

A Study of the Acts of the Apostles



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Acts Lesson 01 – The Forty Days and After
Acts 1:1-26

Day 1: Read Acts 1:1-3 and Luke 1:1-4.

1. What, or who, is the starting point, the focus, of Christianity?
2. What do you learn about Jesus in this passage?
3. Why did Luke write Luke and Acts? Why are the details about Jesus, and His church, in Luke and Acts important to this purpose, and to your life today?

Day 2: Read Acts 1:1-3 and Acts 26:19

4. What was John's first message to the people in Matthew 3? What was Jesus's first message to the people in Mark 1? What did Jesus teach His disciples during the 40 days after His resurrection?
5. What is the first responsibility of the subjects of the Kingdom of God?
6. No book of the Bible refers to the Kingdom of God more than Luke. Briefly [survey the references](#). What is the kingdom of God? Has it come?
7. How does the account of the church in Acts relate to the kingdom of God?

Day 3: Read Acts 1:4-11, Genesis 1:28, and Matthew 28:16-20.

8. How does Jesus's answer to the disciple relate to the Great Commission and serve as the thematic passage for the book of Acts?

9. Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come." In light of the Great Commission, how are we supposed to live out this prayer in our daily lives as we wait for the kingdom in its fullest consummation?

Day 4: Read Acts 1:12-14, Acts 1:4-5, and Matthew 26:36-46.

10. What do we learn in these passages about:

- a. Obedience

- b. The body of Christ

- c. Prayer

Day 5: Read Acts 1:15-26.

11. What were the three criteria for being an apostle?

12. What does this passage indicate to us about what the apostles were focused on while they waited?

Acts Lesson 2 – The Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-47

Day 1: Read Acts 2:1-12, Acts 1:11, Exodus 3:1-6, Exodus 13:21-22, Daniel 7:9-10, Habakkuk 2:1-3, John 3:4-8, John 8:12, John 11:9, Hebrews 12:28-29, and Revelation 3:15-16.

1. Christ's instructed His disciples to wait for the fulfillment of His last promise, which was "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." They responded by waiting. Why do we wait today? What are we waiting for? What are the results of waiting? How well do you wait?
2. Using both Scripture and daily life—particularly the daily life of those to whom the Bible was directly written—who and what does fire symbolize in these passages?

Day 2: Read Acts 2:13-21 and Numbers 11:16-30.

3. What is Moses' prophesy in Numbers 11:29? How does it come true at Pentecost?
4. Has the Holy Spirit been poured out upon you? If so, what does that mean for your life in the church and your ministry to the world? If not, what path to a washing by the Holy Spirit does Peter provide in v. 21?
5. When Peter says, "in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh," is he claiming that he (and we) are indeed in the last days? Explain.

Day 3: Read Acts 2:22-33, John 3:2, and 1 Corinthians 15:17.

6. What do we learn about Jesus in these passages that help us to know that Jesus is the Son of God, worthy of our hope and trust?
7. How does Peter assure his listeners that what he is telling them is true?

Day 4: Read Acts 2:34-40 and Psalm 110.

8. Jesus is Lord. What do you learn about Him and His Lordship in Psalm 110? Who will submit to Him? What happens to those who fail to submit to Him?
9. Those who heard Peter on Pentecost were “cut to the heart” because of their guilt over what they had done to Jesus. What did Peter tell them they needed to do? What were they to receive if they followed his instructions?

Day 5: Read Acts 2:41-47, Hebrews 10:19-39, and 1 Peter 1:3-9.

10. What are the four activities of the early church described in v. 42?
11. What does Hebrews 10:26 ff describe as the alternative to the Christian life?
12. Considering the challenges and trials of the Christian life portrayed in Hebrews 10 and 1 Peter 1, what is the importance, the purpose, of living the faithful Christian life, including the activities in v. 42? How does this help us? What is the end that this life seeks?

Acts Lesson 3 – An Act of Healing and its Consequences
Acts 3:1-4:31

Day 1: Read Acts 3:1-21 and Isaiah 53.

1. Peter asked the people gathered, “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this?” Why shouldn’t they be amazed? What is the point of his question?
2. By referring to Jesus as God’s Servant, Peter clearly points the audience to Isaiah 53, and uses that as the basis for telling them, “you denied the Holy One.” What are the implied consequences of their actions?
3. Toward the end of the passage, Peter gives them hope. What is the basis of their hope? How do they achieve it? What is its end?

