

# Welcome to the Family



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Josh and Ben

# Opportunities to Help



40 Days of Prayer Devos  
College-Age Connect  
Be a FriendSpeak Partner





# Engaging a Complex Religious World

# Acts 17:16-17

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols.

*\*All Scriptures from 1995 New American Standard*

# Acts 17:16-17

<sup>17</sup> So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing *Gentiles*, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present.



# Engaging a Complex Religious World





# Starting Points

1) We always apply God's word to ourselves first.



# Matthew 7:3-5

<sup>3</sup> Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

<sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye?

# Matthew 7:3-5

<sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

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# Starting Points

2) We want to  
encourage  
others to  
follow God's  
word.



# Matthew 5:13-15

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

# Matthew 5:13-15

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world.  
A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;  
<sup>15</sup> nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put  
it under a basket, but on the  
lampstand, and it gives light to all who  
are in the house.



# Starting Points

3) We want to discuss faith in a spirit that honors God.



# Matthew 7:12

<sup>12</sup> “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

## 2 Timothy 2:24-26

<sup>24</sup> The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,

<sup>25</sup> with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

# 2 Timothy 2:24-26

<sup>26</sup> and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.



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1) God wants us to encourage those who don't yet believe in Jesus.

## Acts 4:12

<sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

# Acts 2:5,38

<sup>5</sup> Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven.

# Acts 2:5,38

<sup>38</sup> Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



# Acts 8

<sup>27</sup> So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship,

<sup>28</sup> and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.

# Acts 8

<sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

<sup>36</sup> As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?”

# Acts 10

<sup>1</sup> Now *there was* a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort,

<sup>2</sup> a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the *Jewish* people and prayed to God continually.

# Acts 10

<sup>48</sup> And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

# Acts 23:1

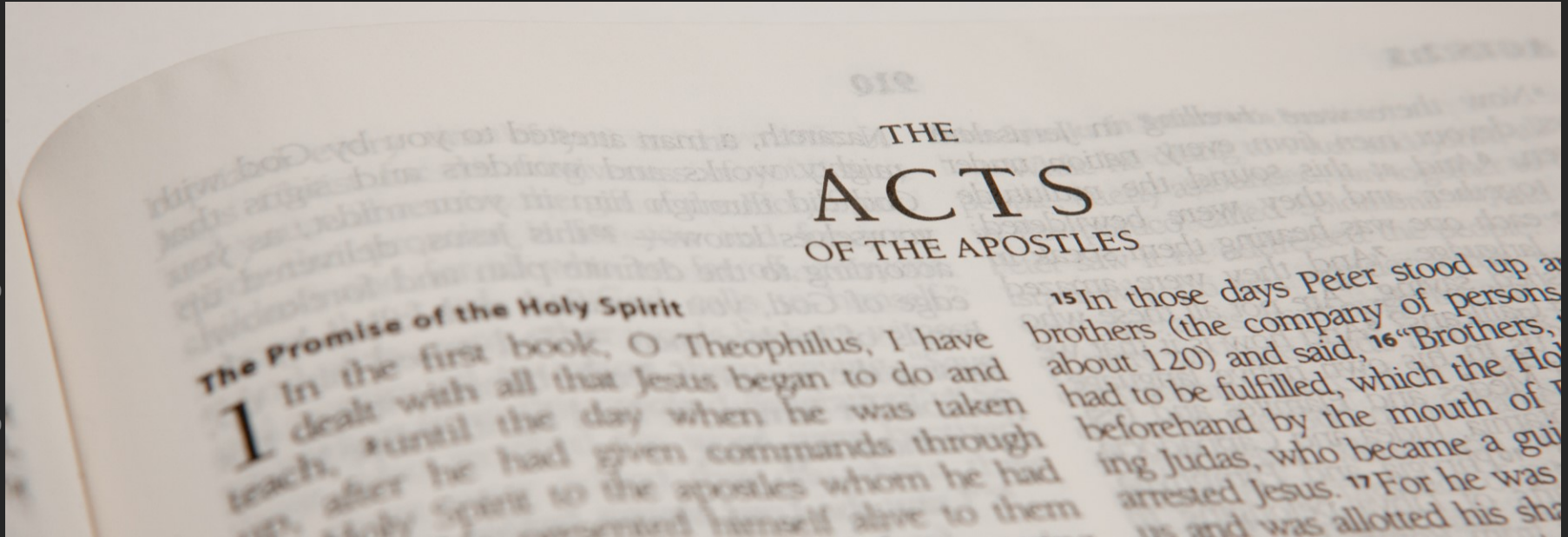
<sup>1</sup> Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, “Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day.”



