



## SG | Small Groups

Adults choose a positive attitude.

*“The one thing you cannot take away from me is the way I choose to respond to what you do to me. The last of one’s freedoms is to choose one’s attitude in any given circumstance.”* Victor Frankl

A bad attitude can ruin your life.

A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the **bones**. *Proverbs 17:22*

There is no excuse for a bad attitude.

*“Life is difficult. This is a great truth... because once we **truly see** this truth, we transcend it.”* Scott Peck

“In this world you will have **trouble**.” *John 16:33*

A bad attitude is the result of a bad interpretation of input.  
input + interpretation = attitude

*“The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven.”* John Milton

*“People are not disturbed by things, but by the view they take of them.”* Epictetus

1. God is in control.

“What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your **Father knowing** it. And the very hairs on your head are all **numbered**. So don’t be **afraid**; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.” *Matthew 10:29-31*

2. God is with you.

Even though I walk through the **valley** of the shadow of death, I will **fear no evil**, for you are **with me**; your rod and your staff comfort me. *Psalms 23:4*

...God has said, “**Never** will I leave you; **never** will I forsake you.” *Hebrews 13:5*

3. God has a plan.

Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might **not rely on ourselves** but on God, who raises the dead. *2 Corinthians 1:9*

*“If you don’t like something change it; if you can’t change it, change the way you think about it.”* Mary Engelbreit

Small group discussion questions related to the weekend message will resume in September 2018 during our next 10-week group cycle. Small group registration opens August 12. Use these One Year New Testament questions to discuss with your small group or answer individually.

### Devotionals

God doesn’t promise us an easy life when we come to Christ. He did promise to love and be with us through this hard and often difficult life. There will be seasons in the valley that we can’t control, but we can always control our responses. This week as you read through Acts you will see how Paul lives out this concept. This week, observe how Paul responds to accusations, trials, and imprisonment. His response is an example and model for all believers to follow in order to grow and thrive, not just survive difficult seasons. “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” *Romans 5:3-5*

### Sunday, July 1 - Acts 21:1-14

There are many unexpected roads in life that we find ourselves on. What unexpected situations have you found yourself in? How did you handle those situations? Who have you invited and asked to walk with you through those seasons?

### Monday, July 2 - Acts 21:15-36

What has been the most recent time someone has taken your words and twisted them? How did it make you feel? How did you try to correct and bring clarity to the situation? How can we still love those who hurt us, even when they manipulative our words and are mean?

### Tuesday, July 3 - Acts 21:37-Acts 22:16

God is shaping and molding a unique story in all of us. What do you think of your own personal testimony? When was the last time you shared it with others? How do you think God can use your testimony to reach and encourage others?

### Wednesday, July 4 - Acts 22:17- 23:11

What was the last argument you had and with whom? How did it end? How did you work to resolve the issue? What steps can you take to prevent fights from escalating further in the future? What did God teach you through those conflicts?

### Thursday, July 5 - Acts 23:12-35

When was the last time you were emotionally hurt? How did you respond? How can we protect ourselves, but still love our enemies at the same time?

### Friday, July 6 - Acts 24:1-27

What can we learn from Paul’s defense of himself in today’s reading? Paul was truthful in his defense of himself without exaggerating anything to help his case. What do you think God is trying to teach you when you’re in a season of trials and hard times?

### Saturday, July 7 - Acts 25:1-27

Can you think of a time you feel like you made the wrong decision? How were you able to move on from that poor choice? If not, how can you have victory in that situation and move forward? What did you learn from that situation that you now know for the future?