Day 2: Read Acts 3:17-26

4. Peter tells his audience that they crucified Jesus in ignorance. But he also calls them sons of the prophets and the covenant. How could it be that those raised under the covenant and schooled in the prophets could be so ignorant? Did they simply not know about Jesus?
5. How might this apply to your life today? What does Peter tell the audience to help you know what to do when you soon out of this type of ignorance?

Day 3: Read Acts 4:1-12

6. There are two responses to Peter’s presentation of the gospel at the end of Acts 3. What are they? And from whom did each type of response come?

7. How do we see the intolerance and ignorance of the leaders of Israel on display in our society today? What impact is this having on the church? How are we to respond?

Day 4: Read Acts 4:13-22.

8. Read Acts 4:13 and Mark 13:11. In proclaiming Jesus and spreading the kingdom of God, what are the roles of God and man?

9. Do people realize “that [you] have been with Jesus?” What do you learn from this passage that would help you make your relationship with Christ more obvious to those who know you?

10. When is it right to obey the civil and church authorities over you and when it is right to disobey them?

Day 5: Read Acts 4:23-31 and Psalm 2.

11. How does Psalm 2 describe the battle taking place every day against the Lord and His Christ. What are some examples of this you see in the world today?

12. How does God respond to the attacks against Him?

13. How did Peter, John, and the rest of the disciples respond?

Acts Lesson 4 – All Things in Common
Acts 4:32 – 5:11

Day 1: Read Acts 4:32-37.

1. In vv. 32-33, Luke lays out four or so characteristics or aspects of the early church. What are they? Why are they important?
2. In which of these areas is God most blessing your church today? In which are his blessings least apparent? What can you do to help your church grow more in its area of greatest need?

Day 2: Read Acts 4:32 – 5:11 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

3. How is Barnabas different from Ananias and Sapphira.
4. What blessings flow from being a cheerful giver?

Day 3: Read Acts 5:1-11.

5. What is the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?
6. List some other examples in Scripture of spiritual deception.
7. Read Ephesians 4:25. Why are humans so inclined to spiritual deception? Why is it so important—as witnessed through God's commandments and punishments—that we turn away from it?

Day 4: Read Acts 4:32-37, Matthew 23:23, Mark 12:41-44 and 2 Corinthians 9:1-5.

8. Apply the Acts passage to the passages from Matthew and 2 Corinthians. What do you learn about tithing and giving?

9. How does the giving of the widow differ from that of the Pharisees?

10. How does the giving of the widow serve as an example for us?

Day 5: Read Joshua 7 and Malachi 3:6-12.

11. How is the story of Achan similar to the story of Ananias and Sapphira?

12. How was Israel robbing God as described in Malachi?

13. How much should Israel have been giving?

Acts Lesson 5 – The Liberty of God’s Children
Acts 5:12-42

Day 1: Read Acts 5:12-16.

1. The power of the Holy Spirit is manifest in multiple ways in this passage. Discuss its work and effects in these areas:
 - a. Christian liberty:
 - b. The growth of the church:
 - c. The witness of the church about Christ:

Day 2: Read Acts 5:17-25.

2. What motivated the high priest and the Sadducees? Why did they feel the way they did?
3. What did God through his angel do to counter the religious leaders?
4. Explain the concept of Christian liberty as embodied in the deliverance of the Apostle’s by the angel. How might have the Apostles’ deliverance that night been a comfort to them? How might it be a comfort to you and the church today?
5. How did the Apostles respond to their liberation/deliverance? How should you respond?

Day 3: Re-read Acts 5:17-25. Also read John 1:4, 6:35, 14:6, Acts 3:15, 11:18, and I John 1:1-2.

6. The deliverance of the Apostles was followed by a commission in v. 20. What was the commission? And how did the Apostle’s respond? Do you think that their response to their commission was in part a response to their deliverance? Explain.

7. Explain what the “Life” is that the Apostles were supposed to speak to the people about.

8. Explain how we see the Life being displayed and lived out in vv. 21-25.

Day 4: Read Acts 5:26-33, Daniel 3:16-18, and Matthew 27:20-26.

9. We see in these verses the response of the chief priests and Sadducees to the Life being lived out and proclaimed. Why are they responding like this? What are their motivations as seen in v. 28?