# Acts 22:16

<sup>16</sup> Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

# Learning From the Church in Acts



2) God wants us to encourage those who have not yet been baptized God's way.

# Acts 18:24-19:5

<sup>24</sup> Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures.

## Acts 18:24-19:5

<sup>25</sup> This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;

# Acts 18:24-19:5

<sup>1</sup> It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples.



## Acts 18:24-19:5

<sup>2</sup> He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they *said* to him, “No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”

## Acts 18:24-19:5

<sup>3</sup> And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” And they said, “Into John’s baptism.”

<sup>4</sup> Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”

# Acts 18:24-19:5

<sup>5</sup> When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

## Romans 6:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

<sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

## Ephesians 4:3-6

<sup>3</sup> being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

<sup>4</sup> *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.



# Learning From the Church in Acts

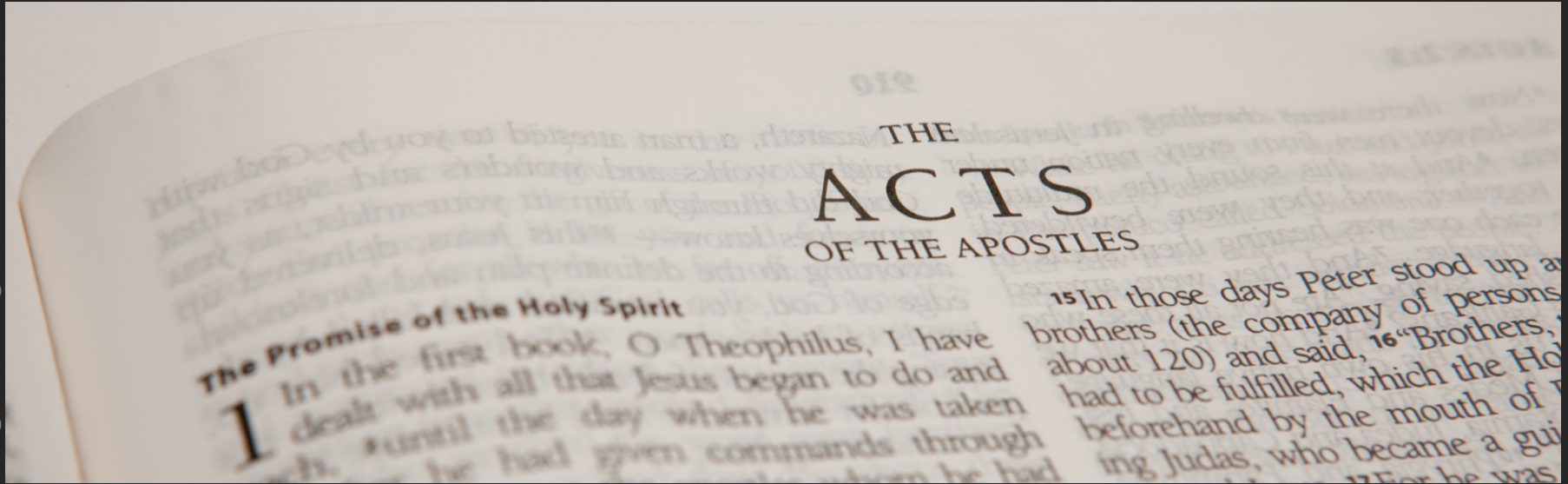


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3) God wants us to encourage those who are committed to following Jesus, but practice things differently from what Scripture says.

# Acts 15:36

<sup>36</sup> After some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, *and see* how they are.”

# 1 Corinthians 1:2

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

# 1 Corinthians 14:37-38

<sup>37</sup> If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

<sup>38</sup> But if anyone does not recognize *this*, he is not recognized.

