week:**
 - Pray for boldness to invite someone to the next Ohana gathering.
 - Pray for Ohana members and the people they are praying for.
 - Contact your prayer partner.

BE FILLED FOR MINISTRY

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other, get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by finding out if anyone in the group is, or has been, involved in a program to feed the hungry. Let them share with the group how it makes them feel to help people in this way.

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing three or four of the group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Invite two people to pray.

WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 6:1-15 and 7:51-60
- ❖ **Look** at what it *says* and *means* by discussing the following:
 - ❖ What crisis developed in the early church?
 - ❖ How did the apostles handle the situation?
 - ❖ What qualifications did the apostles look for in choosing people to lead this ministry? (Acts 6:3)
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 - ❖ Notice how Stephen fit these qualifications:
 - Acts 6:3 - "And they chose Stephen, a man _____ of _____ and the _____"
 - Acts. 6:8 – And Stephen, _____ of _____ and _____
 - Acts 6:10 - "And they were not able to resist the _____ and the _____ by which he spoke."
 - Acts 7:55 – "But he, being _____ of the _____"
- ❖ **Took:** If you were to compare your spiritual life right now with that of Stephen, how would you rate? Circle one word that best describes your level of "fullness" at this time: Full Three-quarters Full Half Full

One-fourth Full Empty Don't Know

(You do not need to share your answer with the group unless you feel comfortable doing so)

- ❖ Why do you think Stephen's ministry went far beyond distributing food to widows?

- ❖ **Took:** In what ways would you like to be more effective in what you do for God?

- ❖ False charges were brought against Stephen and he was hauled before the council where he gave a sermon that recounted the history of Israel. (Acts 7:1-54) What was the reaction of his audience when he compared them to their ancestors who rejected God? (Acts 7:54)

- ❖ Why do you think God gave Stephen a glimpse into heaven? (7:55,56)

- ❖ How were Stephen's last words consistent with the way he had lived?

WITNESS

- ❖ Review the Prayer List, adding any new names.
- ❖ Get a report on any opportunities people may have had in sharing God's love this past week.
- ❖ Set an empty chair in the middle of the circle and conclude by praying together for God to fill the chair.

- ❖ **This next week:**
 - Pray for Ohana members and the people they are praying for.
 - Invite someone to come to the next Ohana gathering.
 - Contact your prayer partner.

GO WHERE GOD LEADS

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other. Get better acquainted and *hook* into the session topic by each one briefly describing some time when they took a spur-of-the-moment trip.

WORSHIP

- ❖ Invite two people to read the following verses from Isaiah 53:

Reader 1: **He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. . . He was despised, and we esteemed him not.**

Reader 2: **Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.**

Reader 1: **But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.**

Reader 2: **We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

Reader 1: **He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.**

Reader 2: **He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. . . For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

- ❖ Sing some praise songs about the sacrifice Jesus made for us, such as “God So Loved The World,” “Holy, Holy Lamb,” (#256, Maranatha Praise Book 3) “The Sweetest Name of All.” (#246 Maranatha Praise Book 3)
- ❖ The Ohana leader will pray a prayer of praise for what Jesus has done for us.

WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 8:4-8; 26-39.
- ❖ **Look** at what it *says* and *means* by discussing the following questions:
 - ❖ Have someone who has a map in the back of their Bible locate Samaria and Gaza so everyone can see where Philip was and where the Lord asked him to go.
 - ❖ If you had been Philip, how would you have felt if you had been asked to leave a successful ministry and go to the desert on an unknown errand?

- ❖ What does the Bible tell us about the traveler from Ethiopia?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____

- ❖ How do you think the Ethiopian felt when Philip suddenly appeared?

- ❖ Analyze the way in which Philip shared the gospel with this man:

Philip heard _____

Philip asked _____

The Ethiopian asked _____

Philip began his Bible study with _____

- ❖ **Took:** Have you recently had anyone ask you a spiritual-type question? Did you recognize it as a spiritual search question? How did you respond?

- ❖ Do you believe the Ethiopian “knew enough” to be baptized?

- ❖ The Bible says the Ethiopian “went on his way rejoicing.” How do you think Philip felt after this event?

- ❖ **Took:** Have you ever felt God urging you to drop what you were doing and go on one of His errands? What was your response?

- ❖ If you have a prompting from God this week regarding any of the people on your prayer list, what will you do?

