

ALL IN

*A Sermon Study Booklet
Based on the Book of Acts*



ALL IN - A Sermon Study Booklet Based on the Book of Acts

This booklet was created as a ministry of Maple Ridge Baptist Church. It can be used, reproduced and distributed with permission.

©2015 Maple Ridge Baptist Church

Thanks to St. John's Shaughnessy church's study in the book of Acts for help with some of the questions in this booklet.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, *English Standard Version*, ©2011 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

INTRODUCTION TO ACTS

Acts is one of the most exciting books in the Bible. From beginning to end it is an edge of your seat adventure. It is full of controversy with arrests, dramatic court scenes, imprisonments, and prison breaks. There are beatings, public riots and near death escapes. God performs miracles like healing and even a resurrection from death. There is a shipwreck where the survivors have to swim through a storm to reach shore. It all happens to real people which makes it a bit like a reality show at times.

We learn in Acts 1:1 that our current book study, Acts, is a two-part account. The first account (the book of Luke) is the story of the work Jesus began to do while he walked on the Earth. The second account (Acts) is the story of what Jesus did when he moved through his people, the church. Acts is traditionally called “The Acts of the Apostles” However, given what we have just learned, the book could easily be called “The Acts of Jesus”. Like the book of Luke, Jesus is still the main character in the book. He is the one leading, orchestrating events and is responsible for fulfilling the promise he made to Abraham to make his family as numerous as the sand on the seashore. Jesus affirms that promise in Acts 1:8 as he promises that the church will spread to “the ends of the Earth.”

Get ready to watch Jesus do amazing things through this rag-tag group of men and women as he fulfills those promises. It won't always be pretty, but in the end, Jesus' church will be beautiful.

This series is titled “All In” because it is our hope that you would be inspired to want to be a part of this movement led by Jesus. Our heart is that you would catch a vision for the church and that it would inspire you to want to be a part of what God is doing no matter what it takes or what it costs.

THE ALL IN PLEDGE:

As God leads you, check off one box each week if the following statements are true for you:

- I am ALL IN to make the local church a dynamic presence in my city. I will wholeheartedly seek to pursue my relationship with Jesus, love his people, and serve the world for the sake of his glory.
- I am ALL IN for the purpose of God to reach lost people. Because Jesus loves lost people so much that he died to save them, I will live a sacrificial life to continue God's work in the world.
- I am ALL IN to do my part in serving the local church. Church is not about me. There is a bigger picture that I get to be a part of. I have been given a gift by God that I am personally responsible for stewarding. I will use my gift to make my church a better place.
- I am ALL IN no matter what people say about me. I realize that by aligning myself with Jesus, people could reject me or even hurt me. No matter what happens, I will not stop telling people about Jesus.
- I am ALL IN no matter what it will cost me. Because Jesus gave everything to save me, I will give everything to him as my grateful response. Whatever the price, I will pay it for Jesus' sake.
- I am ALL IN, believing that God can and will save even the most reluctant people. I will never give up praying and pleading that God's grace would break through the hearts of everyone I encounter.

- I am ALL IN for the sake of lost people knowing Jesus. I will refuse to let my culture, my race, my preferences, or my comforts get in the way of the call of Jesus to make disciples of all nations. I will not discriminate or stereotype but instead love everyone as God does.
- I am ALL IN no matter what happens to me. I am not entitled to a life of comfort, security and ease. I will suffer loss for the sake of another's gain. I will trust the sovereign God to take care of all of my needs. In good times and in bad, I know that He will work all things for his good purposes in my life.
- I am ALL IN with a missionary mentality. I will keep the mission at the forefront of my mind when I am at work, at home, in the neighbourhood, in coffee shops, at the hardware store, etc. I realize that as a Christian, I am a missionary and a missions enthusiast.
- I am ALL IN to engage with the prevailing ideas of my culture. I understand that I must be strategic in my approach and winsome in my delivery. I will work hard to show people that Jesus is better than any of the gods of modern culture.
- I am ALL IN with everything that I have for as long as I have it. I understand that there will be setbacks, difficulties and times of weariness. I am committed to pursuing renewal in Jesus and his call on my life. I will not look to idols and other false hopes to comfort me.
- I am ALL IN to finish the mission. I am aware that my culture and sinful nature will lead me to drift from my commitments. I will passionately and consistently ensure that I am refreshed in my love for God, his church and the mission he has called us to.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

It is our hope that by the conclusion of this series, you will end up with pages full of notes, some good questions to discuss and a satisfying, well documented response.

