

THE BOOK OF

Acts

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

CREATED BY STEVE CASE

Waiting Around

OPENING QUESTION

When you arrive early to an appointment or event, what do you do while you're "waiting around"?

READ Acts 1:1—26.

1. Why didn't Jesus spend ALL his of his time with his disciples the 40 days he was on earth after his resurrection?

- A. They didn't need it.
- B. They did need it.
- C. Jesus was very busy with a lot of other things.
- D. Jesus had to check in with his Father in heaven periodically.
- E. To better prepare them to operate without his physical presence.
- F. The disciples had a very limited attention span.
- G. Jesus was developing a back-up plan with some other people.
- H. Other.

2. What did Jesus reveal to his disciples after his resurrection?

- A. A repeat of what he had taught them before the crucifixion.
- B. He was about to overthrow the current earthly rulers.
- C. It would be thousands of years until he would return.
- D. The kingdom of God.
- E. The Seventh-day Adventist Church would be God's final people.
- F. Church growth strategies—how to evangelize to the max.
- G. Stay where you are until you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- H. Other.

3. Write some differences between the following two kingdoms?

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

THE KINGDOM OF/FOR THE DISCIPLES

4. When Jesus disappears, where and when can you see him again?

- A. You can't.
- B. Just about anywhere.
- C. Not until he comes in power and glory at the 2nd Advent.
- D. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned.
- E. What many people refer to as "luck" or "coincidence."
- F. In "the least of these" (*Matthew 25:31-46*).
- G. When reading Scripture or while praying.
- H. At inspirational gatherings.
- I. Other.

5. What did Christ's disciples do while they waited for the Holy Spirit?

- A. Kept together as the inner circle of 12; make that 11.
- B. Replaced Judas so they could maintain the kingdom number 12.
- C. Welcomed women and the brothers of Jesus into their inner circle.
- D. Sorted through the recurring issue of who was the greatest.
- E. Recruited financial donors and strategic planners.
- F. Invented the game of Rook to kill time.
- G. Prayed.
- H. Took a fresh look at Christ's teachings for them and for others.
- I. Other.

6. Why was Judas replaced?

- A. Because he was dead.
- B. Jesus never really wanted Judas to be part of the 12.
- C. There had to be 12 disciples.
- D. Several candidates seemed ready to take the next step.
- E. In order to grow, you have to "pass on the torch."
- F. In their parish plan, there were 12 regions; so they needed 12 guys.
- G. To demonstrate that even disciples are replaceable.
- H. We would have never heard about Matthias's exploits otherwise.
- I. Other.

7. Verses 7-8 have the word "you" 3 times? How do they apply to you right now?

8. The disciples vetted two guys and then cast lots (*Prov. 16:33; 1 Sam 14; Joshua 7*) to replace Judas. How do you get God's input for big decisions?

Now You're Talking

OPENING QUESTION

Who is someone who talks, but you simply don't understand them?

READ Acts 2:1–47.

1. How would you describe what happened to the disciples at Pentecost?

- A. Another typical day of following Jesus.
- B. They were finally all together (“in one accord”).
- C. The sound of a whirlwind.
- D. Sound of a gossip group with everyone talking at the same time.
- E. Fire fall.
- F. LSD trip.
- G. Holy Spirit moment.
- H. Pandemonium.
- I. Other.

2. What would have been your reaction to the multiple languages the disciples began to speak simultaneously?

- A. This is unbelievable!
- B. Amazed if they were speaking my language.
- C. Repulsed if it wasn't my language.
- D. Impressed that these guys could do this.
- E. Confused.
- F. Supernatural.
- G. Super-crazy.
- H. Other.

3. What part of Joel's prophecy came true at Pentecost (vs. 17-21)?

- A. God's Spirit was poured out on all people.
- B. Given to males and females.
- C. Dreams and visions.
- D. Wonders in the heavens.
- E. Wonders on the earth.
- F. Heavenly bodies changed.
- G. Salvation for those who call upon the Lord.
- H. It was “the last days.”
- I. Other.

4. How would you convince others that Jesus was the Messiah—God?

- A. Preach.
- B. Listen.
- C. Live like Jesus.
- D. Quote Scripture.
- E. Receive the Holy Spirit.
- F. Tell those listening they were “God-killers.”
- G. Speak in tongues.
- H. Just talk and then expect the Holy Spirit to convict the listeners.
- I. Other.

5. What were those convicted supposed to do in response?

- A. Put their trust in Jesus—the one who died and had come back to life.
- B. Love one another.
- C. Repent.
- D. Be baptized.
- E. Listen to more preaching.
- F. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- G. Join a church.
- H. Participate in communion and fellowship.
- I. Other.

6. What sticks out about this new group of believers (vs. 43-47)?

- A. Nothing in particular.
- B. It sounds very much like what happens at my church.
- C. It seems very different from my church.
- D. They were very, very dedicated; maybe overly so.
- E. This will never last.
- F. They became a commune.
- G. Every day more people joined.
- H. Other.

7. For spiritual revival, what is God’s part? What is your part?

8. Have you received the Holy Spirit? How do you know?

A Leap of Faith

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a time you jumped higher or farther than what's usual for you.

READ Acts 3:1—26.

1. Why hadn't Jesus previously healed this man at the temple gate?

- A. They always missed each other.
- B. Jesus usually entered through a different gate.
- C. The healing was for Peter and John; Jesus left it for them.
- D. Jesus gave the lame man money, just as requested.
- E. Jesus avoided him because Jesus had no money to give.
- F. Jesus was more focused on teaching than healing.
- G. God's timing isn't necessarily the same as our timing.
- H. This miracle gave great impetus to the new church.
- I. Other.

2. What do you have that you can give to others?

- A. Healing power.
- B. Spiritual power.
- C. Time.
- D. Money.
- E. Wisdom.
- F. A listening ear.
- G. Information.
- H. Acceptance
- I. Other.

3. What would have been your reaction to see the lame man dancing?

- A. I don't believe this.
- B. This must be Jesus at work.
- C. It's a stunt double.
- D. This is a miracle!
- E. The guy had faked being lame all these years.
- F. Bring more lame people for healing.
- G. This won't last.
- H. God is present.
- I. Other.

4. Why did Peter turn this into an opportunity to preach?

- A. He was a talker.
- B. There was a crowd.
- C. Everyone needed an explanation.
- D. The other disciples put him up to it.
- E. Holy Spirit prompting, like on the Day of Pentecost.
- F. It was time for an altar call.
- G. The people needed to repent.
- H. It was church; what do you expect?
- I. Other.

5. What was the main point of Peter's message?

- A. You've seen a miracle.
- B. Repent.
- C. This happened because of Jesus—the one you killed.
- D. The Messiah will return.
- E. You really messed up.
- F. Your leaders really messed up.
- G. The resurrected Jesus is on the move; isn't this obvious to you now?
- H. You're seeing Bible fulfillment.
- I. Other.

6. From what sins do you need to turn?

- A. I can't think of any.
- B. I prefer to think positively rather than negatively.
- C. Ego.
- D. Unbelief.
- E. Bad habits.
- F. Bad attitudes.
- G. Lukewarmness.
- H. Other.

7. When have you asked God for something, and he surpassed your request?

8. When have you experienced times of refreshing from the Lord?

You're Gonna Get It!

OPENING QUESTION

Who threatened you as a kid? How effective was it?

READ Acts 4:1–37.

1. Why were the disciples thrown in jail?

- A. They committed a crime.
- B. Jesus.
- C. Theological heresy about what happens when a person dies.
- D. They were a danger to the public.
- E. Too late in the day to go straight to court.
- F. Talking about Jesus.
- G. They disturbed the peace.
- H. Implicating guilt on those in power.
- I. Other.

2. What is undeniable (mark “U”) and what is just Peter’s perspective (mark “P”) in vs. 7-12?

- Peter was inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- The lame man had been healed..
- These council members had killed Jesus.
- Jesus had been resurrected from the dead.
- Healing happened because of Jesus the Messiah.
- The disciples did a good deed.
- More of this kind of thing is going to happen.
- Killing Jesus turned out to be a good thing.
- Other: _____.

3. What was the result of the command to never speak of Jesus again?

- A. The apostles never spoke of Jesus again.
- B. They made an appeal to a higher court.
- C. It made others more interested.
- D. The apostles were more certain to do it again.
- E. This led the apostles to identify more with Jesus.
- F. This lessened their power and authority (you decide who “their” is).
- G. The apostles became mute, like Zacharias (*Luke 1:19-20*).
- H. Other.

4. What do you find yourself unable to stop talking about with others?

- A. Jesus.
- B. Church.
- C. Family.
- D. Friends.
- E. Sports.
- F. Politics.
- G. Money.
- H. Vacation(s).
- I. Myself.
- J. Other.

5. Prioritize (1-8) your prayer requests from the following:

- _____ Lord, hear my prayer.
- _____ Signs and wonders.
- _____ Money for the church.
- _____ Money for me.
- _____ Boldness to share Jesus with others.
- _____ Healing power.
- _____ Holy Spirit filling (or re-filling).
- _____ Other: _____.

6. How come there was no poverty among the believers?

- A. They became a religious commune.
- B. Only wealthy people joined.
- C. Low overhead (no buildings, hierarchy, or “professionals” to fund).
- D. There was no online ordering of goods available.
- E. “Stuff” didn’t matter to them.
- F. God blessed them financially.
- G. They operated on a cash basis—no debt.
- H. Socialism worked really well for them.
- I. Other.

