



Week 1 Study Sheet

Awaken to Purpose

Experience Life Together

Take a moment to think about your week and share with others. This is an exercise that can be done with God, with a family member, or within a small group (allow each group member to share briefly, thank each person for sharing before moving to the next person):

1. Share one word that best describes how your week is going.
2. Share why you feel this way and describe it briefly using a couple of sentences.
3. Share a moment from this past week that you are thankful for.

Experience the Moment with God

Have you ever taken a long hike and come across a halfway house? Yes, a halfway house. This is not only a term reserved for recovery, but also a term used on the hiking trail. The halfway house is a place along the trail that marks the halfway point of a journey where a hiker can rest, camp, or maybe even turn around. The halfway house reminds hikers that the end of the journey is near. Unfortunately, many hikers get to this point, count the cost, and decide to quit.

When we start the Book of Acts, we find the disciples of Jesus at this halfway point. They have witnessed the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Now they await his promise in the halfway house of their discipleship. Their anticipation is palpable. They are anxious about how to move forward but hopeful that Jesus will keep his promises. Why would they not be hopeful? Hasn't he kept every promise to this point!

It's at this moment that the power of the Holy Spirit moves the disciples from "living with a plan," to "living with purpose." The Book of Acts doesn't just recount the journey of his disciples; it points to the awakened power they experience, through the Holy Spirit, to help them testify of the work of Jesus.

Where do you find yourself on the journey of following Jesus? Are you at the halfway house counting the cost? Don't quit. Instead, take your next step, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, follow the purpose of God in your life.

Experience God through Prayer

Heavenly Father, empower us to be your witnesses where we live, work, learn, and play!

Experience God through His Word

[Read Acts 1:1-11](#)

- Who are the key characters in this section?
- What are the disciples experiencing with God?
- What can we expect from God and what will we do for God (v. 8)?
- What experience is God calling us toward?



Week 1 Study Sheet

Awaken to Purpose

Read Acts 8:26-40

- Who are the people in this story? What are they doing?
- How is the Ethiopian cultivating a moment to experience God?
- How is Philip cultivating a moment to experience God?
- How does God's Word help us experience God?
- Why is baptism important? How does it connect to experiencing God?

Experiencing God through Practice

Write the gospel. Acts 1:8 points to power of our being a witness to Jesus. As a witness we are charged with sharing the gospel. The gospel can feel like an overwhelming thing to articulate. But it doesn't have to be! Writing the gospel out in your own words can help you prepare to share the good news where you live, work, learn, and play. What is the good news? Read Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9, and John 3:16. Tell the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Recall God's love for you. Consider the biblical narratives of the Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration. This is all good news!



Week 2 Study Sheet

Awaken to Power

Experience Life Together

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3. Share a moment from this past week that you are thankful for.

Experience the Moment with God

Power—it's a common resource in every modern house. We have lights, ovens, and all our electronics—which are powered by electricity. Have you ever thought about how we get this power? Well, it usually starts with a natural resource. From hydro dams, wind turbines, or even natural gas, our power starts from these points. Machinery captures this power and then takes this natural power to large power stations that are all connected with power grids. From here, power lines start to connect to each individual home that finally receives this power. Everything is connected to the source and powered by the source. However, if any of these connections are broken or not working properly, then the whole grid is in danger.

When we open the second chapter of Acts, we see a similar spiritual pattern. The Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples, they start to connect the gospel to the heart of non-believers, they receive God's grace, and they become connected through fellowship, prayer, Bible study, and the sharing of resources. They are connected to the Spirit and powered by the Spirit.

We are still connected to this original power—the Holy Spirit—and are still called to be connected to this grid. It takes us all to keep the current of the gospel flowing. How can you keep this gospel centered message going where you live, work, learn, and play?

Experience God through Prayer

Father, empower us through your Holy Spirit to share the gospel everywhere you lead us.

Experience God through His Word

[Read Acts 2:1-13](#)

- Who are the key people present in this story?
- What phrases or thoughts repeat?
- Why are the disciples in this moment?
- What are the disciples experiencing?
- How does this experience affect us today? What should our response be?
- Do you feel the power of the Holy Spirit in your life?



Week 2 Study Sheet

Awaken to Power

Read Acts 2:14-41

- What key phrases or passages from Peter's sermon stand out?
- What experience is Peter's message point too?
- How is God using Peter?
- How can God use you like Peter?
- Why was there such a great response to Peter's message?

Read Acts 2:42-47

- What words describe the gatherings of the early church?
- Where can this type of gathering happen now?
- What are the key ingredients to this movement?
- How can you experience God beyond a Sunday morning?