We encourage you to come to church every week. This sermon series is taken as a package. Each week will build off the last as we journey through the book of Acts. Bring this booklet each week so you can have all your notes in one place. You are encouraged to write down any memorable points from the sermon and be sure you record any questions that require further investigation.

This series is best worked through with others. We encourage everyone to join a MRBC Community Group. These are groups of people from our church from all backgrounds and life-stages that meet in homes throughout the week. Together they discuss the sermon, talk about how it applies to their life circumstances, and take time to pray for each other. Our Community Groups are places to explore some of your questions along with people who have probably already asked them or are asking them now.

Don't miss out on this chance to join a group right away. It is not too late. Check out our website: www.ridgebaptist.ca/ministries/community-groups or send an email to: jeremy@ridgebaptist.ca.

ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Key Text: Acts 2:42-46

This week will serve as a foundation for the entire year. We are looking at the “Up, In, and Out” approach as we seek to fulfill our part in the mission of the church. With the early church as our model, we each seek to be a faithful witness to what Jesus wants his church to be. In Acts 2:42-46, we see the early church had a strong commitment to Up, In and Out. The early church looked UP as they were filled with the awe of God as they worshipped. They also looked IN. They loved each other deeply as a Christian community. Finally, they committed to reaching OUT. This church grew because its members were always reaching out to new people. God added daily to their numbers and they made a dynamic impact in the society around them.

The ALL IN commitment this week:

I am ALL IN to make the local church a dynamic presence in my city. I will wholeheartedly seek to pursue my relationship with Jesus, love his people, and serve the world for the sake of his glory.

SERMON NOTES

Allen

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What do you feel when you read a passage like Acts 2:42-46. What attribute of the early church stands out the most?
2. There is a debate about whether or not this passage is prescriptive (“We must do this too”) or descriptive (a story about how they did it). Regardless of the debate, we cannot help but imagine what a church like this would look like in Maple Ridge or Pitt Meadows. When you read about this church: Are you inspired? How does it challenge your view of church? Are you discouraged that we are not always like that? How can you personally contribute to making MRBC a place like the Acts 2 church?
3. Take another look at Acts 2:43. What does it mean that “awe came upon every soul.” What would that look like today? How can we restore a sense of the “awe” of God during our corporate gatherings? Our Community Group meetings? Our times of private worship?
4. Verse 2:47 says that they had favour with “all the people”. Who are these people? How can we as a church have favour in our community? How do we do this without losing our distinct Christian witness and values?
5. The book of Acts highlights a story of a church community that transformed the Roman Empire. It started small but it grew into a dynamic force that reverberates throughout history. Why is it important to us today to remember that we are not only a part of this legacy but also contributors to it?

In the space below, you can add some questions of your own:

6.

7.

ALL IN FOR HIS MISSION

Key Text: Acts 1:1-26

Ask ten people about their views of the word “church” and you will get *twelve* different answers. While many have a low view of church, the Bible esteems it very high. The Bible reveals that all of history has a theme: Jesus is building his church and nothing can stop it. The book of Acts chronicles how it started off as a very small group of Christ’s disciples but by the end was poised to reach as far as Rome. Today in the year 2015, the church continues to grow. God uses regular people like us to accomplish his purposes for the church in the world. This is the direction of history. This is all that matters in the end. This is what we are all called to be “All In” for.

The ALL IN commitment this week:

I am ALL IN for the purpose of God to reach lost people. Because Jesus loves lost people so much that he died to save them, I will live a sacrificial life to continue God’s work in the world.

SERMON NOTES

All in

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Biblical scholars tell us that Acts 1:8 is the thesis of Luke's account. This is a dynamic passage in the entire Bible. What did Jesus mean when he said "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." What does this power look like in the context of an advancing gospel?
2. The grammar of "you" is plural. Jesus is addressing a group of people here. What does a community filled with Holy Spirit power look like? Why is it important to remember that the Holy Spirit alone is the source of our power? (Are there any stories from those who have been helped by the Holy Spirit when they were sharing their faith with someone?)
3. How can we be encouraged by the truth that the gospel has already gone out from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth? How does it feel to know that Maple Ridge Baptist Church is a confirmation of this promise/command from Christ? How are you encouraged to make sure this mission is completed during your time on Earth?
4. Jesus wants to spread his kingdom over the whole earth. This includes the dark corners of our cities, our families and our lives. What are some "ends of the Earth" areas of your life where you would like to see a demonstration of Jesus' power?