WITNESS

- ❖ Give each person in the group a small piece of paper and invite them to write down the names of three people they are praying will come to the Ohana group and to Jesus.
- ❖ Form into groups of two or three and exchange papers. Pray together by each one praying for the Ohana person written on the paper and their three names. Ask God to lead your Ohana friend this week to do whatever the Spirit prompts him/her to do regarding these three people.

- ❖ **This next week:**
 - Pray for Ohana members and the people they are praying for.
 - Invite someone to come to the next Ohana gathering.
 - Contact your prayer partner.

GOD CHOOSES UNLIKELY PEOPLE

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other. Get better acquainted and *hook* into the session topic by sharing with each other some time when you had a trip interrupted.

WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 7:57-59; Acts 8:1-3; Acts 22:3,27,28

- ❖ **Look** at what it *says* and *means* by discussing the following:
- ❖ Who was Saul and how would you describe him during the early part of his life? (List as many things as you can find about him in the verses you just read.)

- ❖ **Form into smaller groups of three or four to do the next part:**

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 9:1-31.

- ❖ **Look** at what it *says* and *means* by discussing the following:
- ❖ Find someone with a map in his or her Bible and ask him or her to show the group where Damascus is. How far is it between Jerusalem and Damascus?

- ❖ Suppose you were one of the men traveling with Saul. How would you describe what happened on that trip?

- ❖ What do you think of the way Ananias responded to God's words?

- ❖ How soon did Saul begin preaching about Christ and with what results?

- ❖ Who befriended Saul in Jerusalem and introduced him to the apostles?

- ❖ **Took:** If you had been one of the Jerusalem disciples, what recommendation would you have made concerning Saul?

_____ We must not allow this man to infiltrate our ranks. He's probably trying to spy on us.

_____ Let's watch him a while before we let him in. He needs to prove himself.

_____ I rejoice that God has changed him! Let's welcome him immediately!

_____ Other: _____

- ❖ **Took:** Discuss together: In today's world, what kind of people would be "unlikely" or challenging to accept in your church group? How can Christians be receptive to unlikely people without endangering the body of Christ?

WITNESS

- ❖ Talk about the need for the Ohana group to reproduce; i.e., people within the group starting new groups of their own. What does it take to start a group?
 - ❖ Covenant to pray that new Ohana leaders will emerge from the group.
 - ❖ Conclude your time together by praying that each of you will be the leaders God wants you to be. Also, put out an empty chair and ask God to fill it.
-
- ❖ **This next week:**
 - Pray for Ohana members to become leaders of new groups. Also pray for the names on the prayer list.
 - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana gathering.
 - Contact your prayer partner.

THE REAL POWER IS . . .

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other, get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by answering the following question: If a poll were taken in your community on what is the most powerful thing to have in today's world, which one of the following items do you think would come out on top? (a) money (b) personality (c) education (d) natural talent (e) political position. (f) other:_____

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Invite one or two persons to pray for the group meeting.

WORD

- ❖ **Review:**
 1. The early church began in Jerusalem where the apostles preached and ministered
 2. Because the power of the Holy Spirit was very evident in the preaching and miracles that took place, the religious leaders became jealous and threatened the apostles. (Acts 4 & 5)
 3. The early believers did not stop preaching because of persecution; they simply prayed for more power.
 4. The church continued to grow and more leaders were added. (Acts 6)
 5. One of those leaders, Stephen, was stoned. A wave of persecution, spearheaded by Saul, began against all believers.
 6. This persecution resulted in the believers scattering from Jerusalem and carrying the gospel to other places and into other cultures. (Acts 8 and onward.
 7. One of the greatest miracles was the conversion of Saul, the persecutor, who became a great missionary for Jesus.
- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 9:32-42.
- ❖ **Look** at what it *says* and *means* by discussing the following:
- ❖ Locate Lydda and Joppa on a map in someone's Bible. Notice where these cities are located, how far they are from each other and from Jerusalem.
- ❖ The Bible says there were "saints who dwelt in Lydda." How do you suppose these people learned of Jesus?

- ❖ **Took:** What do you think it would be like to be paralyzed and bedridden for eight years?
- ❖ If you had been Aeneas what would have been your reaction to Peter’s command to “arise and make your bed”?
- ❖ **Look:** What was the result of this miracle? (vs. 35)
- ❖ Describe the character and deeds of Tabitha, or Dorcas, and how people felt about her:
- ❖ What do you suppose Peter said in his prayer as he knelt beside the dead woman?
- ❖ What was the result of her resurrection? (vs. 42)
- ❖ Rather than glorifying Peter, these miracles glorified God; and people were drawn to the Lord. How do you think Peter felt about this? Is the issue of “who gets the glory” important in whom God uses to perform miracles? Why? Or why not?
- ❖ **Took:** If you had the power that Peter had, who would you heal and why?

