

**Community Group Growth Questions**

1. Share with the group any insight, truth, or observation from Sunday's message that helped you, troubled you, or ministered to you.
2. Review the major themes in the book of the Acts of the Apostles: Sovereignty of God, World Missions, The Church, Faithfulness Unto Death, Community, and Jesus & the Holy Spirit. Discuss and define these themes so that you can recognize them as you read through the book of Acts in the next 2 weeks.
3. From what you know of the content of "Acts", share an act of the Holy Spirit (in or through one of God's people in the book) that is especially awesome to you and why. In what way does your example point to Jesus and His redemption?
4. How does the thought of God using ordinary people for extraordinary purposes and in extraordinary ways encourage you as you follow Jesus. Do you believe that God could use you in similar ways? Why or why not?
5. How might God be calling you to short or even long term missions? What are some of the obstacles that keep you from considering going on a mission trip with C@M?

**Living on Mission**

1. Meditate on God's delight in choosing you and calling you. In what ways is your own life a continuation of God's sovereign redemptive purposes and plans? Would He call you "faithful"? Is His glory your ultimate goal?
2. As you learn more about the infancy of the Church, in what ways can you relate to your "relatives" in the faith? Do you cherish the legacy of the early church as part of your heritage? Why or why not?
3. Are you in a community group? If yes, encourage others toward the necessity of being part of a community? If not, what mindset keeps you from connecting in community?

**Prayer Guide – Praying for Martinsburg and Winchester**

**Today** – Pray that the Gospel would be boldly and unashamedly proclaimed in our local churches; that those churches would be places for the broken, unwanted and hurting; and that Christ will be offered as the only remedy for the very thing we cannot do: make ourselves better or save ourselves.

**Monday** – Pray Habakkuk 3:2 over our cities. "O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy." Pray that the Lord's love, wrath, justice and mercy would be made known in Martinsburg and Winchester and that the Lord would do whatever He needs to do to further His Gospel and His renewal of these cities.

**Tuesday** – Pray Matthew 6:10 over our cities. "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Spend this day replacing the word "earth" with the name of our cities... "In Martinsburg and Winchester as it is in heaven". Pray this over and over again... in every place you step, over every person you come in contact with.

**Wednesday** – Ask the Lord to specifically put people on your heart to pray for. Pray for them, that God would draw them to Himself, that He would save them. Then pray that God would put those people in your path and that He would give you the strength and the wisdom in what to say. Pray that He would stir up their affections for Him.

**Thursday** – Go again to Habakkuk 3:2. Pray that God's holiness, wrath, love, mercy and justice would be revealed and known in our times.

**Friday** – Pray for a generation to rise up and take our place in this great endeavor. Pray for the young people you know. For the child, the student, the young adult. Pray that the Lord would pull them into Himself and that they would begin to understand the holiness of God and consequently the pursuit of holiness would be at the front of their minds.

**Saturday** – Pray that the Lord would do what He did in Ephesus: Pray that the Gospel would go out and completely turn the city on its head and that it would begin to renew the city's culture, economic structure, political structure and racial tension.

**Welcome to the Church at Martinsburg!**

**Whether this is your first time or your next time; whether you are a member or a first-time guest – we want to connect with you! Use the white card with this Loop to relay information to your church staff. Please complete the front so we can update our records and use the back to request information or share your prayer requests. As your pastors, we are honored to pray for and serve you.**

**Financial Peace University (FPU)** will begin Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. This financial class is for anyone wanting to learn how to budget, get out of debt or refresh financial management skills. Cost includes a workbook, book, budget aids and a CD. Please go to [fpu.martinsburgchurch.org](http://fpu.martinsburgchurch.org) or call the church office at 304-596-9330 to register. Registration for the course is required and the final cost will be decided soon. Sign up in the lobby Today!

**Community Groups** begin the week of September 9<sup>th</sup>. Community is an essential part of our Christian life focusing on spiritual growth, fellowship with one another and the neighborhoods around us. For more information you can visit [groups.martinsburgchurch.org](http://groups.martinsburgchurch.org). Sign up in the lobby Today!

**How will you serve at C@M?** Go to [volunteering.martinsburgchurch.org](http://volunteering.martinsburgchurch.org).

**Pastor On Call:** If you or your family have an emergency and need to get hold of a pastor from Friday morning through Monday morning please call 304.616.9007 to reach The Church at Martinsburg's Pastor on call.

**Missionary Toolbox:****God has made each one a part of His mighty whole... what about you?**

"...the book which is to tell the story of Christ's continuous unfinished work must stop abruptly. There is no help for it. If it was a history of Paul it would need to be wound up to an end and a salvage put to it, but as it is the history of Christ's working, the web is not half finished, and the shuttle stops in the middle of a cast. The book must be incomplete, because the work of which it is the record does not end until 'He shall have delivered up the Kingdom to the Father, and God shall be all in all.'

So the work of each man is but a fragment of that great work. Every man inherits unfinished tasks from his predecessors, and leaves unfinished tasks to his successors. It is, as it used to be in the Middle Ages, when the hands that dug the foundations, or laid the first courses, of some great cathedral, were dead long generations before the gilded cross was set on the apex of the needlespire, and the glowing glass filled in to the painted windows. Enough for us, if we lay a stone, though it be but one stone in one of the courses of the great building.

Luke has left plenty of blank paper at the end of his second 'treatise,' on which he meant that succeeding generations should write their partial contributions to the completed work. Dear friends, let us see that we write our little line, as monks in their monasteries used to keep the chronicle of the house, on which scribe after scribe toiled at its illuminated letters with loving patience for a little while, and then handed the pen from his dying hand to another. What does it matter though we drop, having done but a fragment? He gathers up the fragments into

His completed work, and the imperfect services which He enabled any of us to do will all be represented in the perfect circle of His finished work. The Lord help us to be faithful to the power that works in us, and to leave Him to incorporate our fragments in His mighty whole!"

**This Week's Reading:**

Monday: Acts 1-2

Tuesday: Acts 3-4

Wednesday: Acts 5-6

Thursday: Acts 7-8

Friday: Acts 9-10

Saturday: Acts 11-12

--Alexander Maclaren D. D. from "Expositions of the Scriptures: Acts"