Experiencing God through Practice

Practice your testimony. To be a Spirit empowered witness of Jesus is the first calling of every disciple. To be that we must all know the story that God is writing for our life. Take time this week to write out your story by answering the following questions:

Who was I? (Reflect on your life before Christ, your upbringing, your ups and downs, events that have shaped you.)

Who am I? (Reflect on the events that brought you to Jesus, and have gotten you where you are now, the things that you do every day, the people who have impact on you now.)

Who will I become? (Reflect on your purpose, where is God leading you to deepen your faith, what is God's plan for your life?)



Week 3 Study Sheet

Awaken to God at Work in You

Experience Life Together

Take a moment to think about your week and share with others. This is an exercise that can be done with God, with a family member, or within a small group (allow each group member to share briefly, thank each person for sharing before moving to the next person):

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Experience the Moment with God

Take a minute to ponder this word: omnipresent. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the word as “present in all places at all times.” Now, think about things that match this description. Maybe air comes to mind, gravity, or even the internet. Now, think about this fact: Christianity makes the claim that God is omnipresent. We believe that God is always with us, but do we always act this way?

When we look at the disciples in the Book of Acts, it seems as if we get a glimpse into what life would look like if we lived this way. Because they believe that God is with them everywhere, they tend to share the hope of Jesus everywhere. They lived their lives awakened to the presence of God. Do you live this way? Do you have confidence that God is with you where you live, work, learn, and play?

Experience God through Prayer

Father, I acknowledge your presence in my life right now at this moment and every moment beyond.

Experience God through His Word

[Read Acts 3:1-10](#)

- Who are the main people in this story? What is happening?
- How should we help people in need? What basic things can we do? What spiritual things can we do?
- How did each person experience God in this story?
- How can you have this same experience?



Week 3 Study Sheet

Awaken to God at Work in You

[Read Acts 3:11-26](#)

- What key words and phrases stand out in this passage?
- How does Peter address the crowd's reaction to the healing?
- What is Peter hoping that the crowd will learn from this experience?
- How can we prepare ourselves to experience God in this way?

Experiencing God through Practice

BLESS others! Take time this week to fill out the "BLESS" card. Think about how you can bless others where you live, work, learn, and play. Hope comes when you BLESS: Begin with prayer, Listen to stories, Eat meals together, Serve others joyfully, Share your story. Learn more at ohcnow.com/BLESS.



Week 4 Study Sheet

Awaken Together

Experience Life Together

Take a moment to think about your week and share with others. This is an exercise that can be done with God, with a family member, or within a small group (allow each group member to share briefly, thank each person for sharing before moving to the next person):

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Experience the Moment with God

Imagine the rally cry of the Church. If you could sum up in one word a cry to excite the community of believers, what would that word be? The early church had a word for this: Maranatha. It is tucked within the letter of Paul to the church at Corinth. As we have seen in the Book of Acts, the Word of God spread much further than Jerusalem, it covered most of the occupied world of the Romans. Corinth was one of those places.

In 1 Corinthians 16:22, found at the end of the verse is the word Maranatha, translated into the phrase, “Our Lord, Come!” Now that is a rally cry! Maranatha is an Aramaic word that can be translated as either “Our Lord, come” or “Our Lord has come.” What is the best translation for us? Both are.

We cry out in unity to the world that the Lord Jesus has come. At the same time, we cry out to our Lord Jesus, come! In this expectation we are living in an “already but not yet” world. Jesus has already paved the way for our salvation. Yet, the fullness of that salvation has not yet been fulfilled until his return. Therefore, together we move as one body through this already but not yet moment yelling to the world that Jesus has come, is here, and will return.

Experience God through Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus, come and be our guest in every area of life.

Experience God through His Word

Read Acts 4:1-37

- What people, words, or phrases stand out as you read this passage?
- What similarities does this passage share with others that we have studied before?
- What experiences do the disciples have?
- How would you summarize this passage?
- What experience is God calling you to after you read this passage?



Week 4 Study Sheet

Awaken Together

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14

- What empowers Ezekiel for this experience?
- What words or phrases stick out as you read through these passages?
- Which senses are used by Ezekiel for this experience?
- How does Ezekiel experience a movement by God?
- How can you experience a movement of God like Ezekiel?

Experiencing God through Practice

Take your next step! At Oak Hills Church, our vision is to be a community of disciples courageously engaging culture with the hope of Jesus where we live, work, learn, and play. This year God is leading us to live deeper and wider into that vision. We live deeper as spiritual and relational formation transform who we are. The vision widens as God positions us to fill a city with his hope and purpose. If you're new to faith, or new to Oak Hills Church, or just ready to take the next step in your faith, we want to equip you follow Jesus, share life together, and live on mission where you live, work, learn, or play. Learn more at oakhills.church/firststep.