

## **Acts Bible Study Process**

### **Part One**

Here's the process:

Ask people to choose dyads and triads to meet in. Their choice....but gender specific (men with men, women with women). This breaks up husbands and wives and it avoids other temptations. This takes you out of the driver's seat and puts them in charge.

Also ask the leadership team to choose their dyads or triads from those other than the leadership team. If you can get the council, committees, and others involved in this, that's a bonus and make the same request of them. That way, instead of just six or so doing the study, you'll have as many as two to three times the number of people on the leadership team and the council...a real bonus...

They choose when and where they meet. 6:30 a.m. at the coffee shop, noon at work, whenever...you just ask them to be accountable for when and where they meet.

When they meet the time is divided into three sections.

Section one: 10 minutes. Check in time. Relationship building. How's it been with you this past week? What's going on? The kind of stuff we do naturally when we greet people etc.

Section two: 20 minutes. Conversation about the text...assigned in two chapter increments for each week and to be read before arriving for the study. Questions to be asked: What is God doing in these two chapters? What are people doing in these two chapters? (sometimes at odds with God). What is the Holy Spirit doing? What lessons are here for the church in that day? What lessons are here for the church today? What is this telling us about a possible vision purpose for our ministry? These are the basic questions.

Others could be added: Where does the activity take place? What was old in this text? What was new? What kind of impact did reading this and praying about it have on you? etc.

There are no formal questions here. Its conversation about the text. Don't try to make this into a curriculum....

Section three: Prayer. Hard commitment to **at least 15 minutes of prayer**. What to pray for? Each other, of course, and what they heard as they checked in with each other. For the gift of the Word they have just encountered. For the ministry. For a vision for mission that God is raising up in them. For their ministry to be connected to the city and to real life....etc.... I ask that this time be a firm commitment. No less than 15 minutes! More if they wish but not less.

Add up the numbers:  $10 + 20 + 15 = 45$  minutes. Longer than an hour and they are not doing the right work!

Hope this helps!