In the space below, you can add some questions of your own:

5.

6.

ALL IN: DOING MY PART

Key Text: Acts 2:42-46, Acts 4:35-37

The church in Acts was truly a team effort. Jesus used all kinds of people from all kinds of places with all kinds of backgrounds to achieve his plan. In the church today, everyone has a part to play. Together, we work towards a common goal. To get to that goal it takes a total commitment. It takes dedication, perseverance and sacrifice. The early church was a fantastic model for us to emulate.

The ALL IN commitment this week:

I am ALL IN to do my part in serving the local church. Church is not about me. There is a bigger picture that I get to be a part of. I have been given a gift by God that I am personally responsible for stewarding. I will use my gift to make my church a better place.

SERMON NOTES

All in

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Read Acts 4:31-37. What qualities marked the fellowship of believers? What appears to be the motivation behind the generosity seen in these verses?
2. What would cause you to give extravagantly to something?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. What is the point of this passage? Do we elevate some gifts either to put some people on a pedestal, promote ourselves or perhaps to minimize the need/importance for making our own contributions to the body of Christ?
4. What stood out for you as you studied this community?
5. What do you feel is your “all in” contribution to the church? How are you “doing your part”?

In the space below, you can add some questions of your own:

6.

7.

ALL IN: NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY

Key Text: Acts 3:1–5:42

Have you ever noticed that the best things in life never come easy? With every great victory comes a difficult process to get there. In chapter three of the book of Acts, we find out that being a part of this growing church comes with many challenges. Tension is revealed in the story when the religious leaders oppose Peter, James and John. Storm clouds form that will rain throughout the book. The Christian movement will face difficulty, even to the point of martyrdom. Jesus promised, “In this world you will have trouble” (John 16:33). The leaders of the early church quickly find out what that means when they come under persecution. What we learn is that despite all the threats, they cannot help but tell people about who Jesus is and what he has done.

The ALL IN commitment this week:

I am ALL IN no matter what people say about me. I realize that by aligning myself with Jesus, people could reject me or even hurt me. No matter what happens, I will not stop telling people about Jesus.

SERMON NOTES

All in

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. The disciples are told not to speak about Jesus' name. What is it about Jesus' name that seems the most controversial of all religious leaders or topics?
2. How do the apostles defend their refusal to obey the edict to stop preaching? Under what circumstances is it our duty, as Christians, to disobey human authority? Have there been times in your experience when you've had to do this?
3. God never promises that the Christian life will be easy. In fact, Jesus promises the contrary. Read John 16:33. If trouble is what Jesus promises, why do we expect a life of ease and comfort. Why do we curse God when things get difficult. How did the early church respond to discomfort? Why did they welcome persecution?
4. Many people "pride" themselves in not being concerned about public opinion. These same people will constantly worry about how they are perceived online or obsess about how they look. They will also neglect to share their Christian faith with others for fear of being rejected? Are we as strong as we think? Why are we so influenced by what we think people will say about us?
5. How would you counsel someone who claimed to love Jesus and want to share Jesus with others but was afraid of rejection and concerned about how they would be perceived?
6. Who are some people that you need to commit to sharing about your relationship with Jesus with some time in the next weeks?

In the space below, you can add some questions of your own:

- 7.
- 8.

ALL IN: NO MATTER WHAT THE COST

Key Text: Acts 8:1-8

“There is little that helps a church grow faster than persecution.” What a challenging statement. It goes against everything we desire but affirms what we see through history and around the world today. Under oppression in Asia or parts of Africa, the persecuted church suffers and yet grows. The early church is a community that confirms this as well. As we move through the book of Acts, it becomes apparent that God is in the midst of these people and there is nothing that will stop it. Persecution and oppression only seems to make it bigger and stronger. Do you think persecution should be welcomed as a strategy for growth? Conversations will no doubt be very interesting this week.

