

Momentum- A Study in Acts
Flourish – Study Guide
Acts 8:4-12:25

1. The death of Stephen caused the church to be “*scattered*” and believers began to share the good news “*wherever they went*”. (Acts 8:4). Discuss the cost/value dynamic (*something that cost you a lot is valuable to you*). What has it cost you so far to be a follower of Jesus? How can we be intentional when it comes to sharing the good news with others?

2. The conversion stories here are fascinating. Have each group member pick one and report back to the group. What is unique about each of these? How does it inform us on what it looks like for someone to come to faith?
 - a. The Great Simon (Acts 8:9-25). Beware of false conversions.
 - b. The Seeker- Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40). Divine appointments. God rewards those who seek Him.
 - c. The Enemy- Saul (Acts 9:1-31). God can reach the most hopeless cases.
 - d. The Devout- Cornelius (Acts 10). God sees those who fear Him and opens their eyes.

3. Read Acts 12 as a group. Discuss the dynamics around what was happening. James is killed. Peter is arrested. An angel opens the prison doors. Herod is struck down by an angel. “*But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.*” (Acts 12:24). Try to identify with the momentum of the early church. How is today the same? How is today different? Does Acts 1:8 still apply to us today? Share any insights or applications based on the study of the momentum of the early church.

Momentum

A STUDY IN ACTS

THE BOOK OF ACTS

10-Week Reading Plan

Use this reading plan to prepare you for the weekly sermons at our weekend services. Ask God to speak to you through His word and the Holy Spirit.

WEEK 1 - INCEPTION

Sep. 25 & 26 Acts 1-2:41 (*Sermon*)

WEEK 2 - DEVOTED

Sep. 27 Acts 1:1-11

Sep. 28 Acts 1:12-26

Sep. 29 Acts 2:1-13

Sep. 30 Acts 2:14-28

Oct. 1 Acts 2:29-41

Oct. 2 Acts 2:42-47

Oct. 2 & 3 Acts 2:42-47 (*Sermon*)

WEEK 3 - BOLD

Oct. 4 Acts 3:1-10

Oct. 5 Acts 3:11-26

Oct. 6 Acts 4:1-22

Oct. 7 Acts 4:23-37

Oct. 8 Acts 5:1-16

Oct. 9 Acts 5:17-42

Oct. 9 & 10 Acts 3-5 (*Sermon*)

WEEK 4 - FULL

Oct. 11 Acts 6:1-7

Oct. 12 Acts 6:8-15

Oct. 13 Acts 7:1-19

Oct. 14 Acts 7:20-38

Oct. 15 Acts 7:39-53

Oct. 16 Acts 7:54-8:3

Oct. 16 & 17 Acts 6-8:3 (*Sermon*)

WEEK 5 - FLOURISH

Oct. 18 Acts 8:4-25

Oct. 19 Acts 8:26-40

Oct. 20 Acts 9

Oct. 21 Acts 10

Oct. 22 Acts 11

Oct. 23 Acts 12

Oct. 23 & 24 Acts 8:4-12 (*Sermon*)

WEEK 6 - MOBILE

Oct. 25 Acts 13:1-12

Oct. 26 Acts 13:13-42

Oct. 27 Acts 13:43-52

Oct. 28 Acts 14:1-7

Oct. 29 Acts 14:8-20

Oct. 30 Acts 14:21-28

Oct. 30 & 31 Acts 13-14 (*Sermon*)

WEEK 7 - FRAMILY

Nov. 1	Acts 15:1-6
Nov. 2	Acts 15:7-11
Nov. 3	Acts 15:12-21
Nov. 4	Acts 15:22-35
Nov. 5	Acts 15:36-40
Nov. 6	Acts 16:1-5
Nov. 6 & 7	Acts 15-16:5 (Sermon)

WEEK 8 - SHAKE

Nov. 8	Acts 16:6-15
Nov. 9	Acts 16:16-40
Nov. 10	Acts 17
Nov. 11	Acts 18
Nov. 12	Acts 19
Nov. 13	Acts 20:1-16
Nov. 13 & 14	Acts 16:6-20:16 (Sermon)

WEEK 9 - WITNESS

Nov. 15	Acts 20:17-21:36
Nov. 16	Acts 21:37-22:29
Nov. 17	Acts 22:30-23:35
Nov. 18	Acts 24
Nov. 19	Acts 25:1-22
Nov. 20	Acts 25:23-26:32
Nov. 20 & 21	Acts 20:17-26:32 (Sermon)

WEEK 10 - GO

Nov. 22	Acts 27:1-12
Nov. 23	Acts 27:13-26
Nov. 24	Acts 27:27-44
Nov. 25	Acts 28:1-10
Nov. 26	Acts 28:11-16
Nov. 27	Acts 28:17-31
Nov. 27 & 28	Acts 27-28 (Sermon)

As you read throughout this series please feel free to send your thoughts to acts@communityfellowship.com by Wednesday of each week. We are excited to hear from you about what God is teaching and revealing to you through the readings. It's possible that what God is saying to you may be something He wants to share with our church family. Your submission may be something we share with the Church on the weekend.



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Message SlidesFLOURISH
Acts 8:4-12

Momentum- *“The impetus and driving force gained by a moving object, or by the development of a process or course of events.”* Oxford Languages

Image- Like a wave...

Big Idea: The Church Can't Not Flourish

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Acts 12:24- “But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.”

I. Scattered (Acts 8:4-12:25)

4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

Acts 8:40 “But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.”

Image- Acts 8

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Acts 9:35- “And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.”

Acts 9:42- “And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.”

Acts 10:44-45 “While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.”

Acts 11:24b “And a great many people were added to the Lord.”

Acts 12:24- But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.

Image- Acts 11

Big Idea: The Church Can't Not Flourish**II. Conversion stories****A. The Great- Simon (Acts 8:9-25)**

⁹But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. ¹⁰They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the power of God that is called Great.” ¹¹And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. ¹²But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and

women. ¹³Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

A. The Great- Simon (Acts 8:9-25)

²⁰But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! ²¹You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. ²²Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.”

B. The Seeker- Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

C. The Enemy- Saul (9:1-31)

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

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³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” ⁵And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”

C. The Enemy- Saul (9:1-31)

Acts 9:31

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

D. The Devout (Acts 10)

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, ²a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. ³About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, “Cornelius.” ⁴And he stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.”

D. The Devout (Acts 10)

Acts 10:28; 34-35

²⁸And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.

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³⁴So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.”

Image- pic of Iranian

III. The Gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44-48)

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

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Acts 11:18

“When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, ‘Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.’”

IV. The Church Flourishes (Acts 12)

About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. ²He killed James the brother of John with the sword, ³and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also.

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Acts 12:24- But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.

Big Idea: The Church Can't Not Flourish

Observations

1. God loves all people.
2. God uses bad circumstances.
3. God uses His people.
4. God can do anything.