7. What’s an example you face of obeying God rather than humans?

8. If persecution cements conviction and intensity with Jesus, why do we try so hard to avoid it?

All Out; All In

OPENING QUESTION

How good were you at playing hide-and-seek as a kid?

READ Acts 5:1–42.

1. Why did Ananias and Sapphira sell their land and donate to the cause?

- A. The Holy Spirit moved them to do so.
- B. They wanted to match what Barnabas had done (*Acts 4:36-37*).
- C. It would give them status among the believers.
- D. The need was so great they wanted to respond.
- E. They got a good price for the sale of the land.
- F. They were wealthy.
- G. It took all they had, which was fine at the moment.
- H. What better use could there be for “stuff”?
- I. Other.

2. Why did Ananias and Sapphira lie about the amount?

- A. The full amount wasn't really needed at that time.
- B. They had second thoughts about their rash decision to give it all.
- C. Sometimes it seems more responsible to cover your own bases.
- D. That way they would have more to donate in the future.
- E. The Bible doesn't say.
- F. It was nobody else's business.
- G. The apostles should have been grateful for the gift; any gift.
- H. It's not that big of a deal.
- I. Other.

3. Why did both Ananias and Sapphira receive a dire, swift judgment?

- A. They didn't know who they were messing with.
- B. They lied.
- C. They lied to God.
- D. To make a serious impact on the early church.
- E. Peter received divine direction from God on this matter.
- F. The start of God's church couldn't survive with deception.
- G. This really mattered—like Adam and Eve, Uzzah, Moses, etc.
- H. They came in at separate times, doubling down on their deceit.
- I. Other.

4. What were the apostles doing in those days?

- A. Signs and wonders.
- B. Teaching in the temple.
- C. Getting imprisoned.
- D. Making the religious leaders jealous.
- E. Overseeing the feeding program.
- F. Spending time in prayer.
- G. Caring for finances.
- H. Hanging out in Solomon's Colonnade.
- I. Other.

5. Why were the high priest and his friends so down on the apostles?

- A. Jealousy.
- B. The old is always threatened by the new/young.
- C. Getting rid of Jesus was supposed to end this problem.
- D. The apostles hadn't attended the high priest's schools.
- E. Peter kept saying, "Should we obey God or you?"
- F. Fear of losing power.
- G. Fear of losing their temple and religion.
- H. The apostles' disregard, disrespect, and dismissal of them.
- I. Other.

6. How was Gamaliel able to defuse the crisis?

- A. He was a very wise guy.
- B. Gamaliel used his status and reputation to steer the crisis a new way.
- C. He removed the apostles from the council chamber.
- D. God placed Gamaliel where he was for this particular time.
- E. He promised this would end very soon.
- F. He gave both sides what they wanted.
- G. He kept intact the belief that the death of Jesus would end this thing.
- H. Other.

7. What are your thoughts about the New Testament God who instantly killed two people for a simple lie?

8. The apostles' message to the Jews was, "The Messiah you are looking for is Jesus." What is the message about Jesus for today?

Taking Care of Business

OPENING QUESTION

Would you rather teach others about God or work in the kitchen? Why?

READ Acts 6:1–15.

1. What are the likely problems with the early church's rapid growth?

- A. Bickering about who is the greatest.
- B. Inadequate meeting space.
- C. Difficult to organize/re-organize.
- D. Lack of leaders.
- E. Lack of food.
- F. Decreased fellowship from increased size.
- G. Lack of spiritual growth.
- H. Watering down the Gospel.
- I. Other.

2. Why should the apostles not be bothered with the feeding program?

- A. It wasn't part of their job description.
- B. They were horrible cooks.
- C. This could tap into the spiritual gifts of others.
- D. They needed to prioritize personal prayer.
- E. Something has to give.
- F. Their gift of teaching was getting overwhelmed with the food program.
- G. That's what the church is about now.
- H. That was up to the administrative pastor or business manager.
- I. Other.

3. How can you tell if a person is full of the Holy Spirit?

- A. You can just tell.
- B. They talk about Jesus a lot.
- C. Such a person must have spoken in tongues at least once.
- D. They are good looking.
- E. This needs vetting by those with discernment.
- F. They have demonstrated at least 66% of the fruits of the Spirit.
- G. They are seasoned Christ-followers.
- H. Anyone who has accepted Jesus gets filled with the Holy Spirit.
- I. Other.

4. Why did the apostles lay their hands on the seven (vs. 6)?

- A. It just sort of happened at the moment.
- B. This commemorated the “tongues of fire” they had received (2:3).
- C. This was the first ordination service.
- D. The seven were not females.
- E. The Holy Spirit prompted them to do so.
- F. This goes with prayer, sort of like peanut butter and jelly on sandwiches.
- G. It fostered both togetherness and solemnity.
- H. Other.

5. Why was Stephen a deacon instead of an apostle?

- A. He hadn't been with Jesus during Christ's ministry.
- B. Stephen made a great deacon.
- C. He was a recent convert.
- D. This was like an internship for him.
- E. He wanted to work in the kitchen.
- F. There were already enough apostles; they needed deacons.
- G. Stephen wasn't “sent out” (the meaning of the word “apostle”).
- H. He wouldn't last as an apostle.
- I. Other.

6. Why did Stephen have to be stopped?

- A. The religious leaders couldn't out-argue him.
- B. Priests were being converted.
- C. Stephen was doing signs and wonders.
- D. It made good alliteration with his name: “Stephen, stop it!”
- E. Stephen made the religious establishment look foolish.
- F. There were witnesses who gave testimony against him.
- G. He kept feeding the Jesus movement.
- H. Other.

7. What's something urgent in your life that takes you away from what's important?

8. Who are the “Stephens” today?

Truth Is Stranger Than Fiction

OPENING QUESTION

Do you prefer stories based on fact or based on fiction?

READ 7:1—60.

1. In Stephen's sweep of Jewish history, what differs from your version?

- A. Abraham received no inheritance in Canaan.
- B. Moses lasted only three months before he got put in the Nile.
- C. God gave up his people to worship the sun, moon, and stars.
- D. All of Joseph's brothers were buried in Canaan.
- E. God told Abraham his descendants would be slaves for 400 years.
- F. The call to Abram was really in Haran, not Ur of the Chaldees.
- G. Moses was a savior to the Israelites.
- H. Moses was an awesome Egyptian leader.
- I. Other.

2. Circle your top two testimonies for your church.

- A. Creation.
- B. 1844.
- C. The death and resurrection of Christ.
- D. The visions, ministry, and messages received through Ellen White.
- E. Correction of incorrect Christian doctrines.
- F. The health message.
- G. Christ's promise to return.
- H. The 7th day Sabbath.
- I. Other.

3. Circle your top two elements in the story of Moses.

- A. His survival as a baby—what happened and what became of it.
- B. Moses' flight from Egypt at the age of 40.
- C. God later sent Moses back to Egypt to lead his people away.
- D. His 40 years of caring for sheep.
- E. The 10 plagues on Egypt God did through him.
- F. God's appearance to Moses at Sinai—twice.
- G. God's promise there would be another future prophet like Moses.
- H. The Israelites rejection of Moses, their savior, multiple times.
- I. Other.

4. Prioritize (1-9) which prophets God's people persecuted the most.

- _____ Moses.
- _____ Samuel.
- _____ David.
- _____ Solomon.
- _____ Elijah.
- _____ Jeremiah.
- _____ Daniel.
- _____ Jonah.
- _____ Other: _____.

5. What turned the people against Stephen?

- A. Disagreement about some details regarding Israelite history.
- B. Claiming their ancestors persecuted the prophets.
- C. Failure to point out their strict Sabbath observance.
- D. The accusation they had killed the Messiah.
- E. Honoring the fact that they returned from exile to Canaan.
- F. Inflammatory terms like "heathen hearts" and "deaf to the truth."
- G. Bringing Jesus into the story.
- H. Stephen's statement he could see into heaven.
- I. Other.

6. If you were a believer in Jesus at that time, what would you have done when the leaders grabbed Stephen and stoned him?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Intervene and try to stop it.
- C. Run for my life.
- D. Join the leaders in stoning Stephen.
- E. Join Stephen and be stoned along with him.
- F. Watch from the sidelines.
- G. Cry out to God.
- H. Other.

7. What topic(s) or action(s) really push your buttons, maybe even rage?

8. What comes to mind for you when you hear Stephen's last words (vs. 56, 59-60)?

On the Move

OPENING QUESTION

When you have relocated, did you find it to be easy or hard?

READ Acts 8:1–40.

1. What persecution have you suffered? How recently?

- A. Not enough time.
- B. Prison.
- C. Being a follower of Jesus.
- D. Challenges from family members.
- E. Work.
- F. Unable to talk openly about Jesus.
- G. Put downs.
- H. Financial duress.
- I. Other.

2. Who (or what) persecutes you the most?

- A. Family.
- B. Friends.
- C. Government.
- D. Church.
- E. Boss/work.
- F. Media.
- G. People with guns.
- H. Me.
- I. Other.

3. What signs and wonders get people's attention today?

- A. Healing.
- B. Natural disasters.
- C. Financial success.
- D. Magic.
- E. Economic extremes.
- F. Technological advances.
- G. Answered prayers.
- H. The miracle of birth.
- I. Other.