WITNESS

- ❖ Discuss together: Do you think people in today’s world would be more impressed to become Christians if they could see miracles? Why do you think there aren’t more miracles?
- ❖ Which of the following do you think carries the most weight in influencing people today to “turn to the Lord”?

<input type="checkbox"/> Preaching	<input type="checkbox"/> Miracles
<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching	<input type="checkbox"/> The lifestyle of a loving Christian
<input type="checkbox"/> TV ministries	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian literature
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
- ❖ Let people share what they have been thinking and praying concerning starting their own Ohana group.
- ❖ Review the prayer list, adding any new requests.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by three or four people praying for the prayer requests.
- ❖ **This next week:**
 - Pray for Ohana members to become leaders of new groups. Also pray for the names on the prayer list.
 - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana gathering.
 - Contact your prayer partner.

THE GOSPEL CROSSES ALL BOUNDARIES

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and welcome any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and *hook* into the session topic by briefly sharing who was the first person of another nationality that you knew. What did you like about the person? What did you learn from your association with this person?

WITNESS

- ❖ Share with each other any opportunities you have had this past week to share God's love.
- ❖ Share what plans are being made for starting new Ohana groups.
- ❖ Review the prayer list, adding any new requests.
- ❖ Invite 3 or 4 people to pray for the names on the prayer list and that God will bring new people to the Ohana group.

WORD

- ❖ Read Acts 10:1-48; 11:1-18
- ❖ **Form into smaller groups of three or four to discuss the following questions:**
- ❖ Describe what kind of a man Cornelius was.
- ❖ What was the lesson Peter learned from his dream? (Acts 10:28, 34,35)
- ❖ What was the reaction of the Jews who came with Peter when Cornelius and his family were baptized and received the Holy Spirit? (Acts 10:45)
- ❖ How did the apostles in Jerusalem react to the news that Gentiles had accepted Jesus? (Acts 11:1-3)
- ❖ How difficult do you think it was for Peter to replace his prejudices with acceptance of people who were "different" from him?
- ❖ **Took:** Have you ever had to make a major shift in your beliefs? What process did you go through to make the change?
- ❖ What should be the basis for changing a belief?

- ❖ Are you currently hanging onto an opinion/attitude/lifestyle that God has been nudging you to change? (You do not need to share this with your group, unless you feel comfortable doing so.)

- ❖ **Return to the larger group.**

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together these songs from Maranatha Praise (3rd edition): “Change My Heart, O God,” (#50) “Open Our Eyes, Lord” (#215), “Lord, Be Glorified.” (#176)
- ❖ Pray silently for a few minutes, each person asking God to open their mind and change their heart. Invite one person to conclude the silent prayer time by praying an audible prayer.
- ❖ **This next week:**
 - Pray for Ohana members to become leaders of new groups. Ask God to help us not neglect to invite people of different ethnicity or backgrounds to come to an Ohana group.
 - Also pray for the names on the prayer list.
 - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana gathering.
 - Contact your prayer partner.

TRIUMPH AND TROUBLE

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group’s favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Gather prayer requests, writing each one on a separate piece of paper. Distribute the papers and invite each person to pray for the request on the paper they received.

WORD

- ❖ **Hook** into the session topic by answering this question: Have you ever been involved in a project where it seemed that as soon as you made progress, a set-back would immediately occur? How did you feel? What was your reaction and response?
- ❖ Sometimes it seems that life is full of ups and downs. One minute, things are going well; the next, things are going terribly. The early church had the same experience.
- ❖ **Book:** Take a few minutes to look at the ups and downs they had. Skim through chapters 1 through 10 of the book of Acts, looking at the section headings. Notice the triumphs and troubles they had. Jot down brief notes in the appropriate spaces below: (The first two are given as examples)

	Triumph	Trouble
Acts 1	<i>believers united in prayer</i>	<i>Jesus leaves</i>
Acts 2	<i>Spirit poured out. 3000 converted</i>	<i>Some listeners mocked.</i>
Acts 3		
Acts 4		
Acts 5		
Acts 6		

Acts 7		
Acts 8		
Acts 9		
Acts 10		

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 11:19-25 and 12:1-24 and discuss the following questions:
- ❖ List the various “troubles” you find in this passage:

- ❖ List the “triumphs”:

- ❖ Why was Barnabus sent to Antioch? What was the result of his work there?