10. How do the Apostles respond to this latest round of oppression? How does obedience (v. 29) play a role in the liberty/liberation the Apostles experienced? Is liberty something we earn? Explain.

11. In addition to the Apostles and Shadrack, Meshah, and Abenego, we have plenty of examples of those in the church who have been oppressed and/or martyred for proclaiming “all the words of this Life.” List a few of these you know of (perhaps including some of the Apostles). How might Christian liberty have comforted and given them the ability to move forward in the Life despite the persecution they faced?

Day 5: Read Acts 5:34-42 and Matthew 5:10-12.

12. Again, we see the anger of the leaders of Jerusalem towards the apostles. How do the Apostles respond to the persecution? What does Jesus teach us about our response to and the benefits of being persecuted for His sake?

13. Skim through 1 Peter 1. What evidence is there that it was written to comfort Christians that are being persecuted? How does Peter tell us to live the Life in the face of persecution?

Acts Lesson 6 – Stephen

Acts 6:1 – 8:1a

In the Old Testament, we had Christ-types, those who pointed toward the coming Messiah. In the New Testament—and since—we have those who are Christ-like, i.e., who live as He lived and as He calls us to live. Stephen is certainly one who was Christ-like. As you study this lesson, take note of how Stephen is Christ-like; how he lived, spoke, and died like Christ.

Day 1: Read Acts 6:1-7.

1. Read Acts 4:32-35, 5:14, and 6:1a. The early church is described as rapidly growing while providing for the needs of all. How do you reconcile these verses with 6:1b? Were there real problems that needed to be addressed or simply murmurings and grumblings—perhaps planted by Satan to disrupt the success and unity of the church?
2. How did the Apostles deal with the situation? What does this tell us about their thoughts to the above questions and about their priorities for the church?
3. Are there murmurings in your heart about problems in your church? What are the murmurings? What are the problems? How can you repent of the murmurings? How can you help address the problems?

Day 2: Read Acts 6:8-15.

4. What are three qualities or characteristics attributed to Stephen in vv. 8 and 10? How can we connect these to the fact that Stephen was “a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit?”
5. Read Exodus 33:29-35 and Matthew 17:1-8. What is the difference in how the light is coming from Moses and from Jesus? Which one is Stephen more like? Explain.

Day 3: Read Acts 7:1-44.

- R. Kent Hughes tells us that there were three pillars of popular Judaism—the land, the law, and the temple—that were “false bases for confidence before God.” Stephen attacked each of these in his speech before the rulers. We’ll be looking at them over the next two days.
6. In vv. 2-36, how does Stephen make the case that God’s blessings are not specially or uniquely associated

with the land of Israel?

7. Read vv. 35-44. How does Stephen undermine the claim of the Jews that they had a special relationship with God because of their relationship with Moses and the law?

Day 4: Read Acts 7:43-53.

8. Read vv. 43-50. Why was the temple special to the Jews? How does Stephen show that while there was something special about the temple it didn't provide the Jews with exclusive access to God?
9. Read vv. 51-53. At this point, Stephen turns to strong language as he attempts to hammer home his point with the Jewish leaders. What is his main point? Why did it need to be emphasized so strongly? If the land, the law, and the temple can't secure the Jews' relationship with God, how can it be secured?

Day 5: Read Acts 7:54-8:1a, Luke 22:69, Ephesians 1:20-23, and Hebrews 8:1-3.

10. In the non-Acts verses, where is Jesus? What is His position? What is He doing?
11. What is different about Jesus' positioning in Stephen's vision? Why is this important? What might this change in positioning infer about a change in His actions or about His relationship with humans?
12. Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." While it may sound generic, this is a deeply personal call. How do we see the very personal nature of Christ's call to Stephen here?
13. Describe what you've learned about how Stephen is Christ-like in this week's study.

Acts Lesson 7
Acts 7:58 – Acts 8:40

As you answer the questions in this week's study, seek to understand and incorporate in your answer the power of the Holy Spirit at work in these events.

Day 1: Read Acts 7:58 – 8:4

1. What did Paul and the Jews begin doing to the church?

2. Why do you think Paul and the Jews acted as they did? List verses to support your answer.

3. What was the result of the actions of Paul and the Jews? Did their actions achieve their purposes? Explain.

Day 2: Read Acts 8:5-8, Luke 11:20, and John 4:7-9.

4. What is strange and unusual about the story found in these verses?

5. What powerful works does Phillip, the deacon, do in these verses? Where did his power come from?

Day 3: Read Acts 8:9-17.

