

## “VOICE OF PAUL-x-LUKE” SERIES

This series shows how the writings of the apostle Paul and his traveling-&-writing assistant Luke, all tie in together to construct “the basic frame of the entire New Testament” from 16 of its books. Under Paul’s unique influence, all these writings emphasize *God forging His People into a new kind of Followership whose “growth policy” involves embodying every kind of people & heritage.* It is within the framework of this people-building endeavor that (1) the Forgiving-&-Restoring Power of Jesus especially gets to be displayed, and where (2) its best participants are those whose lives have God’s Presence “pouring forth” within them.

### study #12: The More Distinguished Amazement Community

— covering **Act 4:36—6:7** —

**ACTION #1.** As Luke writes the book of Acts, he likes to briefly introduce certain people who, later on, become even more important to the storyline. Read Luke’s introduction of **BARNABAS** and his two copycats in **Acts 4:36—5:11**, and then discuss the following:

- In your own words describe all that happened in this passage, and which parts especially struck you.
- Which parts of Barnabas and Ananias & Saphira’s situations were the same, and which were different?
- Look at Peter’s question at the beginning of **verse 9**—what do you think his question’s answer is?

**ACTION #2.** All around the temple area in Jerusalem there were numerous places like courts, gates, walkways, and standing areas where crowds could gather and discuss their different ideas about God. Read about Jesus’ followers especially gathering at “Solomon’s Portico” (a large covered walkway), in **Acts 5:11-16**, and discuss:

- What all was happening at Solomon’s Portico—what must it have been/felt/looked like being there?
- In these verses, Luke the author seems to be explaining *insiders-&-outsiders’* perceptions of each other—try to explain how the city was reacting to this new Followership of God in their midst.
- What impact do you think the earlier story of Barnabas and Ananias & Saphira had on all this?

**ACTION #3.** While good Jewish communities had 2 customs to donate food to poor people (one for locals, the other for foreigners/visitors), Jesus’ new Followership was donating daily foods to everyone just once, and altogether. Read **Acts 6:1-7** and then discuss:

- Describe the whole situation and story in your own words, and say which part most interests you.
- In as few of words as you can give: what was the problem, and what was the fix?
- Fact: the names of the 7 chosen leaders are all “Greek”/“Hellenized” instead of “Hebrew” names; what does that tell you about the solution the apostles came up with?

**ACTION #4.** Each person share briefly one final summary, personal take-away, “ah-ha!” insight, or new question or curiosity from today’s study.

**EXTRA... FOR THOSE MOTIVATED, DEVOTED, & WITH SOME SELF-COMMAND:**

**GOLD CHALLENGE** ...read ahead (& maybe journal about) for next study: **Acts 6:8 – 8:1**

**PENGUIN CHALLENGE** ... (=daily reading + cover full NT+Psalms during series): read **GC** plus **Psalms 21-30**