



# EQUIPPED!

## Lesson 5 Sample

### Discussion Questions

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*Answers are italicized.*

1. The early chapters of the book of Acts contrast the new temple of the community of Jesus' disciples with the old temple. Name the ways in which you see how the new temple of disciples and old temple are contrasted.

*First, Jesus' disciples are miraculously filled with the Holy Spirit, the very presence of God, which was what the Jerusalem temple was supposed to be—the house of God. Second, the Jerusalem temple is the location of many of the apostles' miracles and teachings, but this activity is happening against what the temple leaders desire and apart from the formal operations of the temple (all the priestly activities and sacrifices). Third, the generosity of the early church in caring for the poor is seen against the compulsory taxes levied by the temple.*

2. Consider the story of Peter speaking with Cornelius and name the ways God made it obvious to Peter that the Gentiles were to receive the gospel and be fully accepted as disciples of Jesus.

*There were several miraculous occurrences that convinced Peter:*

- *Cornelius' vision of an angel commanding him to call for Peter*
- *Peter's trance and three visions of the sheet descending from the sky*
- *The Spirit speaking to Peter, telling him to go with the men from Cornelius' household*
- *The Spirit being poured out on Cornelius' household*

3. Give examples from Acts 1-12 of the times the apostles or church in general was persecuted and how it led to the gospel spreading. Give examples of times when persecution ceased and how this led to the spread of the gospel.

*There are several examples of persecution:*

- *Peter and John are arrested, leading to the church praying for boldness to speak God's word (Acts 4).*
- *The apostles are arrested and miraculously released, after which they preach in the temple day after day (Acts 5).*
- *Stephen is stoned and the church is persecuted, leading to the disciples scattering, preaching the message wherever they went (Acts 8).*

*There are other examples of reprieve from persecution:*

- *When Saul (Paul) is converted, this brings the persecution to a halt, which encourages the church and allows them to grow in number (Acts 9).*
- *When King Herod Agrippa I dies, this ends the persecution against the apostles for a short time, allowing the word of God to continue and spread (Acts 12).*

## Quiz

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*Answers are bold.*

1. According to the lesson, how are the books of Luke and Acts thematically linked?
  - a. Both books are written by the same author.
  - b. **In both books, Luke shows God's actions in history to fulfill his promises to Israel and to create a world-wide, Jew/Gentile body of believers.**
  - c. Acts is the sequel to Luke.
  - d. Luke repeats much of the same content in Acts that he wrote in his Gospel.
  
2. Which statement is NOT part of the outline of the book of Acts?
  - a. The second main section is chapter 8 through 12, focusing on the church in Judea and Samaria, the wider areas around Israel.
  - b. The third main section is chapter 13 through 28, focusing on missionary journeys throughout the Roman Empire.
  - c. **The final main section is chapter 29 through 33, focusing on Paul's experiences in Rome at the end of his life.**
  - d. The first main section is chapter 2 through 7, focusing on the church in the city of Jerusalem.
  
3. What is significant about this statement from Jesus in the first part of the book: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"?
  - a. **It becomes Luke's outline for the entire book.**
  - b. It is repeated to the disciples many times throughout the book as a reminder of the job they have to do.
  - c. It is spoken to a large group of believers, who all become missionaries.
  - d. It references Samaria, which was a region Jewish people avoided.
  
4. Many significant events in the last weeks of Jesus' life on earth coincided with important Jewish festivals. Which of these statements is NOT true?
  - a. Jesus was crucified on the Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread.
  - b. **He appeared to the Twelve on the Feast of Purim.**
  - c. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on the Feast of Weeks.
  - d. He was resurrected on the Feast of Firstfruits.

5. What happened at Pentecost that started fulfilling God's promised plan to send the gospel out to "the ends of the earth"?
  - a. Jewish people from all over the known world heard the gospel.
  - b. The disciples were given supernatural power to preach in languages they hadn't previously learned.
  - c. Many people were baptized and became followers of Jesus.
  - d. **All of the above**
  
6. Luke utilizes a literary structure called a "chiasm." Which statement describes a chiasm?
  - a. It is a form of poetry that doesn't rhyme.
  - b. The elements of a story follow a linear progression.
  - c. **Certain phrases or ideas are stated in one order in the first half of a section or story, and in reverse order in the second half.**
  - d. The same ideas are repeated in different ways multiple times to make a point.
  
7. Which event, which sparks a great persecution of the church and the further spreading of the gospel, is the climax of the first part of Acts?
  - a. **The stoning and martyrdom of the apostle Stephen**
  - b. The arrest and persecution of Peter
  - c. The apostles' preaching about Jesus in the Jewish temple
  - d. The baptizing of many Jews who became believers in Jesus
  
8. What is the main theme of chapters 8-12 of Acts?
  - a. Peter and the apostles continue preaching and getting arrested and miraculously released
  - b. The Jewish leaders try to find ways to stop the growth of the new church
  - c. **The church expands into Judea and Samaria, becoming a trans-national movement beyond the Jews who are close to Jerusalem**
  - d. The new believers enjoy a time of public approval and acceptance
  
9. Whose conversion story gives a powerful example of how God is bringing the gospel to those the Jews considered outsiders?
  - a. The Samaritan slave
  - b. The Roman refugee
  - c. The Greek governor
  - d. **The Ethiopian eunuch**

10. To whom did Jesus appear on the road to Damascus?
- Peter
  - Paul
  - Saul**
  - Ananias
11. How does God make the point to Peter that the gospel is not only for the Jews but for the Gentiles, those that Jewish people considered “unclean”?
- He forbids Peter from ceremonially cleansing himself to experience being “unclean”
  - He shows a vision to Peter of “unclean” animals with the instruction, “Kill and eat”**
  - He forces Peter to eat “unclean” animals
  - He instructs Peter to ignore Jewish rules about clean and unclean
12. Which statement is NOT true about Peter’s experience at Cornelius’ house?
- God broke down the clean-vs-unclean barriers that had kept Jews and Gentiles apart.
  - The Gentiles decided to follow Jewish laws so they could be considered clean, too.**
  - The Holy Spirit was given to Gentiles, proving that the gospel was for them also.
  - Peter ate with Gentiles, which was forbidden for Jews to do.
13. The events of the second main section of Acts show how the gospel is expanding both geographically and out from its Jewish beginnings to groups of people more and more removed from the Jews. Which progression of the expansion is correct?
- Samaritans come to faith, then foreign converts to Judaism, then Hellenistic (or Greek-speaking) Jews, then Gentiles**
  - Hellenistic Jews come to faith, then foreign converts to Judaism, then Samaritans, then Gentiles
  - Samaritans come to faith, then Hellenistic Jews, then foreign converts, then Gentiles
  - Gentiles come to faith, then Hellenistic Jews, then foreign converts, then Samaritans