4. Why was Philip able to do such amazing things?

- A. He had received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.
- B. He was finally out of the shadow of Peter and John.
- C. He had done other things, but they didn't get recorded in Acts.
- D. It was his time.
- E. It wasn't all that amazing.
- F. He needed to get out of Jerusalem.
- G. He learned from Jesus; and then from Peter and John.
- H. He connected with Samaritans more than with Jews.
- I. Other.

5. Why didn't the Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit with Philip?

- A. Philip forgot about the Holy Spirit.
- B. The Spirit whisked him away before Philip could lay hands on them.
- C. Peter and John had control over the Holy Spirit.
- D. The Samaritans weren't ready for it at that time.
- E. It gave the church leaders from headquarters a role to play.
- F. They had to first complete the Bible study series on the Holy Spirit.
- G. The Holy Spirit was too busy in other places right then.
- H. They were too mesmerized by Philip's signs and wonders.
- I. Other.

6. Who asks you to explain the Bible to them?

- A. Nobody.
- B. I explain without being asked.
- C. People in my small group Bible study.
- D. My child(ren).
- E. Those who aren't Adventists.
- F. People younger than I.
- G. Those who know I'm into the Bible.
- H. Other.

7. What has the Holy Spirit empowered you to do?

8. When has God placed you in just the right place at just the right time?

The Damascus Road Experience

OPENING QUESTION

On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), how dramatic was your conversion?

READ Acts 9:1–43.

1. If you were a Christian in Damascus, how would you prepare for Saul?

- A. Pray.
- B. Hide.
- C. Flee.
- D. Arm myself.
- E. Get with other Christians.
- F. Return to Judaism.
- G. Prepare to meet Jesus.
- H. Prepare to debate Saul about Jesus.
- I. Other.

2. What did Saul do while he was blind?

- A. Prayed.
- B. Replayed the events on the Damascus Road.
- C. Refreshed his mind with Scriptures he had previously memorized.
- D. Accepted Jesus as the Messiah.
- E. Piggied out on veggie food.
- F. Wondered if he would ever regain his sight.
- G. Replayed the persecuting he had been doing.
- H. Asked “Why?” a lot.
- I. Other.

3. Why did God recruit Ananias to be part of Saul’s conversion?

- A. To get Christian leaders to accept the converted Saul.
- B. This was a test for Ananias’ faith.
- C. It’s just God’s sense of humor.
- D. Ananias was a highly persuasive believer.
- E. God prefers to engage people in His activities.
- F. Saul was at the house of Judas—a bad name for helping Saul.
- G. Ananias had a chip on his shoulder about Saul.
- H. Saul wasn’t making any moves; so God did.
- I. Other.

4. If you had been Ananias, what would you have done?

- A. Bring God up to speed on Saul.
- B. Give Saul a Bible study.
- C. Take Saul to therapy.
- D. The very things Ananias did.
- E. Tell God to get somebody else.
- F. Take a group of believers with me.
- G. Ask a lot of questions before restoring any sight.
- H. Ambush Saul while he was still blind.
- I. Other.

5. What did it take for Jerusalem believers to accept Saul?

- A. Time.
- B. Death threats against Saul.
- C. Barnabas.
- D. Confirmation from Damascus believers.
- E. A vision given to Peter.
- F. Saul started to heal people.
- G. They never did.
- H. His departure from Jerusalem.
- I. Other.

6. Why don't we see more miracles today?

- A. We do.
- B. Our scientific orientation refuses to accept miracles.
- C. They happen in the mission field, and we're not there.
- D. They are happening, but we don't notice them.
- E. They aren't needed.
- F. God isn't as active now as he was in Bible times.
- G. God's people don't see themselves as conduits of God's power.
- H. Other.

7. Would you rather have someone like Saul in your church or away from your church?

8. What has been your "Damascus Road" experience?

A Wide Open Door

OPENING QUESTION

When has God opened a door for you, and it was obvious?

READ Acts 10:1–48.

1. What made Cornelius special?

- A. Roman military captain.
- B. Devout spiritually, including regular prayer.
- C. Philanthropist.
- D. Child of God.
- E. Vegan.
- F. Worshiped the God of Israel.
- G. Received a vision from God.
- H. Other.

2. Why did God give Peter a coded vision rather than a straight command?

- A. That's just how God does things.
- B. This made the message more memorable.
- C. This made the message more impactful.
- D. Peter's prejudice necessitated a roundabout process.
- E. To test Peter's dietary commitment.
- F. It served as a model for Christians after Peter, including us today.
- G. So God could repeat it three times to Peter.
- H. To intrigue Peter's search for understanding.
- I. Other.

3. Why should Peter NOT go into the house of Cornelius?

- A. It wasn't clean.
- B. It wasn't ceremonially clean.
- C. My Jesus would never have done something like this.
- D. They were from very different cultural groups.
- E. Jews would easily misunderstand and use this against Peter.
- F. Christians would easily misunderstand and use this against Peter.
- G. Pagans would easily misunderstand and make this a PR nightmare.
- H. It wasn't covered by insurance.
- I. Other.

4. If you were Peter, what message would you have given Cornelius?

- A. Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah.
- B. Jesus was crucified and resurrected.
- C. You killed Jesus, the Messiah.
- D. Repent; be baptized; receive the Holy Spirit.
- E. Sell all you have; give to the poor; follow me.
- F. Jesus forgives all sins.
- G. Maybe you should consider making a large donation to God's church.
- H. Whatever I felt God impressed me to say at the moment.
- I. Other.

5. Who did Cornelius invite to his house to hear Peter's message?

- A. Family.
- B. Friends.
- C. Subordinates.
- D. Superiors.
- E. Jewish leaders.
- F. Whoever wanted to come.
- G. Those who had received his charitable contributions.
- H. The "least of these."
- I. Other.

6. How did the believers know the Holy Spirit was given to these Gentiles?

- A. They spoke a language that couldn't be understood.
- B. They spoke a language that could be understood.
- C. The message they spoke obviously came from God.
- D. They praised God.
- E. They started to pay a faithful tithe.
- F. They were baptized.
- G. They obeyed everything Peter told them to do.
- H. They had spiritual discernment.
- I. Other.

7. What is something that perplexes you about God right now?

8. What is something that perplexes you about your life right now?

You Gotta Do Some Explaining

OPENING QUESTION

As a child, how could you talk your way out of trouble with your mom/dad?

READ Acts 11:1–30.

1. “Gentiles receiving the Word” Rank from 1-9 your shock today:

- _____ Muslims becoming Christians.
- _____ Christians becoming Muslims.
- _____ Jews joining a non-denominational Christian church.
- _____ The pope becoming an Adventist.
- _____ Hindus turning to Judaism.
- _____ Wiccans embracing Buddhism.
- _____ Pentecostals becoming Lutherans.
- _____ Adventists converting to Catholicism.
- _____ Other: _____.

2. For what are you likely to criticize church leaders today?

- A. Not holding to “the truth.”
- B. Worshiping with non-Adventists.
- C. Doctrinal changes.
- D. Policies and practices.
- E. Not enforcing policies or allowing bad practices.
- F. Failure to proclaim the Three Angels’ Messages.
- G. Political maneuvering.
- H. Independent ministries—identifying who’s good and who’s bad.
- I. Other.

3. When was the last time church leaders received a vision from God?

- A. Each GC president receives visions from God.
- B. Whenever two or three are gathered together in Christ’s name.
- C. Figuring out what to do with Desmond Ford (1979-1980).
- D. The decision about what to do about women’s ordination.
- E. No visions since the death of Ellen White (1915).
- F. It’s happening all the time in “primitive” parts of the world.
- G. At every General Conference session; and at each Annual Council.
- H. It happens primarily in local churches; not in the hierarchy.
- I. Other.

4. When has God named a thing “clean” when we consider it “unclean”?

- A. “Unclean” meats are “clean” since *Acts 10*.
- B. Non-Adventists could be real Christians.
- C. Non-Christians could be God-followers.
- D. Students who attend public school are okay.
- E. Blacks should be treated the same as Whites.
- F. Females can speak for God.
- G. Young people can lead now.
- H. Politicians have been placed in power by God.
- I. Other.

5. What’s your reaction when someone says: “The Holy Spirit impressed me to . . .”?

- A. I doubt it.
- B. I take this as a message from God.
- C. Tell me more.
- D. What makes you think that was the Holy Spirit?
- E. Wait until the Holy Spirit affirms it through another witness.
- F. Wait until the Holy Spirit confirms it directly to me.
- G. You’re saying your own thoughts and then reporting, “God said. . .”
- H. God is so good to actively reveal Himself at this time.
- I. Other.

6. What was the impact of Barnabas and Saul in Antioch?

- A. Evangelism.
- B. Discipleship.
- C. Antioch became the center of the Christian Church.
- D. Barnabas mentored Saul.
- E. Lots of miracles.
- F. Persecution.
- G. Famine.
- H. Famine relief for others.
- I. Other.

7. Why did God send prophets rather than prevent/stop persecution, famine, and other calamities?

8. What would convince you that God was doing something completely different than what he had done in the past?

Get Me Out of Here

OPENING QUESTION

Who created fear in you when you were a child?

READ Acts 12:1–25.