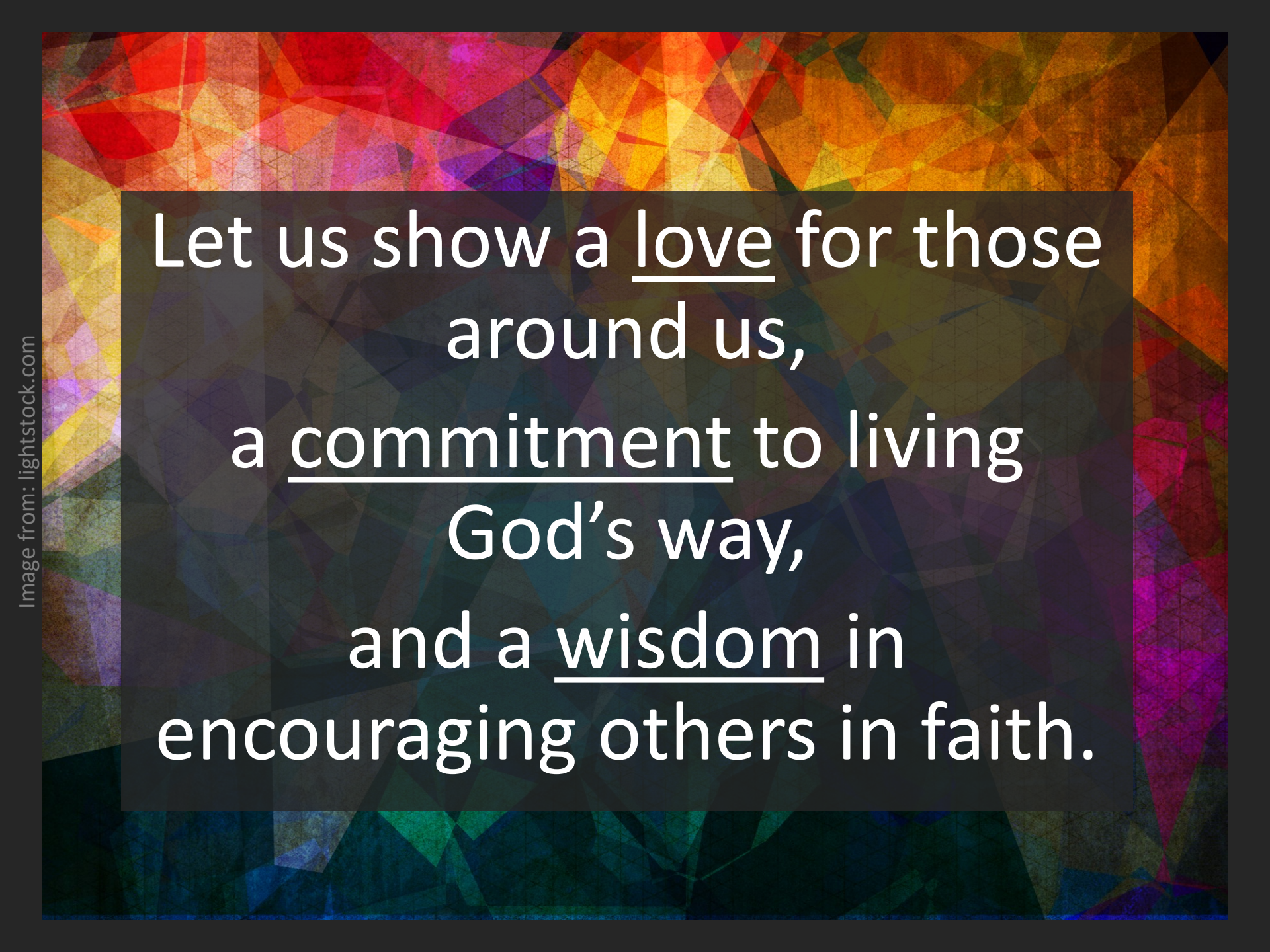
# Matthew 7:21

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.



# Engaging a Complex Religious World





Let us show a love for those  
around us,  
a commitment to living  
God's way,  
and a wisdom in  
encouraging others in faith.



# Acts 2:37-38

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

<sup>38</sup> Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

# 1 John 1:9

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.