

acts a

Study Outline

Background: Historical & Authorship

Acts was written by Luke around 63 A.D. as a defense brief for the Apostle Paul who was to stand trial for his role in the spread of Christianity. Like his Gospel, Acts would also serve to explain the origins and development of Christianity after the ascension of Jesus. This explains why Luke goes to great effort to provide a thorough historical record by providing specific dates, names, places, and details of the events and movements of the early church.

Main Point: Though the book of Acts is the sequel to Luke's Gospel record, the themes laid out in chapter one make it the perfect continuation of all four Gospels (*Resurrection - Matthew, Ascension - Mark, Promise of the Holy Spirit - Luke, 2nd coming of Jesus - John*). This book covers a period of 33 years bridging the obvious gap between the Gospels and Epistles. This book documents the acts of Jesus - through His followers - by the power of the Holy Spirit. Acts details the birth of the church. The spread of the Gospel across the Roman Empire. The ultimate rejection of Jesus by the Jewish people. And the incredible work God accomplished in the gentile world. Luke explains how the work of Jesus began in Jerusalem, spread to Judea and Samaria, and ultimately reached all four corners of the globe.

Key Verse: Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

ACTS OF THE DISCIPLES TO:

JERUSALEM

CH 1:1-8
CH 1:9-11
CH 1:12-26
CH 2:1-47
CH 3:1-26
CH 4:1-8:3

PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
JESUS ASCENDS TO HEAVEN
DISCIPLES WAIT IN JERUSALEM
PENTECOST: HOLY SPIRIT
HEALING OF THE LAME MAN
GROWTH & PERSECUTION

JUDEA & SAMARIA

CH 8:4-25
CH 8:26-40
CH 9:1-30
CH 9:31-43

PHILIP'S MINISTRY IN SAMARIA
PHILIP & THE ETHIOPIAN
CONVERSION OF PAUL
PETER'S MINISTRY IN JUDEA

THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

CH 10:1-11:18
CH 11:19-30
CH 12:1-24
CH 12:25-14:28
CH 15:1-35
CH 15:36-18:22
CH 18:23-21:26
CH 22:1-26:32
CH 27:1-28:16
CH 28:17-31

THE GOSPEL EXTENDS TO THE GENTILES
CHURCH OF ANTIOCH
HEROD PERSECUTES CHURCH
PAUL'S 1ST MISSION: GALATIA
JERUSALEM COUNCIL
PAUL'S 2ND MISSION: ASIA MINOR & GREECE
PAUL'S 3RD MISSION: ASIA MINOR & GREECE
PAUL'S ARREST & TRIAL
PAUL'S VOYAGE TO ROME & SHIPWRECK
PAUL IN ROME UNDER HOUSE-ARREST



Day 1: Dynamite....

Acts 1:4-2:4 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Why would Jesus commission His disciples to take the Gospel into all the world, but command them to first wait in Jerusalem? (2). Was the promise of the Holy Spirit given to the disciples for conviction, salvation, or empowering? (3). Why is it so important that we're filled with the power of the Holy Spirit often?

Day 2: Growing Pain....

Acts 8:1-8 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Jesus had commanded the Gospel be carried into the world. Why were the disciples still chilling out in Jerusalem after a decade had passed? (2). Though God doesn't mind his followers begin comfortable, what is the danger when we become comfortable spiritually? (3). To combat spiritual complacency, what does God allow to happen to push His followers out of this sad state?

Day 3: Microevangelism....

Acts 8:26-40 // THINKING POINTS: (1). God's command for Philip to go into the desert is intellectually perplexing. Why do you think Philip was immediately obedient to God's command? (2). What does Philip's obedience tell us concerning Philip's faith and trust in God? (3). God sent Philip into the desert to reach out to this Ethiopian. What does this tell us concerning God's love for the individual?

Day 4: Rejecting Conviction....

Acts 7:54-8:3; 9:1-9 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Why do you think Saul progressed from being an accomplice in Steven's death, to the active hatred he shows in later verses? (2). What is produced when a person rejects the conviction brought on by the ministry of the Holy Spirit? (3). Have you been resisting conviction over sin?

Day 5: Songs in the Night....

Acts 16:16-34 // THINKING POINTS: (1). When life stinks do you worship more or less passionately? (2). Because Paul and Silas kept a positive perspective in their suffering, what was God able to accomplish? (3). People care more about the way believers handle difficulties than good times. What do people learn about Jesus by watching you?

Day 6: Refuge....

Acts 28:1 // THINKING POINT: (1). In the midst of Paul's storm, what did God graciously provide in his time of need? (2). What are the personal benefits of having a place you can take refuge from the storms of life? (3). Do you have a place you can take weekly refuge?

DEVOTIONS

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