1. Why did Herod persecute the leaders in the fledgling church?

- A. They were a threat to his rule.
- B. He didn't like anyone to be more popular than him.
- C. The Jewish leaders prompted him to do it.
- D. That's just what people named Herod do (*Matt. 2:16*).
- E. It was God's way of testing the early church leaders.
- F. To make room for younger leaders.
- G. This gave him more political capital with key leaders in his kingdom.
- H. This was Satan's work through a pagan leader to squash the church.
- I. Other.

2. Why did Peter have four squads of four soldiers guarding him?

- A. To guarantee he wouldn't escape.
- B. This was the typical protocol for dangerous criminals.
- C. They were on 3-hour shifts through the night.
- D. To make his escape even more miraculous.
- E. The number four symbolizes the entire world—get it?
- F. The rest had to be out on patrol since it was Passover.
- G. This teamed up the temple guards with the Roman guards.
- H. Herod had a premonition Peter might try to escape.
- I. Other.

3. What would have been your prayer for Peter when he was in prison?

- A. Lord, please get him out.
- B. Give Peter the peace of knowing he is in Your care.
- C. Please protect the rest of us who are part of the early church.
- D. Touch the heart of the soldiers to release Peter.
- E. May more people join the church because of Peter's execution.
- F. Please provide the courage Peter needs to stay true to You.
- G. Please convert Herod to Christianity.
- H. Give Peter the words to say, like what you did at Pentecost.
- I. Other.

4. Why was James killed but Peter was miraculously released from prison?

- A. James was expendable.
- B. Peter was the spokesman for the early church.
- C. It was simply random.
- D. Peter was leading the way for Christianity to go to the Gentiles.
- E. James was in the wrong place at the wrong time.
- F. Satan seeks to eliminate all people, but some limits get put on him.
- G. James would have given up his faith had he lived longer.
- H. Both events can feed our faith or cause it to falter.
- I. Other.

5. Who believed Peter escaped from prison?

- A. Peter.
- B. The guards.
- C. Herod.
- D. Rhoda.
- E. The praying believers.
- F. The angel who escorted Peter.
- G. Jesus.
- H. Satan.
- I. Other.

6. Why did King Herod die?

- A. Old age.
- B. Oversized ego.
- C. God's judgment on him.
- D. He fell from the pedestal his subjects erected for him.
- E. The disease of Satan—putting himself in the place of God.
- F. Worms.
- G. It was an accident.
- H. Assassination.
- I. Other.

7. What do you include in your prayers? How does God respond?

8. Does the story of Peter's miraculous escape give you more answers or more questions?

Stir the Pot

OPENING QUESTION

Are you more like a person who polarizes or galvanizes—do you push people to extremes or do you pull people to the middle?

READ Acts 13:1—52.

1. How did Barnabas and Saul know it was the Holy Spirit who sent them?

- A. The Holy Spirit told them.
- B. They received confirmation from other Godly people.
- C. Fasting and praying made the difference.
- D. The Holy Spirit communicated to them in a vision.
- E. This is part of Christ's Gospel Commission.
- F. They actually didn't know.
- G. Hands were laid on them.
- H. Other.

2. What strategy did Barnabas and Saul use on the island of Cyprus?

- A. Whatever impressions they received from the Holy Spirit.
- B. Start with the Jews.
- C. Lead Gentiles to Judaism as the doorway to Christianity.
- D. Reach the politically powerful.
- E. Have Barnabas, from Cyprus take the lead—more experienced.
- F. Confront with words and blindness those used by Satan (*Acts 9:4-9*).
- G. Community service activities.
- H. Use signs and wonders.
- I. Other.

3. You have one shot at a sermon to strangers. What would you say?

- A. My personal testimony.
- B. Identify with the spiritual journey of the listeners.
- C. Repent.
- D. Jesus is the Jewish Messiah and the Gentile Savior.
- E. The kingdom of God is at hand.
- F. The promise of Christ's soon return.
- G. Stewardship.
- H. The death and resurrection of Jesus.
- I. Other.

4. What would be the most difficult thing to hear from Paul's sermon?

- A. The re-run of Jewish history.
- B. The Messiah came and went, and you missed him.
- C. The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem killed the Messiah.
- D. A person named Jesus was the Messiah.
- E. He simply wasn't a very good preacher.
- F. The resurrection (the Messiah was killed, and then came back to life).
- G. The reinterpretation of Scripture Paul gave.
- H. Jesus saves in ways the Jewish law couldn't.
- I. Other.

5. What would you expect the second Sabbath in Antioch of Pisidia?

- A. A repeat of the first Sabbath.
- B. A bigger crowd.
- C. A smaller group.
- D. A riot.
- E. Miracles.
- F. Push back from the establishment.
- G. Roman soldiers would show up.
- H. Religious women would be influential and would play a key role.
- I. Other.

6. Why were believers filled with joy and the Holy Spirit (vs. 52)?

- A. Paul and Barnabas left.
- B. The rioting ended.
- C. When you have the Holy Spirit, you experience joy.
- D. They found out about Jesus the Messiah.
- E. Paul and Barnabas had an amazing praise band traveling with them.
- F. Gentiles were granted salvation.
- G. They made a major commitment to Jesus and this was the result.
- H. Persecution has a way of bringing this out in people.
- I. Other.

7. What might you be missing even though you hear sermon after sermon and study the Bible for years? How could you be enlightened?

8. Which would you rather have: Joy and the Holy Spirit in the midst of rioting and conflict, OR peace and calm amid lukewarm spirituality?

You Are From God (or is it Satan?)

OPENING QUESTION

Which impacts you more: A sermon from your pastor or a sermon from a guest speaker?

READ Acts 14:1–28.

1. Why did Jews and Gentiles believe what Paul and Barnabas preached?

- A. Both groups were open.
- B. Paul and Barnabas were powerful preachers.
- C. Jews found the Messiah and Gentiles finally felt included.
- D. The Holy Spirit moved the hearts of the listeners.
- E. It was a “happiness and wealth message” that’s easy to accept.
- F. Miracles.
- G. The people were in such a bad situation they would accept anything.
- H. Other.

2. Why might Jews be the first ones to turn against Paul and Barnabas?

- A. It was a new message for them; new messages are hard to accept.
- B. It gave Gentiles equal status with Jews.
- C. They had missed the Messiah.
- D. Envy and jealousy.
- E. The arrogance of Paul and Barnabas.
- F. The message called for more of a change for Jews than for others.
- G. Jesus wasn’t the Messiah they expected or wanted.
- H. They would lose what they had worked so hard to obtain.
- I. Other.

3. Why did Paul and Barnabas flee from stoning (vs. 6)?

- A. Do you really have to ask?
- B. The Holy Spirit told them to flee.
- C. The news of the stoning plan was all they needed to flee.
- D. If it happens, it happens; but if you can elude it, by all means do.
- E. They feared for their lives.
- F. They simply followed the words of Jesus (*Matthew 10:23*).
- G. There were other places they wanted to evangelize before dying.
- H. They didn’t think God would rescue them from this attack.
- I. Other.

4. What does the healing of the life-time cripple bring to mind for you?

- A. *Acts 3:1-11*—Peter and John’s healing of a man lame from birth.
- B. *Acts 5:16*—The apostles healing those brought to them.
- C. *Acts 8:7*—The healing of many, including the lame, by Philip.
- D. *Acts 9:3-19*—Saul’s conversion.
- E. *Acts 9:40*—The resurrection of Dorcas.
- F. *John 9*—Jesus healing the man born blind.
- G. *Mark 10:46-52*—Blind Bartimaeus healed by Jesus.
- H. *John 14:12*—Christ’s promise his followers would do greater things.
- I. Other.

5. What witness has God provided to you (vs. 17)?

- A. Nature.
- B. Circumstances/providence/luck/timing.
- C. A group of people.
- D. One clarion voice/messenger.
- E. Scripture.
- F. My prayer life.
- G. My church.
- H. Miracles.
- I. Other.

6. Why did P & B return to the cities where they had been attacked?

- A. They were ready to fight back.
- B. The Holy Spirit told them to return.
- C. Those who had attacked them were gone.
- D. The new believers needed church leaders to be appointed.
- E. To encourage the new believers.
- F. They had a few more sermons they wanted to preach.
- G. To let the new believers know that persecution was likely.
- H. They weren’t finished with their evangelistic campaign.
- I. Other.

7. What led the people in Lystra to turn from worshiping Paul and Barnabas to stoning them?

8. If you were Paul, what would be your report of this first missionary trip? What would be your report if you were Barnabas?

Dearly Held Beliefs

OPENING QUESTION

What is something you believed early in life, but you don't believe it nearly as strongly now?

READ Acts 15:1–41.

1. Why did Paul and Barnabas go to Jerusalem?

- A. They felt compelled to correct church leaders about circumcision.
- B. They had been exacerbating too much church conflict in Antioch.
- C. It had become the new mission field for Christianity.
- D. This was the first short-term mission trip—a tour of the Holy Land.
- E. Conflict with visitors from Judea who came to Antioch spurred this.
- F. Church leaders in Antioch sent them to church leaders in Jerusalem.
- G. The Holy Spirit told them to go.
- H. Other.

2. Why would the believers in Phoenicia and Samaria rejoice (vs. 3)?

- A. It was good to be around Paul and Barnabas.
- B. News of the spread of the Gospel greatly encouraged them.
- C. Stopping to see them before those in Jerusalem gave them priority.
- D. They were considered Gentiles, too.
- E. It sparked a revival in their churches.
- F. Word that Gentiles who accept Christ don't need to be circumcised.
- G. Christianity no longer had Jerusalem as its center.
- H. They anticipated the shift that was about to happen in Jerusalem.
- I. Other.