The ALL IN commitment this week:

**I am ALL IN no matter what it will cost me.
Because Jesus gave everything to save me, I will give
everything to him as my grateful response.
Whatever the price, I will pay it for Jesus' sake.**

SERMON NOTES

All in

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. In chapters 6-7, we see the death of Stephen. Chapter 8 tells us what happened next. What are the surprising and consequences of his martyrdom?
2. The 2nd-century Church Father Tertullian wrote that "the blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church." What do you think he meant by this?
3. What is significant about Philip going to Samaria to proclaim the Christ? Reflecting on Acts 1:8, what theological principle is Luke telling us regarding God's sovereign plan in the spread of the gospel?
4. If you could, how would you "redo" some of the hard times you have gone through given what we have been talking about? How are you challenged to face your current circumstances knowing that God can use all things for his good purposes (Romans 8:28)?
5. Why is it significant that the apostle John was sent to Samaria with Peter? Read Luke 9:51-56 to help with your answer.

In the space below, you can add some questions of your own:

6.

7.

ALL IN: THE GOSPEL THAT SOFTENS THE HARDEST HEARTS

Key Text: Acts 9:1-31

Do Christianity's greatest opponents sometimes become the greatest advocates for Christ? C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) was an English scholar who used to despise Christianity. Then one day he became a follower of Jesus and emerged as one of the modern world's leading Christian apologists. He couldn't stop writing about how great Christianity was! That's what the gospel of Jesus Christ can do and does!

From chapters 1-8, Luke recorded the tremendous growth of the church (3,000 in 2:41, 5,000 in 4:4). In Acts 9 he shifts his focus to the conversion of just one man - the most famous conversion in church history. Jesus transformed Saul from an aggressive Christian hater into a bold church planter. The world was different because of what God did in this man. We should never see anyone beyond the reach of God's great grace.

The ALL IN commitment this week:

I am ALL IN, believing that God can and will save even the most reluctant people. I will never give up praying and pleading that God's grace would break through the hearts of everyone I encounter.

SERMON NOTES

Alm

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Read Acts 9:4-6. What is most surprising to you about what Jesus tells Saul during this encounter?
2. How did the work of both Ananias and Barnabas become so important to Paul's growth as a new believer? How does their example encourage you in your service at the church?
3. Read Acts 11:22-27. How important was it for Paul to have Barnabas in his life?
4. Do you have any people in your life that need a "Road to Damascus" experience with Jesus? How does this story encourage you?
5. Romans 1:16 says that the gospel is the power of God. It transforms lives. Have you had a chance to share the good news of Jesus Christ with someone recently and seen that power in action?

In the space below, you can add some questions of your own:

6.

7.

ALL IN: A GOSPEL THAT KNOWS NO BOUNDARY LINES

Key Text: Acts 9:32–12:25

A mosaic is a form of art which takes a collection of broken pieces and puts them together to make something beautiful. The pieces are diverse and yet the diversity creates the beauty. A mosaic is what the church could and should be like. Different people coming together to celebrate differences. Sometimes our differences are not celebrated. In fact, they are cause for segregation. That's what was happening in the early church. The mass conversions of Gentiles became overwhelming to the once all-Jewish congregation. As a result the leaders must rethink what it means to be a Christian. The process does not come without some opposition to the process. At the beginning of chapter 11, there is hostility to Gentiles in the church. However, by the end of the chapter the church is sending Barnabas and Saul to the Gentile mission field. This is evidence of transformation. There is truly a new ethos in the church.

The ALL IN commitment this week:

I am ALL IN for the sake of lost people knowing Jesus.

I will refuse to let my culture, my race, my preferences, or my comforts get in the way of the call of Jesus to make disciples of all nations.

I will not discriminate or stereotype.

I will see everyone as God does.

SERMON NOTES

All in

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Why was it so difficult for the church to welcome in Gentiles?
2. Imagine what it was like to take part in an early church service. People from different backgrounds and cultures together in one roof? How did they do music? How would a preacher teach a crowd with such a diverse culture? How would you find unity amidst the diversity?
3. Cornelius was a God-fearing man. He was likely a very nice guy who had a great deal of respect for people and organized religion. Yet Peter still had to share the gospel with him. Why wasn't "being a good guy" enough to get Cornelius saved?
4. Why was it so important for Luke to establish that God does not make distinctions in his new church? How important was this for: the apostle Peter? The predominantly Jewish church in Jerusalem? Theophilus the recipient of the letter? How important is it for us as a church today?
5. Why is it so much easier to focus on people inside of the church rather than those who are outside?
6. Who would you like to see in church? Who would you like to encounter God through a positive experience with His people in His presence?

In the space below, you can add some questions of your own:

7.

