**ACTS: HOW THE CHURCH BEGAN**

**Lesson 3: Rooted in Diversity**

**ACTS 2:5-12**
5At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. 6When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

7They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, 8and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! 9Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, 10Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome 11(both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” 12They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other.

**ROOTED IN DIVERSITY**

**1. God wants his church to be diverse**

**2. The church can be both diverse and unified**

**3. Too often, our sins hinder our diversity**

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

1. **Here are some ideas for recognizing, valuing, and celebrating God’s diversity. Which idea sounds intriguing or appealing to you and why?**
* Visit another church to see how other people express their love for God?
* Make an effort this week to reach out to someone who’s different from you and start a friendship with him or her?
* Watch a movie or listen to songs from a different ethnic group from yours. What could you learn as you engage their creative expressions?
* Go have a meal at a restaurant that’s different from what you normally eat.
1. **What can you learn about God through these ideas? What other actions or steps might help you with this?**

**FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]**

*All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. (Acts 4:32 NLT).*