3. What part of your background affects your current religious experience?

- A. Growing up Adventist vs. converting to Adventism.
- B. Family systems.
- C. Addictive tendencies.
- D. I'm easily persuaded.
- E. Egocentrism.
- F. The need to always be right.
- G. Feelings of shame or inadequacy.
- H. Weirdness.
- I. Other.

4. What arguments do you think were part of the long discussion (vs. 7)?

- A. We've always done it this way.
- B. God showed me . . .
- C. Everyone I know . . .
- D. The Bible clearly says . . .
- E. I've prayed about it.
- F. God never changes.
- G. Jesus changes everything.
- H. You can't deny what has been happening.
- I. Other.

5. How did the Jerusalem Council decide what was true/right?

- A. Democratic process and a majority vote.
- B. A vision from God.
- C. Tradition.
- D. Signs and wonders.
- E. Consensus.
- F. The head of the church decided.
- G. Consultation with the apostles and church elders.
- H. Representation based on money given, ethnicity, gender, and age.
- I. Other.

6. What would you like the General Conference to consider next time?

- A. Revival and Reformation.
- B. Women's ordination.
- C. Tithe and offering distribution.
- D. Evangelism and church growth.
- E. Discipleship.
- F. Gender identity and sexual practices.
- G. SDA Health ministry—preventive, curative, or palliative?
- H. Adventist Education—past, present, and future.
- I. Hermeneutics (how to study the Bible).
- J. Church organization and structure.
- K. Other.

7. What do you find most difficult about being a Seventh-day Adventist?

8. For which cause(s) are you unwilling to compromise?

Let's Go On A Mission Trip

OPENING QUESTION

Why have you gone, or not gone, on a mission trip?

READ Acts 16:1–40.

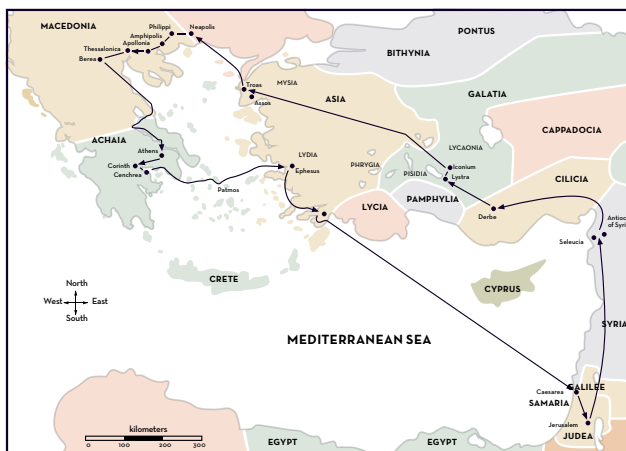
1. Why did Paul recruit Timothy when he had just rejected John Mark?

- A. He was feeling guilty about his fallout with Barnabas.
- B. You always need young people as part of your team.
- C. Paul was a natural mentor in need of a mentee.
- D. Timothy came with strong recommendations.
- E. The Holy Spirit confirmed this for Paul.
- F. Timothy needed to get out of the household with a mixed marriage.
- G. Timothy represented the ideal combination of Jew and Greek.
- H. Other.

2. Why circumcise Timothy, especially after the Jerusalem Council?

- A. It just wasn't worth it to make this an issue.
- B. It opened more doors rather than closing them.
- C. With a Greek father, it solidified Jewish identity for Timothy.
- D. Paul and Silas were circumcised, so it was better for Timothy, too.
- E. The Jerusalem Council decision wasn't widely known yet.
- F. His mom, Eunice, wouldn't let him go without this stamp of approval.
- G. The Holy Spirit communicated to Paul this was necessary.
- H. Other.

3. What gets your attention about this map of Paul's second mission trip?



4. Why were Paul and Silas put in jail?

- A. It all started because of Paul's impatience.
- B. This was God's way of reaching those in jail instead of in church.
- C. The jealousy of the Jewish leaders.
- D. They broke Roman law.
- E. When you mess with someone's finances, you pay for it.
- F. Jail is the obvious destination for those stripped and beaten.
- G. Paul seemed to incite riots.
- H. The miracle of exorcism was well received by some; but not others.
- I. Other.

5. Why didn't Paul and Silas escape from prison when given the chance?

- A. They weren't done with their singing.
- B. They had some baptisms to conduct.
- C. The Holy Spirit gave them no indication to leave.
- D. They feared for their lives outside the prison.
- E. Nobody wanted them to leave.
- F. God told them to stay put.
- G. They were having a good time in jail.
- H. They had a jailer to save and city leaders who needed to apologize.
- I. Other.

6. What stands out in your mind about Paul's mission trip to Philippi?

- A. The vision with a call specifically to go there.
- B. Not starting at Jewish synagogue, like they usually did.
- C. Baptisms the first Sabbath; at the river where they met for worship.
- D. Exorcism of a demon-possessed girl who made money for her "pimp."
- E. The negative reaction to freeing the demon-possessed girl.
- F. Injustice done to Paul and Silas.
- G. Singing at midnight in stocks in the inner prison.
- H. What happened after the earthquake.
- I. Other.

7. When is it better for you to just go along with people's expectations (like be circumcised, or leave town quietly) rather than take a stand?

8. What comparisons would you make between Paul's mission trips and a typical Maranatha mission trip?

Fight, Flee, Faith, Facetious

OPENING QUESTION

Who can “push your buttons”? Whose buttons can you push?

READ Acts 17:1–34.

1. Why did Paul go to the synagogues as his evangelism strategy?

- A. Because of his Jewish background, this was familiar to him.
- B. God told him to do so.
- C. He was primarily an apostle to the Jews.
- D. Jesus was the Messiah the Jews anticipated.
- E. Paul knew this would start a riot.
- F. Paul knew this would convert Jews who attended the synagogue.
- G. He had so much success in other cities, he continued this strategy.
- H. He received invitations to come there and preach.
- I. Other.

2. What was the accusation against Paul and Silas in Thessalonica?

- A. They were Jews.
- B. They were Christians.
- C. The issue of circumcision.
- D. Claiming Jesus was God.
- E. Breaking the Sabbath.
- F. Failure to worship Caesar.
- G. Breaking Roman laws.
- H. Breaking Jewish laws.
- I. Other.

3. Why did the believers in Thessalonica send Paul to Berea?

- A. So their lives would calm down in Thessalonica.
- B. Their desire for Paul to share the good news in Berea.
- C. They wanted to hear what Silas and Timothy had to say.
- D. Local authorities advised them to send Paul away.
- E. They knew they'd get a letter or two from Paul later.
- F. Jason and the others had suffered enough.
- G. Paul offered to leave.
- H. God sent a message through a dream for this to happen.
- I. Other.

4. To whom did Paul target with the Gospel in Athens?

- A. Those who attended the Jewish synagogue.
- B. People in the marketplace.
- C. The center square of the city.
- D. People who offered to let him stay with them.
- E. The intellectuals on Mars Hill.
- F. City officials.
- G. Those we would consider “the least of these.”
- H. Other.

5. What is a good way to share your faith with intellectuals?

- A. Speak in intellectual ways.
- B. Hit ‘em between the eyes with the Gospel.
- C. Ask more questions rather than pushing propositions or truths.
- D. Intellectuals aren’t interested in faith.
- E. Intellectuals are all about “talk” and not about “walk.”
- F. Engage in scientific discussions or debates.
- G. Just tell your personal story.
- H. Other.

6. What do you think about the resurrection of Jesus?

- A. I hardly ever think about it.
- B. It’s vital! Without it, Christianity is a sham.
- C. It turned out to be Christ’s ultimate miracle.
- D. I grew up believing it, so I haven’t really questioned it.
- E. It’s unbelievable.
- F. It’s either a cornerstone or a stumbling block.
- G. I tend to take it for granted.
- H. Other.

7. Who/What are the idols in your country today? Who/What are the idols in your house?

8. How successful was Paul’s presentation on Mars Hill? How successful are you at sharing Jesus with those who aren’t Christians?

Typical Paul

OPENING QUESTION

When have you done something “out of character” and then returned to “normal”?

READ Acts 18:1—28.

1. Should pastors/preachers work at “real jobs” like Paul did (vs. 3)?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. Only for short spurts, like what Paul did.
- D. It depends on how well they preach.
- E. They would have to actually work.
- F. It would put them in touch with more real people.
- G. It’s ideal to be bi-vocational (2 jobs/skills).
- H. Pastors need to lead or manage a church on a full time basis.
- I. Other.

2. Whom should we try to win for Christ: those religious or those secular?

- A. Religious.
- B. Secular.
- C. Either.
- D. It doesn’t really matter.
- E. It depends on your talents and interest.
- F. It depends on which group you invest your time.
- G. Sometimes it’s easier to do it inside the context of a church.
- H. Sometimes it’s easier to do it outside the context of a church.
- I. Other.

3. How long does it take for someone to believe in Christ?

- A. An instant.
- B. A long period of time.
- C. It depends on the person.
- D. It depends on the circumstances.
- E. It depends on the one who shares Christ.
- F. It’s faster if there are signs and wonders.
- G. It’s a process, not a point in time.
- H. Other.

