

# **Syllabus for Acts in Action: Lessons & Inspiration for Today's Cross-cultural Ministry**

## **Course Creator and Facilitators**

This course was created by Mark & Julie Morgenstern. Mark is the former training director for ReachGlobal and currently the director for continuing learning through the CIT Next ministry of Center for Intercultural Training. Julie is the operations director for Grow2Serve and formerly served as a church-planter and pre-field training director with ReachGlobal and in several staff leadership roles in their local church.

## **Course Description**

Acts in Action is designed to raise awareness, develop perspectives and promote ministry choices that will align your ministry with the work of the Holy Spirit today. Too often we enter into cross-cultural ministry with strong Biblical, evangelistic, and ecclesiological convictions and with a strategy planned and ready, while neglecting to acknowledge and submit to the author and director of all true ministry, the Holy Spirit. Are you willing to put your ministry plans and strategies up against the measuring stick of lessons we can learn from the Holy Spirit's work in, through and by the Apostles in the first century?

The intended audience for this course are those that have been on the field more than 6 months and are looking for lessons and inspiration for their ministry from the Holy Spirit's first century work amidst the first Christians.

Time commitment involved

The course asks you to make an investment of 10-15 hours of learning time over the 10-day period. Please note that ideally, for maximum learning impact, a learner in this course will initially take the 2 ½ hours necessary to read the book of Acts in one sitting and then set aside 30-90 minutes on six to eight separate days to work on the material. Some of the course work will involve reading, writing, listening and watching on the computer. Other pieces will involve interacting with others in your location or spending time in personal reflection, prayer, or Bible study.

## **Course Outcomes**

As a result of robust participation in the course and all its elements and activities, our hope is that each learner would...

- Realize the role of the Holy Spirit in the work of God on earth.

- Develop a perspective on the role of the messenger of the Gospel in proper relationship to the Holy Spirit's role.
- Understand and be able to articulate four important themes of the book of Acts:
  - The Holy Spirit works through chosen messengers, witnesses of what they've seen and heard.
  - The Holy Spirit delivers supernatural good news, - which is seen and heard.
  - The Holy Spirit restores order in the Kingdom of God, which is for all nations.
  - There is opposition, attempts to limit the actions of the Holy Spirit.
- Be inspired and encouraged by realizing that one's role in expanding the reach of the Kingdom of God is a continuation of the work of God, inaugurated at the time of the events of the book of Acts.
- Be able to make adjustments to one's planning and execution of ministry in light of the principles demonstrated in the Acts narrative.

### **Course Materials**

Besides the Book of Acts, all other readings and materials required will be available on the course site or through sites visited by Internet.

### **Course Mechanics**

The key to successful learning in this course is interaction. This interaction takes place both with the facilitator and with the other participants in the course. It is vital that each participant faithfully post responses on time and reply to the posts of other participants. You will not receive a grade or mark from your facilitator. Your success in learning will be measured by you and your team when they notice the impact of the lessons learned on your walk with God and your implementation of ministry.

You should plan to participate in the course almost every day. We want you to engage with each other as well as with the subject matter. Don't be afraid to articulate your unique ideas, think critically, or ask challenging questions of others in a godly manner. Of course, your words of encouragement to fellow participants are always welcome. Before you begin the course work, please carefully complete the introductory activities that will help you in navigating the course. The course will require 10-15 hours a week of work, depending on your level of interaction with the other students. All the material, besides the Bible reading, is presented online, and will be a mix of text, audio and video. Please complete all weekly activities in the order they are presented. A main part of the course is the interaction between participants and the facilitator through forums.

This is an asynchronous course, so there are not specific times you need to be online. Participants will be in several different time zones around the world, so there is not one set

time when everyone is online at the same time. The assignments have due dates, and within the boundaries of those due dates you are free to complete those assignments according to your schedule (i.e., you can do them at night, in the morning, at lunch, etc.). Please note that all references to due dates and times refer to Eastern Time, USA (New York).

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