

Momentum- A Study in Acts
Shake – Study Guide
Acts 16-19

Big Idea: God shakes things up to make things happen.

1. Plans are Shaken!

Read Acts 16:6-10. Notice that God is active in 'forbidding' and guiding people when it comes to His purposes. Share a time when you "attempted" to do something, your plans were hindered, and you were able to recognize after the fact that God allowed that for a purpose.

2. Foundations are shaken!

- A. Philippi (Acts 16:11-40- Lydia; the slave girl; Paul and Silas in prison)
- B. Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9)
- C. Berea (Acts 17:10-15)
- D. Athens (Acts 17:16-34)
- E. Corinth (Acts 18:1-17)

Notice that in each city, there is a great response to the gospel and great opposition. The norms are challenged and Paul and Silas have to keep moving to stay ahead of the mobs.

Pick one or two these passages and discuss how God used unusual circumstances to further His Kingdom. Discuss how God could be using our current time for His purposes. Share ideas.

3. Methods are shaken!

In Acts 18:24-19:41, we see God raising up other people (Apollos), and those who heard Paul's teaching so that "*all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord*" (Acts 19:10). Even the method of sending out Paul and Silas from Jerusalem was shaken and anyone who believed could share the good news. How are you being held back by methods? How could you become more bold and creative in sharing your faith with others? Discuss.

4. How has your life been 'shaken' in the last two years? Take a few moments to pray this passage over each other:

Acts 18:9-10

⁹And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people."

Shake Acts 16-20:16

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Image- second missionary journey

I. Plans are Shaken (Acts 16:6-10)

⁶And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

II. Foundations are Shaken

A. Philippi (Acts 16:11-40)

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1. Lydia (Acts 16:11-15)

¹³And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

2. Slave girl (Acts 16:16-24)

¹⁶As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.

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¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers.

3. Paul and Silas in prison (Acts 16:25-40)

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

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B. Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9)

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."

C. Berea (Acts 17:10-15)

The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

D. Athens (Acts 17:16-34)

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

E. Corinth (Acts 18:1-16)

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, ³ and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

III. Methods are Shaken- Ephesus (Acts 18:24-19:41)

A. Multiplication

Apollos (Acts 18:24-28)

²⁴ Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. ²⁵ He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John...

²⁷ ...The disciples welcomed him... ²⁸ for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

A. Multiplication- "All... Asia" (Acts 19:10)

"This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks."

B. Quality Control- Sons of Sceva (Acts 19:11-20)

¹⁵ But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" ¹⁶ And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

...²⁰ So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

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Conclusion

Acts 18:9-10

⁹And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people."