- ❖ Why do you think Peter could sleep in prison in such a life-threatening situation?

- ❖ If you had been one of the believers praying for Peter, how would you have reacted to the announcement that he was at the door?

- ❖ Describe how you think the following people felt about the miraculous “prison escape” of Acts 12:5-19:

- Peter:
- Rhoda:
- The praying believers:
- The guards:

- ❖ How do you feel about the ending of this story? (Acts 12:24)

- ❖ **Think:** As we've examined the troubles and triumphs of the early church, what has God been saying to you?

- ❖ How can the experiences of the early church help us as we face troubles and difficulties in starting new Ohana groups?

WITNESS

- ❖ Share together what difficulties various Ohana members may have experienced as they have tried to share God's love with others. How can we help each other?
- ❖ Conclude your time together by getting in groups of two or three to pray for each other to have courage to continue to be a witness for Jesus.

- ❖ **This next week:**
 - Pray for new Ohana groups.
 - Also pray for the names on the prayer list.
 - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana gathering.
 - Contact your prayer partner.

VENTURE OUT WITH GOD

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and **hook** into the session topic by briefly describing how you felt on your very first day of school.

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together: “The Battle Belongs to the Lord,” (#268) “Great and Mighty,” (#281) “Sing Hallelujah to the Lord,” (#319) “Spirit of the Living God.” (#277) (All song numbers are found in the Maranatha Praise Book 3)
- ❖ Invite two people to pray for the group.

WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 9:26,27 and 11:25. What role did Barnabus play in Saul’s life?
- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 13:1-5 and **look** at what it means by discussing the following questions together:
 - Where and under what circumstances did the appointment of Barnabas and Saul (Paul) take place?
 - How would you feel if you were Barnabas or Saul being sent out as the first missionaries?

WITNESS

- ❖ How do you feel about venturing out and starting your own Ohana group? Remember, it is not cowardly to admit you have fears. By discussing them, you will quite likely find help and encouragement from the group.

WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read acts 14:26-28 which describes the end of this first missionary tour. **Look** at what it means by discussing the following questions:
 - What did Barnabas and Paul do when they returned to Antioch?
 - How important do you think it is for people to “report” on what they’ve been doing in God’s work? What should be reported and to whom?

WITNESS

- ❖ Take some time to get a report from each person who has just started or is about to start an Ohana group.
How is it going?
What challenges/fears do you face?
What excites you about it?
What materials do you need?
What support from others?

- ❖ We will conclude our time together by putting all the people who have started or are about to start an Ohana group into the center of a circle while the rest of the group lays hands on them and prays for them.

- ❖ **This next week:**
 - Pray for new Ohana groups.
 - Also pray for the names on the prayer list.
 - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana gathering.
 - Contact your prayer partner.

MAKING CHANGE

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by describing how you feel when someone rearranges the furniture in your house or at your workplace.

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together: “The Battle Belongs to the Lord,” (#268) “Great and Mighty is the Lord Our God,” (#281) “Sing Hallelujah,” (#319) and “Alleluia.” (#169) (All songs are in the Maranatha Praise, book 3)
- ❖ Pray together by going around the circle and each one who feels comfortable doing so, praise God for one of His characteristics.

WORD

- ❖ Read Acts 15:1-35 by asking each person in the group to read 3 or 4 verses each.
- ❖ **Form into smaller groups of three or four** to discuss the following questions:
 - What was the nature of the conflict that arose in the early church? Where and with whom did it originate?
 - What do you think of the way the apostles and elders handled this problem?
 - If you had been a member of this council, what would you have contributed to the discussion and decision?
 - How would you correlate the advice of Jesus in Luke 5:36-39 with what happened at the Jerusalem council in Acts 15?
 - Decide among your small group one thing you’ve learned from this passage on how to handle conflict. Pick one person to report this to the larger group.
- ❖ **Return to the larger group** and let one person from each smaller group report.

WITNESS

- ❖ The early church decided not to require new members to follow old forms or methods. How can we help the church of today accept new forms or methods without making faithful “veterans” feel they have been ignored?
- ❖ How can Ohana groups help in making beneficial changes in the church as well as in the community?
- ❖ Review the group prayer list, adding any new names. Report on what is happening with those we’ve been praying for.

- ❖ Let anyone who has recently started or is preparing to start an Ohana group share with the group how it is going.
- ❖ **This next week:**
 - Pray for new Ohana groups.
 - Also pray for the names on the prayer list.
 - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana gathering.
 - Contact your prayer partner.

