



We need something that touches on all the central items the gospel seeks to proclaim, the things that are believed and received when the “word” is preached. It must include the things that appear over and over again in the early speeches of Acts, that ground the teaching of the Apostles in the rest of the New Testament, and that encapsulates what “the word of His grace” was meant to include. And since baptism dramatically displays the gospel, it would need to include all the major truths being proclaimed.

**These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.**

**Group Introduction:**

“Family” is a simple word, but it can include a large number of people. However, there are plenty of people who are not my “family.”

Can you think of other examples where many things can be included, but not everything?

**THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE. Open your Bibles to the book of Acts.**

People in the book of Acts did not have a New Testament (it wasn’t written yet). But they did hear “the word” (4:4; 19:10) and respond to it, becoming Christians (2:41). Choose people in your group to read different passages to see all the synonyms used in the book of Acts for the good news message the Apostles preached:

The word of God (Acts 6:7; 12:24; 19:20)

The word (4:4; 10:44; 11:19; 14:25)

The word of the Lord (8:25; 13:48-49; 15:36)

The word of the Lord Jesus (19:10)

The word of his grace (14:3; 20:32)

The word of this salvation (13:26)

The word of the gospel (15:7)

The speeches in Acts reveal the original message preached in different words at different times, but what they were preaching was the gospel. Discuss.

**PAUL’S 7 CENTRAL TRUTHS.** Read Ephesians 4:4-6. List Paul’s 7 “ones” on a piece of paper or a large board. Why does Paul list these?

**FINDING THE 7 IN THE SPEECHES IN ACTS. Look up the following verses.**

One Lord (Acts 2:36; 10:36); one God (2:31-33; 10:38); one faith—the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (2:23-24, 31-32; 3:15; 10:39-40); one body (2:41); one baptism (2:38; 22:16); one Spirit (2:33, 38; 10:38-44); one hope (3:19-21; 10:42; 20:32)

**FINGERS OF FAITH.** Practice Dr. Scott Adair’s memory device. “I believe...”

Thumbs up: Jesus is Lord

Index finger: one God (Father, Son, Spirit)

Peace sign: one faith (death & resurrection)

Ring finger: one body (reconciled church)

Pinky finger: one baptism (forgiveness)

Palm out: one Spirit (Holy Spirit)

Raised Palm: one hope (life everlasting)