4. How should Christians relate to the state (the government)?

- A. Obey the laws.
- B. Be involved in the politics with the people where you are.
- C. Take a strong stand to keep church and state separate.
- D. Pray for the state.
- E. Work for the state.
- F. Obey only if it doesn't go contrary to God's ways and purposes.
- G. Expect to be contrary to it.
- H. Rely on the state to do its job.
- I. Other.

5. Why did Paul keep returning to places he had already been?

- A. He often had left places quickly under emotional public outbursts.
- B. Discipleship requires follow up.
- C. God told Paul to do so.
- D. His sponsoring church sent him.
- E. Persecution of new believers could stifle the newly planted churches.
- F. He wasn't finished with what he had started.
- G. Church headquarters in Jerusalem suggested it.
- H. Other.

6. What seemed to be the greatest strength of Apollos?

- A. Talent for public speaking.
- B. Teachability.
- C. Enthusiasm.
- D. Understanding of Scripture.
- E. Ability to refute the Jews without inciting riots.
- F. Drive to share Jesus with others.
- G. Knack for applying the Gospel to new cultures.
- H. Other.

7. What do you do to lead others to Christ?

8. What do you do to keep others with Christ?

This Is Great!

OPENING QUESTION

What is something that made a great impact on you when you were young?

READ Acts 19:1–41.

1. What did your baptism mean to you?

- A. Repentance.
- B. Forgiveness of sins.
- C. The Holy Spirit came into my life.
- D. I was old enough to choose Jesus for myself.
- E. I had completed baptismal studies.
- F. I was joining the Body of Christ.
- G. I would never sin again.
- H. I could start to participate in the communion service.
- I. Other.

2. Some believed Paul and some didn't. What made the difference?

- A. The power of Paul's preaching.
- B. Miracles.
- C. Reasoning.
- D. The influence of others and what they believed.
- E. God's work on one's heart.
- F. Whether or not one is open for a major change.
- G. The way Paul taught/explained Scripture.
- H. The degree to which it matched what one already believed.
- I. Other.

3. How does the Holy Spirit work through people?

- A. Directly.
- B. In great ways.
- C. In small, often imperceptible ways.
- D. In ways that are obvious to outside observers.
- E. One needs fresh supplies of Holy Spirit power.
- F. Pride can stop the Holy Spirit.
- G. Occasionally this gets tested by other supernatural forces.
- H. Often by teaming up with someone who is spiritually stronger.
- I. Other.

4. What would cause as great a reaction today as the Ephesus reaction?

- A. Economic collapse.
- B. A national election.
- C. LGBTQ+ rights.
- D. Vaccines.
- E. The 7th day Sabbath.
- F. Immigration.
- G. Gun control.
- H. Women's ordination.
- I. Other.

5. What was the core issue in the Ephesus uprising?

- A. Money.
- B. Worship.
- C. Power.
- D. Culture.
- E. Tourism.
- F. Change.
- G. Majority.
- H. Other.

6. What would you have done if you had lived in Ephesus?

- A. Stay out of the theater.
- B. Go in to the theater.
- C. Attend Paul's lectures/teachings.
- D. Make a clean break with sorcery and pagan idols.
- E. Help maintain the status quo.
- F. Share with others the messages Paul taught me.
- G. Make sure I was baptized with the Holy Spirit.
- H. Other.

7. Where does the SDA Church have its greatest impact today?

8. Where does God have his greatest impact on you? On others?

So Long; Farewell

OPENING QUESTION

Which is more difficult: Greeting strangers or saying “Farewell” to friends?

READ Acts 20:1–38.

1. Where are you most likely to come in contact with fellow believers?

- A. Church.
- B. SDA Institutions.
- C. Family.
- D. Friends.
- E. Anywhere in the world.
- F. Camp meeting.
- G. Online.
- H. Serendipitous happenings.
- I. Other.

2. If you preached all night, what would you say?

- A. Whatever comes into my mind.
- B. Things I’ve heard over the years.
- C. The doctrines of the SDA Church.
- D. Story after story.
- E. I’d run out of things to say.
- F. Just repeat my message a bunch of times.
- G. Bible truths.
- H. Nobody should ever preach all night.
- I. Other.

3. Whose fault was it that Eutychus fell to his death?

- A. Eutychus—he’s the one who fell asleep; nobody pushed him.
- B. Paul—preaching until midnight, and beyond—what are you thinking?
- C. Church deacons—should have prevented this.
- D. Parents of Eutychus—where were they?
- E. Holy Spirit—why not prevent death rather than rectify it?
- F. Youth leader—they should have had one.
- G. Those sitting closest to him—pay attention to your environment.
- H. Satan—like a prowling lion, seeking whom he may devour.
- I. Other.

4. Why did Paul send for the Ephesian elders?

- A. His departure from Ephesus was during a riot.
- B. Paul had important counsel for these church leaders.
- C. To encourage his own faith.
- D. Paul knew he wouldn't ever be back to Ephesus.
- E. His eagerness to get to Jerusalem didn't allow a stop at Ephesus.
- F. The Holy Spirit impressed Paul to have this meeting.
- G. After three years of ministry, he was heavily invested in Ephesus.
- H. Paul wanted an update on what was happening.
- I. Other.

5. What would be your final message to your church?

- A. Thanks for everything.
- B. I need to get a few things off my chest.
- C. Beware of those who are out to get you.
- D. My conscience is clear.
- E. Keep the faith.
- F. Some of you will quit.
- G. God will take care of you.
- H. Other.

6. Who is out to get you?

- A. Satan.
- B. God.
- C. The media.
- D. Big business.
- E. Those on the internet.
- F. My boss.
- G. Those in authority (church, government, police).
- H. Other.

7. What has the Holy Spirit compelled you to do (or not do)?

8. TRUE OR FALSE: "It's more blessed to give than receive" (vs. 35).

To whom do you give?

From whom do you receive?

Just Trying To Fit In

OPENING QUESTION

When an issue or concern arises, do you pursue more info or just chill out?

READ Acts 21:1–40.

1. How do you respond to believers you don't know who give input you don't want?

- A. Ignore.
- B. Reject.
- C. Accept.
- D. Inquire for more clarification.
- E. Pray about it.
- F. Use the spiritual gift of discernment.
- G. Call them “unbelievers” or “heretics” or “worldly.”
- H. Take it as a message from God.
- I. Other.

2. Who received direct messages from God about Paul's impending crisis?

- A. Believers in Tyre.
- B. Believers in Ptolemais.
- C. Philip the Evangelist—one of the original deacons, now in Caesarea.
- D. Philip's four daughters who all had the gift of prophecy.
- E. Agabus.
- F. Paul.
- G. Timothy and Luke—Paul's traveling companions.
- H. James and the believers in Jerusalem.
- I. Other.

3. Why did God send Paul messages about trouble for him in Jerusalem?

- A. So Paul wouldn't be surprised when it happened.
- B. It was obvious that Jews would reject a missionary to the Gentiles.
- C. To test Paul's commitment to remain faithful to Christ.
- D. This proves that God knows the future.
- E. To prepare the people around Paul so their faith wouldn't falter.
- F. This gave Paul the assurance that God was with him.
- G. It provided Paul an opportunity to testify about suffering for Christ.
- H. Other.

4. Why did Paul insist on continuing to Jerusalem?

- A. Paul didn't believe the "scare stories."
- B. He was ready to suffer imprisonment from Jews and Romans.
- C. Paul longed to be in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost.
- D. He had already experienced these types of things.
- E. Paul wanted to personally deliver the offerings he had received.
- F. The predictions about getting arrested didn't frighten him.
- G. It wasn't like "just being there" would start a riot or anything like that.
- H. God had directed Paul to Jerusalem.
- I. Other.

5. What's an example of something you don't do because it might be a potential stumbling block, but there's really nothing wrong with it?

- A. Kill innocent animals as a sacrifice to God.
- B. Enter a theater.
- C. Eat meat with blood in it.
- D. Work during the Sabbath hours.
- E. Wear a mask when in public settings.
- F. Gossip.
- G. Donate my tithe to something that isn't officially "church tithe."
- H. Other.

6. Why were the Jews so out of control in trying to kill Paul?

- A. Paul was such a hypocrite.
- B. These Jews simply lost it.
- C. Fact-free conspiracy theory.
- D. Paul had desecrated the sanctuary.
- E. They thought he was somebody else.
- F. Paul was a threat to their religious customs.
- G. The stories about Paul had grown to outlandish dimensions.
- H. Other.

7. What has God done in your life and in your church's ministry that causes you to say, "Praise God!" at this time?

8. When you explain a misunderstanding, does your explanation usually help or hinder things?

You Got Me

OPENING QUESTION

Who is the person you listen to the most—the person who “has your ear”?

READ Acts 22:1—30.

1. What causes you to listen more intently?

- A. You forgot something you should remember.
- B. The person speaking has your respect.
- C. The person speaking has your interest.
- D. It's an emergency situation.
- E. You identify with the speaker.
- F. The volume of the speaker is loud.
- G. The volume of the speaker is soft.
- H. The person “speaks your language.”
- I. Other.

2. Why did Paul share his testimony at this time?

- A. It worked many times in the past.
- B. Paul wanted to explain his side of the story so they would empathize.
- C. God impressed him to share it right then.
- D. This wasn't the time or place for theological instruction.
- E. Stories are more impactful than facts.
- F. It seemed like the way to move a Jewish crowd toward Christ.
- G. He had cleared it with the Roman commander.
- H. Although it would start another riot, he thought some might be saved.
- I. Other.