TEAM IT!

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** in the session topic by briefly describing the first time you were part of a team, such as a sports team, music group, etc. How did you feel about the experience? What did you learn by being on a team?

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Invite one or two people to pray.

WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 15:36-41.
- ❖ **Look:** Why did Paul not want to take John Mark on this missionary trip? (Read Acts 13:14)

- ❖ Why do you think Barnabus wanted to take John Mark? (See Colossians 4:10)

- ❖ What good came out of this dispute and division between Paul and Barnabus?

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 16:1-5.

- ❖ Who did Paul add to his team?
Note: Timothy became an important and permanent part of Paul's team. He is mentioned a great deal in Paul's writings. He became a minister and was even imprisoned for his faith.

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 16:11-15 and 40.

- ❖ **Look:** Since this is the only mention of Lydia in the scriptures, would you say that she became part of the team? Please tell why you answered the way you did.

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 18:1-3, 18, 19, 24-26. and 1 Corinthians 16:19.

- ❖ **Look:** Describe Aquila and Priscilla. What was their occupation? What kinds of ministry were they involved in?

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 19:22; 20:4; Colossians 4:7-14 and list some of Paul's other teammates:

- ❖ **Note:** Another one of Paul's teammates was Doctor Luke. He wrote the book of Acts, though he does not identify himself by name. Instead, he used the pronoun "we" such as in Acts 21:8 where he wrote "we who were Paul's companions departed." (If you wish, you can compare Acts 1:1-4 and Luke 1:1-4 to see the similarities that lead us to believe Luke authored both these books.)

- ❖ **Look:** Why do you think Paul surrounded himself with so many people?
- ❖ **Took:** What can we learn from Paul's team approach to help us share Jesus in today's world?
- ❖ Think of some practical and specific ways your Ohana group could work together as a team to share the gospel. List your ideas:

WITNESS

- ❖ Pick one simple thing your Ohana group can do right away to witness as a team. It could be having a picnic in the park and inviting your unchurched friends and relatives. Or maybe you'd like to conduct a free car wash and tell people the reason you are doing it is to spread a little of God's love around. Whatever you pick, set a date and assign tasks to each person.
- ❖ Review the group prayer list, adding any new names.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by putting an empty chair in the middle of the group and praying over it, asking God to fill it next time with someone.

- ❖ **This next week:**
 - Do your part in the team witness activity your group decided to do.
 - Contact your prayer partner.
 - Pray for the names on the prayer list.
 - Pray for new Ohana groups.
 - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana gathering.

REJOICE IN THE LORD

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted with each other and *hook* into the session topic by each answering: What color do you think of as a color that makes you feel happy?

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your favorite praise songs, concluding with “Rejoice in the Lord Always,” (#239 in Maranatha Praise book 3)
- ❖ Share briefly with each other one thing about God that makes you happy.
- ❖ Invite one person to pray and thank God for the joy He brings us.

WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read together Acts 16:16-40.
- ❖ **Look** at what it *says* and *means* by discussing the following questions:
 - ❖ Why were Paul and Silas arrested?
 - ❖ Why do you think the magistrates felt they needed to command the jailer to keep Paul and Silas “securely?”
 - ❖ If you were falsely accused, beaten and put into prison, how would you react?
 - ❖ What do you think kept the prisoners from escaping when the earthquake opened all the doors and unloosed all their chains?
 - ❖ Why did the jailer fall at Paul and Silas’ feet and ask “what must I do to be saved?”
 - ❖ Notice the sequence of things the apostles said and did in this witnessing opportunity:
 1. They said “**b_____ on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be s_____.**”
 2. They spoke the w_____ of the L_____ to them.
 3. They b_____ the jailer and a_____ his family.
 - ❖ Why do you think the magistrates changed their minds and commanded the apostles to be released?
 - ❖ Do you think it was appropriate for Paul to bring up the issue of his Roman citizenship? Why didn’t he mention it earlier?
 - ❖ **Took:** Read James 1:2,3 keeping in mind that the writer was killed because of His faith in Jesus. (Acts 12:1,2)

❖ Also read Philippians 4:4-7 remembering that the writer of these words was Paul who was beaten and imprisoned; and eventually, he, too, was killed for his beliefs.

❖ If you were to rank yourself according to your present spiritual joy, how would you rate? Place a mark on the line indicating where you are right now:

(no joy)

(some joy)

(lots of joy)

(filled with joy)

❖ What does it take to be a person who can rejoice *always*?

