



THE BOOK OF

# ACTS

## GROUP DISCUSSION | Week 4: Life that is Truly Life

### SERIES OVERVIEW

In this series, we examine the remarkable spread of the Gospel and the Kingdom of God from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Despite challenges from outside and within, the Kingdom of God continued to advance. The same is true today.

### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

Think of this discussion guide as a springboard. Use what's helpful to your group and lean into discussion that's sparked from the insight and input of your group.

### CONNECTION

Monte shared a few real, albeit ridiculous reasons churches have split, including a fight over whether to build a playground or a cemetery and if church staff should have beards or not. We all have silly arguments in life; can you think of an argument you've been part of that seemed so big at the time, but looking back, wasn't really worth all the fighting?

### TRUTH

Read Acts 4:32. What is Luke communicating about the state of the early church in this brief update?

We opened with 3 qualities the early church exemplified that revealed a healthy culture and led to Gospel expansion:

1. The Church was Unified
2. The Church was Unselfish
3. The Church exhibited Generosity

Why is unity important for a church? What does it mean to be "unified?"

Monte said that, "what unites a healthy church is the mission." The mission statement for NorthEast is to "Love God, Connect People, and Make Disciples." What does unity around the NorthEast Mission look like?

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Why is that true? Explain.

### APPLICATION

The name Barnabas means "son of encouragement." This was a nickname he was given apparently because Barnabas was a tremendous encourager, even helping Paul get started in ministry. How important is encouragement in a church?

What about a family?

How about in the work place?

How can you encourage others in your sphere of influence - at church, in your family, or at work - spiritually?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7-8. What stands out from this passage from Paul?

How does the account of Ananias and Sapphires in Acts 5:1-11 relate to the theme of accountability within the Christian community?

What can we learn from the example of the early Christian community in Acts 4:32-5:11 about living a life of faith and obedience to God?

### PRAYER

Spend some time praying for unity at NorthEast and tangible ways to advance the Kingdom of God.