

# STUDY NOTES

## *The Acts of the Apostles* A MESSAGE SERIES AT NEW CITY CHURCH (Spring 2016)

[WWW.NEWCITYPHX.COM/SERMONS](http://WWW.NEWCITYPHX.COM/SERMONS) - OYE WADDELL

The following content is based on the message “The Evangelistic Gospel” spoken on 06/19/16 by Oye Waddell at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis of the message but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective communities.

## PRAYER

**Pray that God teaches us and leads our discussion as we each get to share.**

## THE SCRIPTURE: ACTS 18:1-11

*18:1 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.*

*5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. 6 And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” 7 And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. 8 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. 9 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” 11 And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.*

## What Evangelism is Not

There are a lot of things that come to mind when we use the term “evangelism”. Sometimes it feels like something scary that only pastors can do. However, evangelism just means “spreading the good news” of Jesus. You’ve probably heard, or

felt, some misconceptions about evangelism. While each of the following play a role in evangelism, here’s what it is **not**:

1. Evangelism is not just inviting people to church.
2. Evangelism is not just appealing to people’s emotions.
3. Evangelism is not just making brief encounters, expecting great results.

- *What is your first reaction when you hear this list?*
- *What do you think it means to use evangelism to appeal to people’s emotions? How have you seen people do this?*
- *In what ways are even these three things difficult for us to do?*
- *Why do you think evangelism is bigger than these three things?*

## Evangelism is Each of Us Going Out

We all live, work, study, and play differently, so “going out” (not an a date) can be different in everyone’s life. Paul sets the example of this through his own work. He worked as a tentmaker and told of Jesus while doing so. Working allowed Paul to go out and share the gospel. We too, can share about Jesus in the places that we work, or in the places that we go.

- *How can you work on “going out”?*
- *How should good news (aka evangelism) influence how we speak?*
- *As a group, how can we encourage each other to go out?*

## Evangelism is Each of Us Teaching the Gospel

We teach through our actions and our words. People are watching our lives to see if our lives match our words. This doesn’t mean that we have to be drab and boring.

- *What are some of your own experiences been of Christians treating the message of Jesus as boring? What can we learn from those experiences?*
- *How is good news really good news to you?*

There are often two fears that people have when they think about “teaching” the gospel.

1. Maybe we don’t teach because we don’t know our Bibles.
2. Maybe we don’t teach because we don’t want our lives to be accountable.

**We don’t have to be Bible scholars to teach the gospel.**

- *What are some strategies the we can use to teach people the gospel, without being a Bible scholar?*
- *How can we teach the gospel through our lives?*
- *Has there ever been a time in your own life where someone who wasn’t a Christian told you how you should live as a Christian? If so, talk about how that impacted you.*

## Evangelism is Each of Us Remaining Faithful

In verses 9 and 10, the Lord encouraged Paul to continue being faithful. Paul was committed to the people in Corinth. Sometimes, we need to be reminded to stick it out. While we might not like seeing people try to evangelize with a one-time event, **sticking it out with people can also be hard**. Jesus knows this because we see that He lived the same way when he was on earth. He remained faithful and stuck it out. Knowing this, and knowing us, God gave Paul some encouraging words in these verses:

1. Don't be afraid.
  2. Keep speaking.
  3. Don't be silent.
- *What do you think it looks like to remain faithful in evangelism?*
  - *How can we be reminded that God is with us, and that we don't have to be afraid?*
  - *How do you believe that Jesus set an example for us, and that he is **with us** as we share the good news?*
  - *Which one do you need to be reminded of most? Going, teaching, or remaining faithful? Pray together for God's strength.*