6. What did the people say about Simon? Why?

7. How did the power of the works of Simon hold up when compared to the works of Phillip, Peter, and John? What was the difference between them?
8. What is significant about the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in v. 17? See Acts 2:1-12.

Day 4: Read Acts 8:18-24.

9. Simony, the practice of selling church offices for money, was named after Simon. What do you think motivated Simon's offer?
10. What was Peter's response to Simon? Do you think that Simon repented after the rebuke?
11. How might you be wrongly motivated to gain spiritual gifts even if you aren't tempted to offer money for them?

Day 5: Read Acts 8:25-40 and Isaiah 53:1-6.

12. How does this week's lesson display the power of the Gospel, or the power of the Holy Spirit in the Gospel preached?
13. Phillip is "full of the Spirit and of wisdom" (see Acts 6:3). How did this come to pass? How did he demonstrate his willingness to submit to the power of the Holy Spirit?
14. Why are the verses the Ethiopian eunuch reading a good place to start when sharing the Gospel?

Acts Lesson 08: The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus
Acts 9:1-31

Day 1: Read Acts 9:1-9, 26:9-18, & Galatians 1:13-14.

1. Describe the state of Saul's relationship with God and the church before the road to Damascus? Where was his heart? What were his motivations? What did he want to accomplish?
2. Saul appeared in most of this story to be a predator hunting down his victims. But did that appearance accurately reflect reality? Going back to the introduction to Saul, is it possible that he was actually the prey that was being hunted or "goaded" (see Acts 26:14)? How was God hunting or goading him? Explain.
3. What do we learn about God's sovereignty in the story of Saul's conversion? Before your conversion, was your heart (if not actions) any closer to God than Saul's? Is anyone too far off from God to be saved?

Day 2: Read Acts 9:1-9 & 26:9-18.

4. Christ's appearance to Paul in this story was very personal. Read Genesis 22:11-12, Exodus 3:4-5, 1 Samuel 3:10, 2 Samuel 18:33, 2 Kings 2:12, Luke 10:41, Matthew 23:37, and Mark 15:34. How does Jesus' repetition of Saul's name highlight the personal nature of their encounter?
5. Christ's personal appearance to Paul is important because it brings to Paul an understanding of his wickedness and the need to repent and change his ways. Read Romans 7:7-25. How did Paul (you) respond and what did Paul learn (and what can you learn) about himself (yourself) through his (your) personal encounter with Christ?
6. Christ's personal appearance to Paul was also important from the perspective of his apostolic ministry and the spreading of the Gospel. Why was this? Read 1 Timothy 2:5-7 & Galatians 1:1 & 1:11-16.

Day 3: Read Acts 9:10-19 & Acts 22:10-16.

7. How does Ananias initially respond to Christ's calling of him? Why? How was his situation similar to Phillip's (Acts 8:5)? And also to Moses' (Exodus 3:11 & 4:1) and Jeremiah's (Jeremiah 1:6).

8. How does Phillip's obedience (and Phillip's, Moses', and Jeremiah's) play a role in the building of God's kingdom? How can your obedience also help to build God's kingdom?

Day 4: Read Acts 9:20-22.

9. Read Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7, and John 8:39-44. John the Baptist and Jesus started their ministries by preaching, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Paul, however, has a very different focus, "[Jesus] is the Son of God." What is Paul emphasizing when referring to Jesus as the Son of God? In answering the question, consider: the obligations of a son to a Father; how well Jesus fulfills His obligations to His Father; how He is able to do this; and what we learn about Him through this ability.

10. Read Matthew 12:32, 13:36-43, and 24:3-13. What has changed since the beginning of John's and Jesus' ministry by the time Paul's ministry begins? Why would these changes lead to the shift in the focus in Paul's ministry to speaking about the Son of God and proving that Jesus was the Christ? How does this fit in with Jesus' discussions of "this age [and] the age to come?"

Day 5: Read Acts 9:23-31 and Galatians 1:15-19.

11. How much time is covered in these verses? What did Paul do during this time? What was God doing to help prepare Paul for a lifetime of ministry?

12. Read John 14:16, 26; 15:26; and 16:7. The Spirit is our Helper, and Acts shows its power at work building God's kingdom, including building up the church "throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria." In this week's lesson, there was also an unusual "behind the scenes" glimpse of Jesus exercising His power directly in Paul. What do you learn here of how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit work together? How does this comfort you?