3. How do you show your displeasure (vs. 23)?

- A. Yell.
- B. Go silent.
- C. I go into passive-aggressive mode.
- D. Throw dust in the air.
- E. Stop making donations to that person/cause.
- F. Post on social media.
- G. March in protest.
- H. Speak or write about your own pain and anger.
- I. Other.

4. Who are you by birth?

- A. A member of a certain family.
- B. Your sex.
- C. A particular ethnic group.
- D. Enculturated based on the dominant culture where you live.
- E. Locked into a socio-economic class.
- F. Part of a religious group.
- G. A recognized nationality.
- H. A child of God.
- I. Other.

5. When should you use your national rights.

- A. Whenever you want to use them.
- B. Whenever you need to use them.
- C. When Christ doesn't bail you out of a bad situation.
- D. When Christ wants you to call on your national rights.
- E. When there's not a conflict between church and state.
- F. When there is a conflict between church and state.
- G. Whenever finances are involved.
- H. Other.

6. Is it better to face a state court or a religious court?

- A. State courts are more fair.
- B. Religious courts have God on their side.
- C. State courts take a long time to process.
- D. Religious courts can move as fast as God chooses to reveal himself.
- E. State and religious courts are pretty much the same thing.
- F. State courts deal with life on earth; religious courts deal with heaven.
- G. State court: Innocent until proven guilty; religious courts are opposite.
- H. Other.

7. When have you recently found a situation more complicated than you first thought?

8. What effect does your personal testimony have on others?

You're Not Safe

OPENING QUESTION

As a child, did you experience more hurt physically or emotionally?

READ Acts 23:1–35.

1. What's with the "hand slap" and the verbal exchange (vs. 1-5)?

- A. Paul's accustomed to strong statements than can lead to riots.
- B. Paul was being on his best behavior since he was in court.
- C. The high priest wasn't going to take any guff from Paul.
- D. Paul subjected himself to the high priest, except for his arrest.
- E. Those who slapped Paul just followed the high priest's command.
- F. The place was emotionally hyper-charged.
- G. The volume of the speaker is soft.
- H. The person "speaks my language."
- I. Other.

2. Why did Paul divide his accusers on the topic of the resurrection?

- A. He knew it was a divisive theological belief with these two groups.
- B. If his accusers were divided, they wouldn't be able to convict Paul.
- C. Paul himself was a Pharisee.
- D. Paul himself was a Sadducee.
- E. To test the Roman commander's crowd control skills.
- F. The resurrection of Christ was the bedrock of Paul's beliefs.
- G. Paul knew resurrection would be a divisive issue throughout time.
- H. So Paul would be set free.
- I. Other.

3. What is your interpretation of God's message to Paul in Acts 23:11?

- A. God is present.
- B. Paul is doing everything just the way he should be doing it.
- C. This is not your demise.
- D. You'll be done with this Jerusalem nonsense in just a short time.
- E. God just provided Paul his next destination.
- F. Where are your companions?
- G. You'll be in prison in Rome as well.
- H. You're going to have to use your brain and wits to get out of this.
- I. Other.

4. How can religious leaders engage in a conspiracy to kill (vs. 14)?

- A. More easily than you would think.
- B. This is a misinterpretation.
- C. Religious leaders can't stop other people who make certain vows.
- D. Paul deserved death.
- E. God has ordered deaths and killings in the past.
- F. Peter had done this with Ananias and Sapphira (*Acts 5*).
- G. It deepens commitment and a sense of community among believers.
- H. It demonstrates commitment and personal sacrifice for God's cause.
- I. Other.

5. Was it overkill to have so many escort Paul in the middle of the night?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. Overkill is better than underkill.
- D. There were 40 self-appointed killers loose who made a vow to kill.
- E. Moving before the next morning made an attack less likely.
- F. The Roman commander outsmarted those who wanted to kill Paul.
- G. This meant more people for Paul to convert to Christianity.
- H. Other.

6. Why did Jewish accusations force Paul to wait in a Roman prison?

- A. The Jews were the ones really in control.
- B. This was the safest place for Paul to be at this time.
- C. Roman prisons were pretty nice places to reside.
- D. Paul was a Roman citizen.
- E. If Paul weren't locked up, he would likely be murdered.
- F. The Romans were sensitive to Jewish fury.
- G. With the handoff to Governor Felix, that's the place Paul had to be.
- H. Other.

7. What would you have done with Paul if you were the Roman commander?

8. Where is God in all this human maneuvering?

Going Nowhere

OPENING QUESTION

When does doing chores (cleaning, busy work) seem like a waste of time?

READ Acts 24:1–27.

1. What is the best argument for Felix to consider Paul to be guilty?

- A. The Jewish Sanhedrin had found him guilty.
- B. Asian Jews accused him of sacrilegious actions in the temple.
- C. Paul is just a bad guy.
- D. He is the ringleader of an anarchist sect.
- E. Paul advocated not paying taxes to Caesar.
- F. He creates riots everywhere he goes.
- G. Roman soldiers arrested him for disturbing the peace.
- H. Paul is mentally unstable—let him go and bad stuff will happen.
- I. Other.

2. What was Paul's defense?

- A. They're right; I'm guilty.
- B. None of what they say is true.
- C. My accusers can't prove their point(s).
- D. I'm a Roman citizen.
- E. I believe in the resurrection of the dead.
- F. The Jews are just jealous because of the rise of Christianity.
- G. I've never been in prison prior to this.
- H. You know enough about Judaism to know this charade is all wrong.
- I. Other.

3. Who seems to be in control of Paul's life?

- A. Governor Felix.
- B. The Jewish Sanhedrin.
- C. Roman commander Lysias.
- D. Paul.
- E. Drusilla, the wife of Felix.
- F. God.
- G. Satan.
- H. Asian Christians who visited Jerusalem.
- I. Other.

4. Where are the Christians during Paul's imprisonment and trials?

- A. Hiding.
- B. Kept away by the Roman guard.
- C. Adhering to a separation of church and state.
- D. Nowhere to be found.
- E. Conducting prayer meetings like they had for Peter (*Acts 12:12*).
- F. Caesarea was a long way from Jerusalem.
- G. They didn't have funds to hire an attorney.
- H. No big deal; persecution comes with being a Christian (*Acts 5:41*).
- I. Other.

5. What do you think Paul shared with Felix that terrified him (*vs. 25*)?

- A. A Day of Judgment was coming, and Felix would be judged, too.
- B. If you don't accept Jesus, you'll lose everything.
- C. Rome is going to crumble.
- D. Care for those on the margins.
- E. God did supernatural things through Paul.
- F. The prophecies from Daniel and Revelation.
- G. Righteousness by faith.
- H. Other.

6. Why was it okay for Felix to keep Paul in prison for two years?

- A. It wasn't okay.
- B. This was safer than letting Paul go free.
- C. To maintain peace among the Jews.
- D. Drusilla stopped Felix from hurting Paul.
- E. To increase the opportunity for Paul to bribe Felix.
- F. This kept him on the good side of the Jewish leaders.
- G. To find out more about God from Paul periodically.
- H. Other.

7. When is it "convenient" to hear about God?

8. When is it "convenient" to share Jesus with others (see *2 Timothy 4:2-5*)?

Hot Potato

OPENING QUESTION

Give an example of an irritation (major or minor) you can't seem to shake.

READ Acts 25:1—27.

1. Why did the Jewish leaders press Festus right away about Paul?

- A. They still had very strong feelings against Paul.
- B. They feared that with a new governor, Paul might be set free.
- C. With a new governor, they hoped they could get a different verdict.
- D. The 40 guys who vowed a fast until they killed Paul were still hungry.
- E. Satan was even more concerned than the Jewish leaders about Paul.
- F. Festus didn't know much about Christianity.
- G. Festus knew little about this part of the Roman Empire.
- H. They were willing to draw on their Jewish political capital for a favor.
- I. Other.

2. Why did Paul appeal to Caesar?

- A. Festus wasn't going to protect him.
- B. To get away from the Jewish persecutors in the region.
- C. Paul always wanted to get to Rome somehow.
- D. God had revealed to Paul that he should make this appeal.
- E. Without a change, Paul would just rot away in jail.
- F. He trusted leaders in government more than leaders in religion.
- G. He wanted to give his Damascus-road testimony to Caesar.
- H. It's what his defense attorney recommended.
- I. Other.

3. Why did Festus agree to send Paul to Rome?

- A. He just wanted to get rid of him.
- B. So there wouldn't be a deterrent to Jewish relations.
- C. He had no choice; Paul had appealed to Caesar.
- D. So his name would come to the attention of Caesar.
- E. The guards recommended it.
- F. Prison overcrowding in Caesarea.
- G. Provide a clean slate as the new governor in the area.
- H. It was a way he could set Paul free without angering the Jews.
- I. Other.

4. What was it about King Agrippa's background that added to this scene?

- A. He was in the line of Herods (*Matthew 2; Acts 12*).
- B. He was quite religious in his personal practices.
- C. His sister was Drusilla, wife of the previous Governor Felix.
- D. His great-grandmother was a Jew.
- E. He determined who the high priest in Jerusalem would be.
- F. The Jews loved him.
- G. He had a history of persecuting Christians.
- H. His territory had been increasing as Rome entrusted him with more.
- I. Other.

