



FALL 2025 // WEEK 1

GrowGroup Questions

Sermon Based Groups // October 2025

Pastor Pat Finley // Acts 21:17-26



Introduction

As we journey through the book of Acts together, we're discovering what it truly means to live as disciples of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. The early church reminds us that following Christ requires courage, unity, and faithfulness in a world that often opposes the gospel. Pastor Pat has been walking us through these powerful examples, continually pointing us back to the central question: *"Are we willing to live with the same bold faith the apostles displayed?"*

We encourage you to take some time to read through the questions on the following pages and jot down your thoughts before meeting with your group. Many people also find it helpful to use these questions as a guide for taking notes during the sermon. The purpose of these questions is to spark reflection and encourage meaningful conversation. Remember, you don't need to work through every single question each week—focus on the ones that are most helpful for you and your group.

Getting Started

Transition into group discussion.

- 1) Open group discussion with prayer. Here are a few potential prayer items:
 - a. For the Spirit of God to lead you in truth
 - b. For the fruit of the Spirit to be cultivated in your lives
 - c. For grace to hear and apply what the Spirit says to you
- 2) Choose someone to read the passage aloud for the group or read them as you come to them in the questions.

Study Questions *(Suggested time: 40 min)*

1. What are the essential elements of the gospel?
2. Read John 3:16-21. What role does condemnation play in sharing the gospel?
3. Are you surprised Paul agreed to take the Nazarite vow? Why or why not?

4. Hebrews 10:1 states that, “the law is just a shadow of good things to come.” Even still, many Jews struggled to leave the law behind. What are some practical remedies to legalism?
5. Share a time when you felt pressured by others to compromise your Christian convictions.

Personal Spiritual Exercises

Just like physical exercises help strengthen and stretch our bodies for healthy living, these spiritual exercises are meant to move us spiritually in ways that may be new so we might experience inner growth. Since God longs for us to experience Him with our whole selves—mind, body, spirit—we invite you along each week to strengthen your souls with suggestions and prompts.

Scripture Focus: Acts 21:17–26 gives us a vivid picture of Paul’s return to Jerusalem and the challenges he faced in seeking unity among believers. This passage reminds us that faithfully following Christ often requires humility, flexibility, and a willingness to put the needs of others before our own. As you read these verses, take time to reflect on Paul’s example. Ask yourself: *Am I willing to surrender my preferences for the sake of the gospel? Do I truly believe that unity in Christ is worth the cost, or do I only know the “right” answer without living it out?*

Prayer *(Suggested time: 20 min)*

A meaningful part of “coming together” is being open and genuine about our lives. For some, praying in a group may feel very natural, while for others it may feel new or uncomfortable. If you would prefer not to pray aloud, you’re welcome to pray silently and simply say “Amen” when you’re finished, signaling the next person to pray. Whether spoken or silent, every prayer is part of this shared time in God’s presence.

Take a few moments to think about a prayer request. How has today’s message, the questions above, or the group discussion helped you see something new about your relationship with Jesus? Consider sharing this as your request so the group can pray with you and for you.

“For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”
1 Cor. 2:2