Acts Lesson 9
Acts 9:32-10:23 Peter's Preparation for Ministry

Day 1: Read Acts 9:32-43 and Matthew 9:9-13 & 28:16-20.

1. Like Phillip—and Jesus—before him, in today's passage Peter finds himself in places and with people that were not very acceptable to the Jews. List all the people that Peter comes in contact with. What's wrong with them?

2. How is the Holy Spirit at work in this passage in preparing Peter for carrying out the Great Commission?

Day 2: Read Romans 14:1-15:13, Galatians 2:11-21, and James 2:1-13

3. How does Paul and James instruct us to relate to those who are weak/flawed?

4. How might we, like Cephas and Barnabas, fail to love the weak/flawed and instead ignore them or judge them?

5. Using Galatians 2:15-21, what is it that enables us to love/serve the weak/flawed rather than judge them? Why is it important to do so?

Day 3: Read Acts 10:1-8, Leviticus 2, and Hebrews 6:19-20 & 8:1-7.

6. When the angel tells Cornelius that "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God," it is an amazing statement. Under the Old Covenant, how was it that one's "offering [becomes] a pleasing aroma to the Lord?" How could the prayers of Cornelius, as a gentile outside the Old Covenant, have possibly "ascended as a memorial before God?"

7. Read Matthew 8:5-13. Cornelius immediately obeys the instructions of the angel. How is he like the other centurion that comes to Jesus and others in the Bible that promptly obey God? How might the characteristics of the centurion in Matthew lead to such amazing obedience?

Day 4: Read Acts 10:9-16, Leviticus 5:1-6, 11:1-47, & 20:25 and Ezekiel 22:23-31.

8. Why hadn't Peter ever eaten any animals that are "common or unclean?"
9. Why would Peter be so upset about the commandment to eat all of these animals? What was so important about remaining clean?
10. Why do you think God is giving Peter these commands? What does, "What God has made clean, do not call common" mean?

Day 5: Read Acts 10:17-23.

11. How did Peter initially respond to the vision and command of the angel?
12. Are there individuals, groups, other churches, etc. that you or your church are uncomfortable with and have written off, intentionally or unintentionally, as those who are "unclean?" What are the consequences of such an attitude? What can you do to change it?

Acts Lesson 10 – The Holy Spirit to the Gentiles
Acts 10:17-11:18

Day 1: Read Acts 10:17-28a, Isaiah 56:6-8, Hebrews 9:1-7, and Revelations 21:22-27.

1. How were people cleansed of their sin under the Old Covenant? Which people groups were eligible for this cleansing and which were not?
2. How was the house of Simon the tanner, or of any Jew, representative of the temple or even the New Jerusalem during the times of Acts?
3. What is radical about Peter's invitation to the gentiles from Cornelius to be his guests in the house of Simon? How is it a foreshadowing of the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophesy? How does it show Peter's faith?

Day 2: Read Acts 10:23b-33.

4. What did Cornelius do when Peter arrived? What was Peter's response to him? Why did both act in the way they did?
5. Read Hebrews 12:22-24 and 1 Timothy 2:1-6. How might the Catholic practice of praying to the saints violate the second commandment (see Exodus 20:4-6)?

Day 3: Read Acts 10:34-43.

6. List the specific things that Peter tells Cornelius and the other gentiles about Jesus.

7. Matthew tells us that Christ “went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom” (4:23). He also recorded Christ’s prophesy that the “gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (24:14). And Peter makes it clear that we are—just like he was—commanded by Christ to testify about Him and preach the gospel to the people. What is the gospel? What does it have to do with the Kingdom of God? Review Peter’s preaching here and in Acts 2:14-36 and 3:12-26 to help develop your answer.

Day 4: Read Acts 10:44-11:18, Genesis 12:1-3, and Isaiah 49:6 & 56:3-7.

8. What happened to the Gentiles in this passage? What was Peter’s response? Why did he respond in this way?
9. How was this event a fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham and the Old Testament prophecies of salvation coming to the gentiles?

