

Community Group Discussion Guide

Step 01: Recap what our current series is all about.

Note: Remind the group what series we're currently on (since not everyone will have been at church recently) and read through the series description provided below to refresh everyone on what it's all about.

Series Title: The Acts of Jesus

Main Idea: Even after his death and resurrection, the story of Jesus continues on through his followers, his church, and his Holy Spirit. Even though Jesus is no longer center stage as Acts begins, he is undoubtedly still the main character. And even now 2,000 years later his story is still unfolding through his followers, his church, and his Holy Spirit—which means we get to be apart of it!

Step 02: Recap of this week's message.

Note: Read through the message outline with everyone briefly. You can stop and make comments as you see fit or read straight through it. Make sure you take time to read through the main text.

Message Title: Let Jesus Write the Story

Main Text: Acts 28:7-10

Message Outline:

Following a shipwreck during his journey to Rome, Paul and his Roman escorts find themselves washed to shore on the island of Malta. There they are welcomed into the home of the Roman governor, Publius. With this open door, Paul evaluates the need, prays for the need, and let's God write the rest of the story.

Observation 1: Evaluate the Need

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- Paul was there as a prisoner, not a physician, yet he still has eyes to see the need.
- As Christians, we are responsible for the spiritual, physical, emotional, and relational needs of those around us.
- Do for one what you wish you could do for everyone!

Observation 2: Pray for the need

- Paul, in faith, prays for Publius' father and he is healed!
- Upon hearing this, the rest of the sick on the island come and also are healed.
- Was it Paul that did the healing? No—it was God that did the healing and Paul that did the praying.
- It is not our job to do the miraculous, only to consecrate ourselves and make ourselves useful to God.

Observation 3: Let Jesus Write the Story

- Church tradition says that years later, Publius would become the first bishop of Malta.
- One act of faith from Paul not only healed Publius' father but changed the trajectory for Publius' life as well!

Step 03: Lead group discussion.

Note: Do your best to keep the discussion going. Make sure you have read through the questions beforehand and are primed with thoughts of your own. Make everyone get specific with *how* they

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will apply this message in their own lives and in community—*no vague ideas allowed!*

Specific to this week's message:

1. Pastor Jason mentioned some of the major themes that have come up the last 15 weeks as we've studied acts: unlikely heroes, second chances, radical hospitality. Have any of these stuck out to you?
2. What do you feel like God has been teaching you throughout this series?
3. How quick are you to evaluate the needs of those around you? Do you feel responsible for helping meet the ones that you can?
4. Is praying for the lives of those around you (intercessory prayer) apart of your prayer life? How often do you pray for others' needs?
5. What stories is God writing in your life right now? How do you think he might be using your small acts of faith and obedience?

General questions:

6. How did this message encourage you? How did it convict you?
7. What is your plan for applying this message to your personal/daily life?
8. What might it look like for us to live this out in community?
9. Was there anything about this message that stood out to you?