5. What do you think Agrippa wanted to hear from Paul?

- A. He liked a challenge.
- B. He had heard of Paul, but had never met him.
- C. It would be more interesting than making small talk with Festus.
- D. Curiosity about Christianity.
- E. To expand his influence in Caesarea.
- F. The Holy Spirit was working on his heart.
- G. To help Festus.
- H. Other.

6. Why didn't Festus know what to write to the emperor about Paul?

- A. He had never done this previously.
- B. Festus still didn't understand the issues with Paul's arrest and trial.
- C. He thought Paul was innocent, so this would waste Caesar's time.
- D. He should have released Paul already.
- E. Telling Caesar Festus was intimidated by the Jews wouldn't be good.
- F. He wasn't very intelligent.
- G. Festus was experiencing "writer's block."
- H. Other.

7. Why didn't God rescue Paul from jail in Caesarea?

8. Why doesn't God intervene in your life more often?

Believe Me

OPENING QUESTION

Who is someone you easily believe when they testify about Jesus?

READ Acts 26:1—32.

1. Why would Agrippa be an expert on Jewish customs and controversies?

- A. He was Jewish.
- B. Agrippa was the one who appointed the person to be the high priest.
- C. He read a lot about Jewish history.
- D. His great grandmother was a Jew.
- E. The Jews loved him.
- F. Agrippa was the third Herod to reign over Judea.
- G. He was more loyal to the Jews than he was to the Romans.
- H. He lived in this culture his entire life..
- I. Other.

2. Why does it seem incredible that God can raise the dead?

- A. It is incredible.
- B. Only religious people believe this.
- C. Name how many times it has happened.
- D. It happens all the time in a spiritual sense.
- E. There is no credible scientific answer to this.
- F. Believers will believe anything.
- G. Most religions include some belief about life after death.
- H. It's only incredible if you don't believe the Bible.
- I. Other.

3. What did Christ's statement "It's hard to kick against the goads" mean?

- A. It's hard to kick against the goads.
- B. A "goad" is a cattle prod.
- C. When you go against everything, you'll suffer.
- D. A person needs to build up endurance and resistance to do this.
- E. Stop hurting yourself!
- F. God is personally directing you now.
- G. You're going against God's clearly revealed will for your life.
- H. It's easier to not kick, but requires dedication to actually kick.
- I. Other.

4. Why did Festus consider Paul to be insane (vs. 24)?

- A. Paul's testimony sounded like craziness to Festus.
- B. Psychologists had tested Paul and reported the results to Festus.
- C. Festus was insane and simply transferred that to Paul.
- D. He was only saying what everyone else was thinking.
- E. Festus didn't understand Judaism or Christianity.
- F. This was his personal pushback against Paul's testimony.
- G. He wanted to give King Agrippa a gracious exit.
- H. The things of God are foolishness to those who don't believe.
- I. Other.

5. Why didn't Agrippa believe in Jesus after Paul's testimony?

- A. He did.
- B. He almost did.
- C. He would have if his wife hadn't been present.
- D. Nothing like Paul's testimony had ever happened to Agrippa.
- E. Agrippa would lose too much if he accepted Christ.
- F. He needed more time; sort of like Nicodemus.
- G. He simply didn't believe Paul's testimony.
- H. His loyalty was to Rome.
- I. Other.

6. Why wasn't Paul set free?

- A. He felt free.
- B. He had appealed to Rome.
- C. Governors Felix and Festus cared more about peace than justice.
- D. King Agrippa cast the deciding vote.
- E. The governors simply didn't understand Jewish culture.
- F. Festus finally knew what he could write to Caesar for Paul's trial.
- G. This was God's appointed way to send Paul to Rome.
- H. Other.

7. What makes you likely to believe someone's testimony? What makes you unlikely to believe someone's testimony?

8. Your testimony: Who heard it last year? Who will hear it this year?

Stormy

OPENING QUESTION

What's one of the worst storms you've experienced?

READ Acts 27:1–44.

1. What made it difficult for Paul to get to Rome?

- A. The season of the year wasn't conducive for sailing.
- B. This particular ship itself.
- C. Being on a "milk run"—stopping at just about every port.
- D. God didn't want Paul in Rome at this time.
- E. Having to switch ships.
- F. The storm; a "Northeaster."
- G. Change of routing.
- H. It was actually easier than it sounds.
- I. Other.

2. Whose word should be taken on whether to sail, or not to sail?

- A. Ship captain.
- B. Ship owner.
- C. Sailors/crew.
- D. Military officer Julius.
- E. Roman soldiers.
- F. Prisoner Paul.
- G. God.
- H. Scribe and physician Luke.
- I. Other.

3. Put a ✓ if this is true. Put a + if it's positive and a - if it's negative.

- _____ A. The good news outweighed the bad news.
- _____ B. The bad news outweighed the good news.
- _____ C. Their lives would be spared.
- _____ D. The boat would be lost.
- _____ E. They would be shipwrecked.
- _____ F. Paul was quite egocentric about getting to Rome.
- _____ G. They would lose everything except for their lives.
- _____ H. Not one life would be lost in the shipwreck.
- _____ I. Other: _____.

4. Why did the sailors try to abandon ship?

- A. It was going down.
- B. The ship's captain had told them to do so.
- C. It seemed like their only hope for survival.
- D. The owner wasn't going to pay them for overtime.
- E. Sometimes small is better than large.
- F. They wanted to get away from Paul.
- G. They didn't want to be responsible for the prisoners onboard.
- H. They knew of a shortcut to land.
- I. Other.

5. What is the significance of eating at Paul's command and example?

- A. It gave them needed calories to survive the shipwreck.
- B. This showed Paul was in charge.
- C. It lightened the weight of the ship.
- D. It lightened their spirits.
- E. The 276 onboard participated in communion without realizing it.
- F. The other food could then be thrown overboard.
- G. There were lots of people onboard.
- H. Other.

6. Why weren't the prisoners killed?

- A. Paul's vision claimed none would be lost.
- B. Paul's influence wouldn't allow it.
- C. Julius, the Roman commander, wouldn't allow it.
- D. These prisoners could be trusted.
- E. God influenced Julius to spare Paul's life.
- F. Saving Paul saved others (see also *Acts 16:25-31*).
- G. The soldiers got out-voted by everyone else onboard.
- H. Other.

7. Where was God in the storm and the shipwreck? Where is God in your storms and wrecks?

8. Where do you see *Matthew 11:28-30* in Paul's life? Where is this invitation and promise in your life?

No Stopping Now

OPENING QUESTION

What is something you have found to be “unstoppable”?

READ Acts 28:1–31.

1. Why do you think the people on Malta were so hospitable?

- A. That was just their cultural norm.
- B. Those they helped had just survived a shipwreck on their coast.
- C. They had become Christians through Barnabas’ missionary work.
- D. Publius was a great role-model.
- E. They had recently ceased being cannibals.
- F. They feared the Roman soldiers.
- G. It had been a penal colony, so they were accustomed to prisoners.
- H. They expected payment in the future.
- I. Other.

2. Why didn’t Paul die from the snake/viper?

- A. God miraculously saved Paul.
- B. This miracle opened the door for Paul to spread the Gospel there.
- C. It served as another testimony for those from the ship.
- D. Paul always kept anti-venom handy for situations like this.
- E. The poisonous snake didn’t actually bite him.
- F. This was a fulfillment of Luke’s other writing (*Luke 10:19*).
- G. He was lucky.
- H. Paul had to get to Rome.
- I. Other.

3. Why didn’t Paul preach to the people on Malta?

- A. He did; we just don’t have a record of it.
- B. He didn’t have enough time to prepare.
- C. None of them were Jews, and he always started with Jews.
- D. They were already Christians.
- E. He wanted to understand their culture before sharing the Gospel.
- F. God had Paul heal rather than preach.
- G. He couldn’t escape from the island if he incited another riot.
- H. They were so steeped in paganism that it just wasn’t worth it.
- I. Other.

4. Why did Paul call the Jewish leaders in Rome to come see him (vs. 17)?

- A. The Christians had already met him before he set foot in Rome itself.
- B. He liked to start his missionary work with the Jews first.
- C. He couldn't go to them because he was a prisoner.
- D. Paul's own background enabled him to connect with Jews.
- E. To garner support for his trial in front of Caesar.
- F. He wanted them to know the Messiah had already come—Jesus.
- G. To incite a riot in Rome.
- H. To preempt any pejorative message from the Judean Jews.
- I. Other.

5. Why did some Jews believe, and some didn't believe (vs. 24)?

- A. Some were believers in Christ before Paul even arrived.
- B. Paul wasn't that great of a preacher.
- C. It's a very big decision to put one's faith completely in Jesus.
- D. That's always the way it is—some believe and some don't.
- E. It's hard to change one's life-long religion.
- F. They needed signs and wonders, and Paul showed none.
- G. They needed additional information or time.
- H. Other.

6. How did things go for Paul in Rome?

- A. Very slowly.
- B. Very well, especially for a prisoner.
- C. While awaiting trial, he wrote several letters that are now in the NT.
- D. He was stuck.
- E. He didn't get to make the impact in Rome he had envisioned.
- F. Luke didn't tell us much about those two years.
- G. No one tried to stop him—which was unusual for Paul.
- H. Other.

7. Compared to Paul, what restrictions do you have for sharing Jesus?

8. What is your summary statement about the book of Acts?

