



Community Church of Douglas

the power of
WE

Abundant Living in Acts

Fall 2024 Sermon Series Guide

INTRO

What makes a church thrive?

It's not programs, sermons, or money but a simple yet profound commitment to becoming an empowered community carrying on Jesus' kingdom mission together.

Welcome to our sermon series, **"The Power of We: Abundant Living In Acts."** Over the next few weeks, we'll dive deep into the incredible story of the early church and uncover how their unwavering dedication can ignite a new fire within our own church family.

In the vibrant pages of the Book of Acts, we see a group of believers who faced immense challenges, yet thrived through unity, purpose, and cultivating the presence of the Holy Spirit. They shared their lives, prayed fervently, and boldly proclaimed the love of Christ, resulting in exponential growth and a transformative impact on their communities and the whole world. This series invites us to reflect on how that same commitment, empowered by the Holy Spirit can invigorate our church today.

In a world that often promotes individualism, the message of "We" reminds us that our strength lies in our shared commitment to Jesus' kingdom purpose. Our mission is clear: **to make disciples of Jesus by sharing His life-changing love with our neighbors.** But to accomplish this, we must embrace the same commitment that characterized the early church. This means fostering authentic relationships, supporting one another, and actively participating in the life of our church community.

Throughout this series, we will explore key themes from the Book of Acts, such as fellowship, generosity, prayer, and mission. Each week, we'll dive into scripture, hear testimonies of how God is moving among us, and consider practical ways we can embody this abundant living together.

As we embark on this journey, let us open our hearts to the transformative power of "We." Together, we can cultivate an abundant community where discipleship flourishes and the love of Jesus spills out into our neighborhoods, transforming lives and communities for His glory. Join us as we discover how the lessons of Acts can guide us in fulfilling our mission and living abundantly in Christ.

TAKE "THE ABUNDANT CHALLENGE"

READ

Read Acts.
Ask, how is God calling me to be like the first Christians in my life today?

JOIN

Discover the abundance of community by joining a group or a team during the ministry fair.

COMMIT

Consider the invitation to become a Covenant Partner at Community Church of Douglas

SHARE

Cultivate abundant resources by participating in the November Generosity campaign.

The Power of We: Abundant Living in Acts

ACTS

The book of Acts covers the birth of church and ministry of the Apostles following Jesus' ascension through Paul's missionary journeys. It was written by Luke as the second part of Luke's gospel as witness to the Good News to a gentile named Theophilus. The focus on the transforming power of the Holy Spirit as the good news of Jesus spreads from Jerusalem, to Judea, Samaria, and eventually the whole world. The book is divided into two main sections, the first being the formation of the first church in Jerusalem under Peter's leadership and the mandate to reach the Gentiles. The second part follows Paul after his conversion on his missionary journey's as new communities of Christ followers begin in cities and towns around the Mediterranean. ***The power of the Holy Spirit transforms these early friends and witnesses of Jesus into abundant gospel communities on mission.***



PERIOD
30 - 62AD



LENGTH
28 Chapters



AUTHOR
Luke



THEME
Kingdom Expansion

ACTS 1	ACTS 2-7	ACTS 8-12	ACTS 13-20	ACTS 21-28
Jesus Leaves Instructions	Penetcost & The First Christian Community	The Gospel Spreads to the Gentiles	Paul's Missonary Journeys and New Christian Communities	Paul's Arrest, Imprisonment, and ministry in Rome
Jesus instructs the disciples and early church to be his witnesses waiting for the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem before ascending into heaven.	The Holy Spirit falls and transforms the disciples and early church into an abundant gospel community transforming lives through shared living and miraculous ministry.	Peter receives the call to spread the gospel to the non-Jewish communities. The early church expands it's witness about Jesus.	Paul and key leaders begin missionary journeys to encourage, equip, and teach groups of early believers as they form Christian communities around the Mediterranean.	Paul is arrested in Jerusalem; his life is threatened as Christian persecution takes hold. On his way to house arrest in Rome he is shipwrecked. While in Rome Paul witnesses and writes to the early communities.

THE EMPOWERED KINGDOM EXPANDS

Luke emphasizes that the miraculous ministry of Jesus has now passed onto all believers through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Luke is careful to emphasize the transforming effect of individual believers and communites as they band together to witness to Jesus the Messiah and minister in the power of His transforming love. Despite challenges and persecution the abundant Christian community expands the Kingdom of God to the whole world.