WITNESS

❖ Notice that this experience of Paul and Silas thrust them into a witnessing opportunity. Do you think you could be a better witness for Jesus if you were more joyful? Why or why not?

❖ Review the prayer list, adding any new names.

❖ Discuss plans for new Ohana groups and get reports on ones that have already started.

❖ **This next week:**

- Contact your prayer partner
- Pray for names on the Ohana prayer list.
- Pray that more Ohana groups will start.
- Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

PREACH THE WORD

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other, get better acquainted and *hook* into the session topic by briefly describing your first contact with the Bible.

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs, concluding with "Thy Word." (#234 Maranatha Praise, book 3)
- ❖ Let each one who feels comfortable doing so, quote a favorite Bible verse.
- ❖ Invite two persons to pray.

WORD

- ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 17:1-4; 10-12; 18:11 and 19:20.
- ❖ **Look** at what it says and means by discussing the following questions:
 - ❖ What was Paul's custom?
 - ❖ What does the phrase "reasoned with them from the Scriptures" say to you?
 - ❖ The Bible says that the Bereans "r_____ the w_____ with all r_____, and s_____ the Scriptures _____ to find out whether these things were so."
 - ❖ What do you think of their way of investigating spiritual matters?
 - ❖ **Took:** If you compare yourself with the Bereans, how do you rate in your willingness to receive the Word of God? How about your dedication to "search the Scriptures daily"?
 - ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 18:24-28.
 - ❖ **Look** at what it says and means by discussing these questions:
 - ❖ As you read about Apollos, what mental picture of him is formed in your mind?
 - ❖ What does it take to be "mighty in the Scriptures"?
 - ❖ **Took:** Individually and privately, take a few minutes to list where you think you are weak in Biblical knowledge and ability:
 - ❖ If you feel comfortable doing so, share with each other where you feel you are weak in your proficiency in the Bible. Get suggestions from the group on how each of you can become better students and teachers of the Bible.

KEEP THE FAITH

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by briefly describing the scariest thing you ever had to do. In retrospect, are you glad you did it or do you have regrets?

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of the group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Pray together by asking two or three pray for the group.

WORD

- ❖ The last part of the book of Acts is a chronicle of Paul's various missionary journeys. Wherever he went, Paul preached and people accepted Jesus; but he also ran into trouble and persecution. For a description of some of the hardships Paul suffered during his ministry, read the following scripture passage:
 - ❖ **Book:** Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-28
 - ❖ **Look:** What is your reaction to the things Paul endured?
- ❖ Yet, Paul had an amazing capacity to rise above the troubles surrounding him. For a brief description of his philosophy of life, read the following:
 - ❖ **Book:** Read Philippians 4:4,11-13.
 - ❖ **Look:** What would you say is your "contentment quotient"? Are you a person who has learned to be content in all situations or are you somewhere far below that level?
- ❖ Chapters 20 to 28 of the book of Acts tell about Paul's last journey to Jerusalem. He was attacked by a mob, imprisoned and taken to Caesarea, where he remained for two years until Festus sent him to Rome to appear before Caesar. On the trip to Rome, he was shipwrecked, and spent three months on the island of Melita. In Rome, Paul was held a prisoner, but the first two years he was allowed to live in a house with a guard.
 - ❖ **Book:** Read Acts 28:16, 30-31.
 - ❖ At this point the record of Acts comes to an end; and what we know about the rest of Paul's life, we discover from bits of evidence in his letters to Timothy and Titus and from historical events of the time. Apparently, after the two years of house arrest, Paul was set free. Then he was imprisoned once again and he fully expected to be tried and condemned to death.
 - ❖ **Book:** Read 2 Timothy 4:6-18.
 - ❖ Early Christian authors all agree that Paul died under Nero at Rome. Tradition says he was decapitated somewhere on the Ostian Way about 68 A.D.
 - ❖ **Took:** As we've read about the latter part of Paul's life, what is God saying to you right now about your level of commitment to God? (You need not share this if you do not care to)

WITNESS

- ❖ Discuss together the reasons people give for *not* witnessing. List them here:

- ❖ Compared with Paul's life of witness, how do our excuses line up? How does inviting someone to come to the Ohana group or launching out and starting a new Ohana group compare with Paul's boldness for Jesus?

- ❖ Review the prayer list, adding any new names.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by getting into groups of two or three and praying for greater courage to witness about Jesus.

- ❖ **This next week:**
 - Contact your prayer partner
 - Pray for names on the Ohana prayer list.
 - Pray that more Ohana groups will start.
 - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.