8.

ALL IN: NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS

Key Text: Acts 11:19-22, Acts 12:1-3

We love to celebrate great acts of sacrifice for noble causes. In the church we have a long history of heroes and heroines to esteem. It is easy to honour a martyr. It is a lot tougher to be one. This is, of course, what Jesus asks of all of us. This is how he chooses to grow his church. As we take another look at the persecution of the early Christians, we note that the stoning of Stephen was a major catalyst for revival in Acts. Early persecution spread the church out to different regions. A few chapters later, Luke notes how the dispersal of persecuted believers led to further proclamation of the gospel around Europe and Asia. This was God's plan to grow his church in the region. The question we must ask is: What price am I willing to pay to see God's kingdom advance? How we answer this question will determine if we will be able to make the "All In" commitment this week.

The ALL IN commitment this week:

I am ALL IN no matter what happens to me. I am not entitled to a life of comfort, security and ease. I will suffer loss for the sake on another's gain. I will trust the sovereign God to take care of all of my needs. In good times and in bad, I know that He will work all things for His good purposes in my life.

SERMON NOTES

All in

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. After verse 11, the story shifts now from focussing on events in Jerusalem to how the church grew in Antioch. What is the significance of this change? What does Luke want to tell us about the mission of the church?
2. What are some of the frontiers that the church of Maple Ridge needs to reach still? How would the gospel break through in a high school? At a university?
3. We learn in Acts 11:19 that the reason why the church was dispersed was because of the escalating persecution and suffering of the Christians. Why do you think God uses these kinds of adversities to advance his gospel?
4. What is it about a Christian who is suffering that causes the world to take notice?
5. How can you use your present difficulties to honour God for the advancement of his gospel to those around you?

In the space below, you can add some questions of your own:

6.

7.

ALL IN: THE MISSIONARY MENTALITY

Key Text: Acts 13:1–14:28

The church believed that it was their job to be a sending church so that God could save more people. In Acts 11:30 they sent two of their best leaders, Paul and Barnabas to continue planting churches in Gentile regions. Every church must be willing to make sacrifices in order to see God's kingdom advanced. The sacrifice is always worth the result. The result is seeing God's glory spread throughout our city and around the world as more people become Christians. The church in Acts knew there was always a bigger picture that they were a part of. As a church today, we are reminded that we do not exist for the satisfaction and entertainment of those inside. We exist for the saving of lost people outside of it.

The ALL IN commitment this week:

I am ALL IN with a missionary mentality.

I will keep God's mission at the forefront of my mind when I am at work, at home, in the neighbourhood, in coffee shops, at the hardware store, etc.

I realize that as a Christian, I am both a missionary and a missions enthusiast.

SERMON NOTES

All in

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. In Acts 13:3, the church is worshipping, praying and fasting. God tells them to set apart two leaders for a different assignment. What is the significance of the sending of these leaders by the whole church community? What would it mean for the church to send two key leaders to another city?
2. Do you feel like God has “sent” you to be a missionary to the city you live in?
3. When entering a new town, why was it Paul’s custom to go to the Jewish synagogues first? How does this help us understand one of the major themes of Acts (the Jews and Gentiles coming together to form the church)?
4. Read Acts 13:48-49. What do you think it would be like to be a part of that community full of new, excited converts to Christianity? Why do you think having lots of new Christians in the church is good for everyone in the community?
5. What would “And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region...” look like in our culture today?
6. Do you ever pray that this would happen again?
7. What do you think “as many as were appointed to eternal life believed” (Acts 13:48) means? Why would it be comforting to know that God had a plan to save people rather than the disciples thinking that they had to do all the work themselves?

In the space below, you can add some questions of your own:

8.

9.

ALL IN: THE MISSIONARY METHODOLOGY

Key Text: Acts 6:9-10, Acts 17:16-34

The late great English preacher Charles Spurgeon once said, "Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter." While a missionary was once thought of as someone who went to Mexico, China or Africa, it is now clear that to be a Christian is to be involved in God's mission. While we must always be sending missionaries to foreign countries, we must also understand that the mission field is also in places like Hammond, Silver Valley, Albion, Downtown, etc. God has sent us to these communities to tell people about Jesus.

The Apostle Paul was a model missionary. Wherever he went, there he represented Jesus and telling people about Jesus. There is no one in the history of Christian missions that has left a more profound and lasting legacy than Paul did. This week we will look at how Paul, Stephen and others engaged with their culture. They were able to convince many others that Jesus is better than any of the other gods they worshipped.