KEY VERSES

- "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8
- "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer." Acts 2:42
- And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. Acts 2:44-45
- "These people who have turned the world upside down have come here also." Acts 17:6

PURPOSE

To experience & extend God’s kingdom by making disciples of Jesus who make disciples

MISSION

To share the life-changing love of Jesus with our neighbors

VALUES

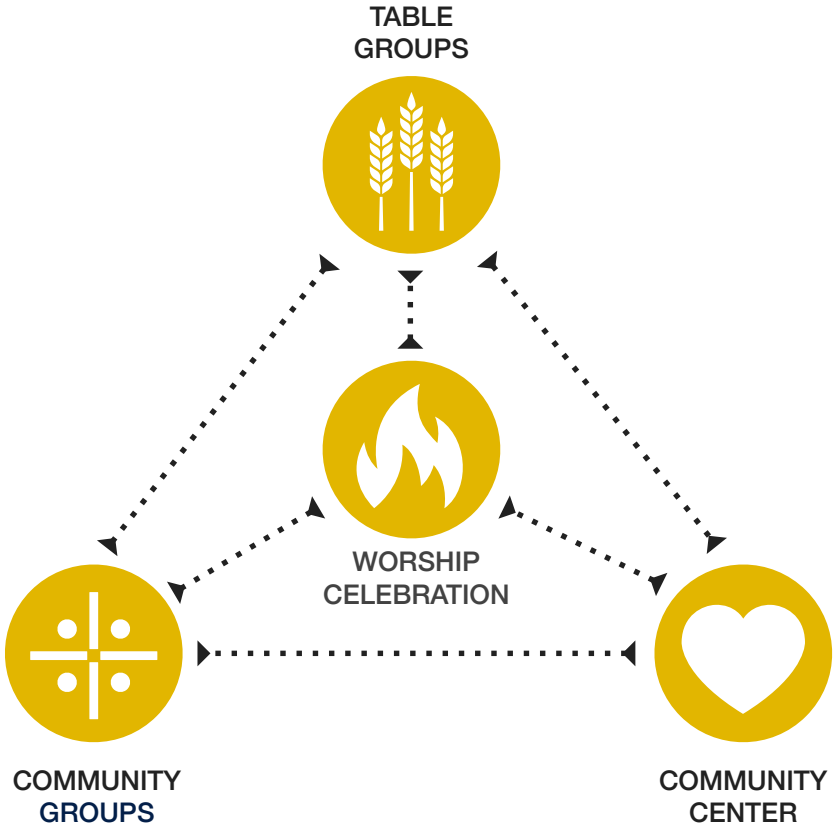
Jesus
Dependent
Lives

Spiritually
Growing
Relationships

Grace
Filled
Community

Neighbor
Serving
Discipleship

WHERE WE GROW



SIGNS OF DISCIPLESHIP

<u>CONNECTING</u>	<u>GROWING</u>	<u>SHARING</u>	<u>GOING</u>
With God	Spiritually	God’s Story	My Household
With One Another	Healthy Relationships	My Story	My “Neighborhood”
With Our Neighbors	Servant Leadership	Generous Living	The Nations

BIBLE READING PLAN

Week 1	Day 1	Acts 1:1-11
	Day 2	Acts 1:12-26
	Day 3	Acts 2:1-13
	Day 4	Acts 2:14-41
	Day 5	Acts 2:42-47
Week 2	Day 1	Acts 3:1-11
	Day 2	Acts 3:12-26
	Day 3	Acts 4:1-22
	Day 4	Acts 4:23-37
	Day 5	Acts 5:1-11
Week 3	Day 1	Acts 5:12-16
	Day 2	Acts 5:17-42
	Day 3	Acts 6:1-15
	Day 4	Acts 7-8:1a
	Day 5	Acts 8:1b—25
Week 4	Day 1	Acts 8:26-40
	Day 2	Acts 9:1-19a
	Day 3	Acts 9:19b-31
	Day 4	Acts 9:32-43
	Day 5	Acts 10:1-33
Week 5	Day 1	Acts 10:34-48
	Day 2	Acts 11:1-18
	Day 3	Acts 11:19-30
	Day 4	Acts 12:1-19
	Day 5	Acts 12:20-25
Week 6	Day 1	Acts 13:1-12
	Day 2	Acts 13:13-43
	Day 3	Acts 13:44-52

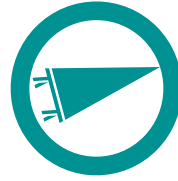
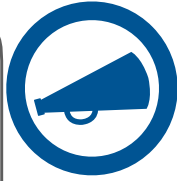
Week 6		
	Day 4	Acts 14:1-20
Week 7	Day 5	Acts 14:21-28
	Day 1	Acts 15:1-21
	Day 2	Acts 15:22-41
Week 8	Day 3	Acts 16:1-15
	Day 4	Acts 16:16-40
	Day 5	Acts 17:1-15
	Day 1	Acts 17:16-34
	Day 2	Acts 18:1-17
Week 9	Day 3	Acts 18:18-28
	Day 4	Acts 19:1-22
	Day 5	Acts 19:22-41
	Day 1	Acts 20:1-12
	Day 2	Acts 20:13-38
Week 10	Day 3	Acts 21:1-25
	Day 4	Acts 21:26-40
	Day 5	Acts 22:1-22
	Day 1	Acts 22:24-30
	Day 2	Acts 23:1-22
Week 11	Day 3	Acts 23:23-35
	Day 4	Acts 24:1-27
	Day 5	Acts 25:1-22
	Day 1	Acts 25:23-26:32
	Day 2	Acts 27:1-26
	Day 3	Acts 27:27-44
	Day 4	Acts 28:1-16
	Day 5	Acts 28:17-31