Day 5: Read Acts 10:44-11:18, Hebrews 3:1-6, 4:8-16, 8:1-12, 9:1, 9-14,

10. The members of the circumcision party were not upset that the Gentiles had received God’s blessings; they were upset that the Gentiles had not become Jews before receiving these blessings. This was because, like the Jewish religious leaders, they misunderstood the purpose and insufficiency of the Old Covenant and the temple. What were the shortcomings of the Old Covenant and the temple? How did these point to their need to be replaced?
11. How are Christ and the New Covenant superior to the Old Covenant and the temple? Use specific institutions, activities, and blessings as examples.

Acts Lesson 11: Antioch Becomes a Christian Base
Acts 11:19-30

Day 1: Read Acts 11:19-30.

1. How did the Gospel reach Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch? With whom did the Jews from Jerusalem share the Word?
2. Were the apostles directly involved in the spread of the Word? How was this different from the accounts we have read of the sharing of the gospel prior to the diaspora? How did this work out?
3. When the men from Cyprus and Cyrene began to share the gospel with the Hellenists, or the Gentiles, the referred to Jesus as the Lord rather than as the Christ. Why do you think they may have taken this approach?

Day 2: Read Acts 11:19-30.

4. What do you learn about Barnabas in this passage?
5. What did Barnabas discover? How did he respond?

Day 3: Read Acts 11:19-26; 2 Corinthians 11:23-30 & 12:1-10; & Philippians 3:8-11.

6. R. Kent Hughes suggests that when Barnabas went to fetch Paul from Tarsus it had been eight to ten years since he had seen him on his initial trip to Jerusalem after his conversion (see Acts 9:26-27). We don't know much about what Paul had been doing during that time, but his writings provide some clues. Write down what you learn about what happened to Paul in today's readings.

7. How does Paul say the events in his life prepare him for his ministry and his life as a Christian?

8. How has God brought loss and suffering into your life? Has this better prepared you to live out your life as a Christian and to be a minister of the gospel? How? If not, how can you repent and allow Christ to work in you through your loss?

Day 4: Read Acts 11:27-30; 15:32; 19:6; & 21:9-10; Matthew 10:1; Romans 12:6-7; and 1 Corinthians 12:28-29.

9. The Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles are on the same level in the kingdom. But this doesn't appear to be the case for the New Testament prophets. What do you learn in today's readings about the prophets and their relationship to the Apostles?

Day 5: Read Acts 11:27-30.

10. What is the message from Agabus?

11. How do the disciples respond? What do we learn from this about our responsibility as Christians?

12. Is being a Christian primarily a humanitarian concern focused on the social/physical needs of the poor and oppressed? How can our concerns about the physical needs of the poor sometimes be in conflict with our concerns about their spiritual needs?

Acts Lesson 11
Acts 12:1 – 13:3

Day 1: Read Acts 12:1-5.

1. Describe the conditions the church was under in Jerusalem.
2. Why had King Herod Agripa (grandson of Herod the Great) begun to persecute the church? What do we learn about the source of the persecution from this?
3. What was the response of the church? Why did the church respond the way it did under the iron-fisted authority of Rome and Herod?

Day 2: Read Acts 12:6-11, Genesis 28:10-22, Psalm 10:1-5, and John 1:50-51.

4. How are the situations of Peter and Jacob similar? How are they different?
5. How is God's response to both situations also a response to the pleas of the psalmist? Does God ever stand far away? What comfort do you find in the Lord's actions and in the fact that Jesus is our connection to heaven?

Day 3: Read Acts 12:11-17.

6. The disciples at John Mark's house were gathered in prayer. What do you think they might have been praying for?

7. Peter, Rhoda, and all of the disciples were confused and amazed by the release of Peter. Why might have they and others even today be amazed when the Lord answers their prayers?

Day 4: Read Acts 12:18-23, Psalm 10 and Acts 10:23-26.

8. After ordering the execution of Peter's guards, Herod went on to lord it over the Phoenicians. What do you learn about the motivations and beliefs of those like Herod who think they can replace the rule of God with their own?

9. How is Herod's reaction to the Phoenicians different from Peter's to Cornelius? Why might their reactions be different?

Day 5: Read Acts 12:23-13:3, Psalm 10 and Acts 10:23-26.

10. How do we see the Word of God increasing and multiplying?

11. How was this different than what happened to Herod and his words?

12. How can we, when we are afflicted by others or by sin, find comfort in the Lord our King?

Acts Lesson 13

Acts 13:1-52

Day 1: Read Acts 13:1-3.