The ALL IN commitment this week:

I am ALL IN to engage with the prevailing ideas of my culture. I understand that I must be strategic in my approach and winsome in my delivery. I will work hard to show people that Jesus is better than any of the gods of modern culture.

SERMON NOTES

All in

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Read Paul's address to the Roman philosophers (Acts 17:22-31). What are some characteristics of his approach?
2. How did Paul show his brilliance here as a communicator? What can we learn from him in order to build bridges with those we are sharing with?
3. In 17:32-34, Paul's talk provoked three different reactions. What are they? Do you think that we should expect the same kind of results?
4. What are some points that we can make connections with in our culture? In what areas do our culture and Christianity agree? How might you bring that up in a conversation with someone?
5. Why is it important to engage people's ideas rather than just saying, "I have these experiences and you just need to have faith"?

In the space below, you can add some questions of your own:

6.

7.

ALL IN: WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT

Key Text: Acts 21:7-14

Goodbyes with close friends are tough. God blessed Paul with friends who pursued Christ with him and relentlessly engaged on mission with the famous Apostle. Paul felt led by God to leave for Jerusalem, thus causing him to part from his friends. After an emotional farewell, Paul left for what would be imminent danger. Though he was warned that more trouble and hardships awaited him in the holy city, Paul would not be dissuaded from his commitment to God's call on his life. His leadership is courageous and his determination to endure anything for the sake of the mission should inspire us all.

The ALL IN commitment this week:

I am ALL IN with everything that I have for as long as I have. I understand that there will be setbacks, difficulties and times of fatigue. I am committed to pursuing renewal in Jesus and his call on my life. I will not look to idols and other false hopes to comfort me.

SERMON NOTES

Allen

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Read Acts 21:1-16. How was Paul strengthened on his long, tiresome journeys?
2. Do you think it is important to walk the road that God has called us on in Christian community? In what ways do you receive encouragement to your Christian brothers and sisters? In what ways do you give encouragement?
3. Why do you think that Paul did not heed the warning of the prophet Agabus (21:17-20)? What does this say about his priorities?
4. "This is not a good time for weak-willed Christians. They will not do well in today's present spiritual climate." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not.
5. Why is it important for all Christians today to commit to have this same gritty perseverance that we see in Paul's resolve? What will happen if we remain shallow and apathetic to the call of God on our lives?

In the space below, you can add some questions of your own:

6.

7.

ALL IN: TO FINISH THE MISSION

Key Text: Acts 21:17–28:31

What an intense journey it has been. How have we been challenged by this dynamic Christian community. Acts ends with Paul going to Rome to testify to Caesar about Jesus. Jesus promised that the gospel would go to the ends of the earth. In Acts 28, Paul is set to preach in Rome. Rome is the epicentre of the world at the time. Everything was poised to go global. Then Luke ends the story? What happened? Thanks to history, we know what happened. Christianity got to Rome and keep going. It has been going for two thousand years now. Today we are living in the Acts 29 chapter of this book. May we be faithful as we continue on the missionary call, the missionary spirit, and the missionary's grit to finish the mission.

The ALL IN commitment this week:

I am ALL IN to finish the mission. I am aware that my culture and sinful nature will lead me to drift from my commitments. I will passionately and consistently ensure that I am refreshed in my love for God, his church and the mission he has called us to.

SERMON NOTES

All in

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. In the last couple of chapters of Acts, it is clear that God is leading this movement all the way to Rome. Despite many challenges and setbacks, Paul will end up in Rome. The Acts 1:8 promise will be completed. Can you think of a time when the sovereign hand of God was so clearly guiding you through all kinds of circumstances as we see in the book of Acts?
2. In what ways are you encouraged by Paul's experience from the final chapters of Acts? In the difficult times in life, have there been times when God has given you surprising gifts of his grace?
3. In a sentence or two, how would you summarize the book of Acts?
4. As you reflect on the book of Acts, how have you been encouraged to be "All In" with your trust in God?
5. What are some of the memorable stories from this book that you will need to be reminded of?

In the space below, you can add some questions of your own:

6.

7.

THE ALL IN CONVERSION:

"I am ALL IN.

I no longer live for myself and
the advance of my kingdom.

I will live for Jesus and
the advance of his."