Abundant Milestones

Servant Leader Training

Elders, Community Group leaders, teachers, Team leaders, and elders will gather to be equipped to make disciples in the upcoming year during the Abundant Community Campaign

SEPT 28th

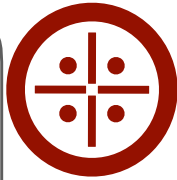


Ministry Fair

Sunday morning we will show all the ways to grow in discipleship at Community Church.

There will be
Community Group,
Table Group, and
Ministry Team
opportunities. How will
you steward the gifts
God has given you?

OCT 27th



Covenant Partnership

What does it mean to belong at Community Church of Douglas. The ministry staff and elder board are inviting those who feel called to be disciples at Community Church to become Covenant Partners.

OCT - DEC

Generosity Campaign

How do disciples of Jesus steward the finances and resources God has given them?

We will discover together the abundant resources God has given us to provide for our families and fund out mission.

NOV 2024

Harvest Dinner

To celebrate the abundant harvest of disciples, leaders, and resources God has blessed us with, our entire church will gather for a harvest celebration.

NOV 17th





Fall Sermon Series

The Power of We

Abundant Living in Acts

September - November 2024

Date	Text	Sermon Title	Themes
Sept 08, 2024 P. Brandon	Matt 28:16-20	The Purpose	Great Commission, Purpose of the church, disciple and baptize.
Sept 15, 2024 P. Brandon	1 John 4:7-21	The Mission	Transforming love of Jesus, love your neighbor.
Sept 22, 2024 P. Brandon	Acts 4:1-31	Jesus Dependent Lives	Empowered disciples, everyday miracles, worship & prayer.
Sept 29, 2024 P. Mike	Acts 2:42-47	Spiritually Growing Relationships	The body of Christ, spiritual growth, household of faith.
Oct 6, 2024 P. Brandon Family Communion	Acts 6:1-7	Grace Filled Community	Love on display, unity, compassion, beatitudes
Oct 13, 2024 P. Mike	Acts 4:32-37	Neighbor Serving Discipleship	Love your neighbor, servant evangelism, generosity
Oct 20, 2024 P. Brandon	Acts 8:1-8	Signs of a Disciple	Connected, growing, sharing, going lifestyle.
Oct 27, 2024 P. Brandon Ministry Fair	Acts 2:42-47	Where We Grow: Discipleship Pathway	Life together, building one another up, relationa evangelism.



Fall Sermon Series

The Power of We

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September - November 2024

Date	Text	Sermon Title	Themes
Nov 03, 2024 P. Brandon	Acts 1:1-11	Share: Time	God's provision, generosity, time belongs to God, stewardship
Nov 10, 2024 P. Brandon	Acts 2:42-47	Share: Talent	God's provision, generosity, spiritual gifts, servant leadership
Nov 17, 2024 P. Brandon	Acts 8:26-40	Share: Ties	God's provision, generosity, Holy Spirit directed relationships
Nov 24, 2024 P. Brandon	Acts 4:32-37	Share: Treasure	God's provision, generosity, finances, steward resources

Abundant Community Prayer

Abundant Community

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of the Community Church of Douglas. May we, as Your church, cultivate relationships rooted in love and unity, reflecting the abundant life You promise in John 10:10. Help us to serve one another, and help each other grow as your disciples, so that our neighbors along the lakeshore may feel your transforming presence.

Abundant Leadership

Lord Jesus, we pray for a new spirit of abundant servant leadership in our church. Raise up servant-hearted leaders who will use their spiritual gifts, skills, and time to help others become your disciples according to your vision in Ephesians 4:11-16. Empower them to serve with love and dedication, inspiring our congregation to follow Your calling and fulfill the great commission of Matthew 28:16-20.

Abundant Finances

God, our Provider, we acknowledge that every good and perfect gift comes from You (James 1:17). We ask for Your blessing over our generosity campaign. Open our hearts to generous living so that we can confidently and boldly share the resources you have given each of us to fuel the mission of our church and bless our neighbors. Help us raise \$750,000 per year needed for our annual ministry fund and establish a 2 million dollar endowment for the capital needs of the future.

Life-Changing Love

We declare that you have already provided all that we need. Empower us to be an abundant community so that the neighborhoods along the lakeshore will experience the life-changing love of Jesus. Let our actions demonstrate your love gracious and generous love, drawing others to know the hope we have found in You.

In the Abundant name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.