1. What prophets and teachers were gathered at Antioch? Where was each of them from originally?
2. Under what circumstances did it come about that Saul and Barnabas were “set apart ... for the work to which [God] have called them?”
3. What do we learn in this passage about how the “the word of God [is] increased and multiplied?” What does God do? What does the church do? What is the relationship between God and man in this work?

Day 2: Read Acts 13:4-12.

4. How was the hypocrisy of Bar-Jesus exposed by Paul’s actions?
5. How did Paul display both judgment and mercy to Bar-Jesus?

Day 3: Read Acts 13:13-26, Leviticus 26:40-42, 2 Samuel 7, Luke 24:27-32, Romans 4:13, 9:4, & 15:8, and Galatians 3:16.

6. How is Paul’s approach to his sermon in Antioch Pisidia similar to what Jesus did on the road to Emmaus? Why is this approach important? Why might such an approach lead to a response by the hearers that “our hearts burn within us?”

7. In the opening of his sermon, Paul establishes Jesus as the Seed of David. Matthew does the same thing in his gospel—and goes even further back. How can this knowledge of Jesus comfort and strengthen us as believers?

Day 4: Read Acts 13:27-39.

8. In this section of his sermon, Paul brought to his listeners the “good news,” i.e., the gospel. What is the gospel? Describe it. Cite Scripture to support your response.

9. Paul’s quote, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you,” is from Psalm 2. How does Psalm 2 exalt Jesus Christ? How does Paul’s sermon bring out the gospel from Psalm 2?

Day 5: Read Acts 13:40-52, Habakkuk 1:1-9, and Luke 4:16-30 & 21:5-33.

10. At the end of his sermon, Paul quotes from Habakkuk. Why is Paul speaking like this to the Jews in the synagogue? What is he trying to tell them? How did the Jews react?

11. How did Jesus speak similarly to the people of Jerusalem? What did he tell them would happen? How did the Jews react to Jesus message of judgment?

12. Do you believe the judgement upon Israel described by Habakkuk, Jesus, and Paul has taken place? If so, why? When and how did it take place? If not, why not?

Acts Lesson 14

Acts 14:1-28

Day 1: Read Acts 14:1-7 and Matthew 23.

1. What were the two different reactions to the preaching of Paul and Barnabas at Iconium? What eventually happened to Paul and Barnabus?
2. How is the reaction of the unbelieving Jews in Iconium a repeat of the behavior of many Israelites/Jews throughout history? Why did this continue to happen?
3. List at least one verse each from the Old Testament and New Testament (in the gospels) where Israel rejected the teaching from a prophet.

Day 2: Read Acts 14:8-18.

4. How did the people of Lystra idolize the messengers instead of worship Him who sent the message? What are some examples of this in our society today?
5. Even after Barnabas and Paul has explained who they were, and who God was, the people still wanted to worship their own way. How do you struggle with worshipping God your way rather than His? Or with making God the way you want Him to be rather than the way He is?

Day 3: Read Acts 14:19-20, 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, and Galatians 6:17.

6. It is easy to see the Jews role in the stoning of Paul. But how was it that the people were so easily swayed by them, after so recently been willing to worship Paul and Barnabus?

7. How do you see Jesus in Paul in this passage? How is Christ at work in Paul?

Day 4: Read Acts 14:21-23 and 2 Timothy 3.

8. What did Paul and Barnabas do in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch? Why was their work there necessary? Using 2 Timothy 3 and recent readings from Acts, what are some of the trials and temptations Christians will always face?

9. Also using 2 Timothy 3 and recent readings from Acts, what comfort does God offer us in His word?

Day 5: Read Acts 14:24-28, 2 Corinthians 4:7-10, and Philippians 4:11-13.

10. What is the message of the passages from 2 Corinthians and Philippians?

11. How is Paul's teaching from the previous question being displayed in today's passage from Acts?

12. Paul displayed and preached his faith in every conceivable venue. How or in what areas of the culture are Christians in America falling short in this today? How about you?

Acts Lesson 16 – The Council at Jerusalem
Acts 15:1-35

Day 1: Read Galatians 1:6-10, 2:15-3:14

1. Acts is not the only place that the threat of Judaizers is discussed. What can you learn here about what the Judaizers told the Galatians?
2. What does Paul say is the problem with the teaching of the Judaizers and of the response of the Galatians? In other words, what is the heresy, the false gospel that is being taught here?
3. What does Paul say the true gospel is? How are we saved?

Day 2: Read Acts 15:1-5.

