**ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

**Lesson 2: Strike a Match**

***Fear can silence Christians, but God calls us to boldly proclaim the gospel in every circumstance, no matter the outcome.***



**To know that hardship is a part of following Jesus and God does not abandon us in our difficult circumstances.**

***Heart Change***

**To feel confident in our calling to follow Jesus when our faith is challenged.**

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 ***To serve the church and spread the gospel, regardless of the results of those actions.***

**In what ways do you use your gifts to serve your church? What might cause you to stop using your gifts?**

Acts 6:1–15.

**When do you most enjoy following Jesus?**

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**Are there any particular circumstances that make you feel most loved by him?**

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**When do you feel God’s presence the most?**

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**What problem in the church required the apostles to appoint deacons?**

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**What did the apostles need to focus their attention on?**

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**What qualities were the disciples looking for?**

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**In what ways could a service mindset change the ways we interact with our church on Sundays and throughout the week?**

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**What are the practical, mundane needs in your church that you could meet? How might you sacrifice to serve your church?**

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**Read Acts 3:1–10; 4:1–4, 23–31. What does the lame man want from Peter and John? In what ways is their offering better than he expected?**

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**Think of the people in need in your community. In what ways can you serve their spiritual and physical needs so that they walk away from you rejoicing in Jesus, first and foremost?**

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 **What is the cultural stereotype of Christians today? In what ways are these stereotypes earned?**

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 **Do you think Christians are more opposed because of our attitudes and judgments or because of our commitment to sharing the gospel? Why do you think that is?**

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After they were released from prison, Peter and John shared what happened with the church. Amazingly, the church’s first reaction was to pray for more boldness, and they became more eager to share the gospel. Look at verses 29­–30. What would it look like for you and your group to pray for boldness in living out your faith?

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**Read Acts 5:17–33. What authority compelled the disciples to disobey the authority of the Sanhedrin and High Priest, according to verse 29?**

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 **If you are opposed because of the message of Jesus, you are presented with a decision: Whose authority will you obey—those who oppose the gospel or the God of heaven and earth?**

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**What makes you afraid to share the gospel? What is the worst-case scenario for sharing the gospel in your context?**

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 **In what ways is God calling you to be obedient to his call and his mission to seek and save the lost?**

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