4. What happens to the gospel when one is told that to be saved you have to keep the customs and laws of Moses?
5. How does the dispute going on here highlight the struggle between the passing of the old covenant and Israel and the coming of the new covenant and the church?

Day 3: Read Acts 15:6-12, Romans 3:19-20, and Galatians 3:23-25.

6. What is the “yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?” What do you learn about it from the Romans and Galatians passages?

7. How do you think the testimony of Paul and Barnabas might have affirmed Peter's admonition to the assembly?

Day 4: Read Acts 15:13-21.

8. According to James, who are the two groups that the prophets said would partake in the blessings of God?
9. What are the restrictions James suggests should be followed by the Gentile believers? Some of them are not things prohibited to Christians. Why would he say these things if he is opposed to the false teaching of the Judaizers? See 1 Corinthians 9:19-21.

Day 5: Read Acts 15:22-35.

10. Why do you think the church at Antioch was comforted by the letter from the council at Jerusalem?

11. How might the restrictions put on the church at Antioch have helped them not engage in the immoral activities of the culture around them?

12. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Good works do have a role in the life of the Christian. Explain the relationship and roles of grace and good works among the faithful.

Acts Lesson 16 – Recently Planted Churches Revisited; Philippi
Acts 15:36-16:40

Day 1: Read Acts 15:36-41.

1. Even though he had a disagreement with Barnabas and Mark, what does Paul later have to say about Mark in Colossians 4:10-11? What can we learn from this?
2. Whatever the reason for the separation of Barnabas and Paul, what blessings to the ministry of Paul does God provide by giving him Silas as a new companion? See Acts 15:22, 15:32, & 16:19,37. What do you learn here of God's providence in the circumstances that his people face?

Day 2: Read Acts 16:1-5.

3. Paul has Silas circumcised, even as he carries the message of the Jerusalem Council that circumcision is not required of believers. Why would he do that?
4. Circumcision was required for infants under the Old Covenant. There is no such requirement for children to be baptized under the New Covenant. Yet both are signs of God's people entering into His covenant with us. Should infants be baptized today? How should we deal with those who disagree with us about this?

Day 3: Read Acts 16:6-10.

5. Paul and company are hindered once again in their efforts to minister the gospel to people. What are the circumstances this time?
6. What is the significance for history in the events in these verses? How do we see God at work guiding the building of His kingdom on earth?

Day 4: Read Acts 16:11-18.

7. What do we learn about God's work in Lydia? How does that remind us that God is involved at the most intimate level of the expansion of His kingdom?

8. Just like in Lydia, God is at work in the slave girl. From what you learn about Philippi in today's reading, what do the conversions of Lydia and the slave portend for Rome?

Day 5: Read Acts 16:19-40.

9. What did Paul and Silas do in jail that night? What do we learn about one way God works in the building up of His kingdom?

10. What do you think was on the jailer's mind when he asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

11. What can we learn from Paul about using the resources available to us in our work of spreading the kingdom of God?

Acts Lesson 17 – Thessalonica to Athens
Acts 17:1-34

Day 1: Read Acts 17:1-4.

1. Verses 2-3 tell us that Paul used Scripture to reason, explain (open), and prove (give evidence) about Jesus with the Jews in Thessalonica. Describe below how each of these might be used to proclaim Jesus as the Christ. Also, include any specific passages in Scripture under each that you might use to proclaim Christ:

“reasoned with them from the Scriptures”

“opened” (see Luke 24:32, 45)

“proving” or “giving evidence”

Day 2: Read Acts 17:5-9.

2. What was the complaint of the Jews when they dragged Jason and the brothers before the city authorities?

3. Read Genesis 3. How were the Jews right and how were they wrong when they accused Christians about turning the world upside down?

4. Why would the Jews and the city authorities be “jealous” and “disturbed when they heard these things?” See Matthew 23.

Day 3: Read Acts 17:10-15 and Romans 14-21.

5. What might explain the nobleness of the Thessalonian Jews?

6. How does faith come to a believer? How does faith turn our world upside?

Day 4: Read Acts 17:16-23 and Romans 1:18-23.

7. How might we apply v. 21 to the world around us today? How might we also apply it to our own lives?

8. As the Athenians spent “their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new,” they also worshipped many gods, including “the unknown god.” Today’s “sophisticated,” unbelieving culture seems more inclined to simply deny the existence of any god. What does the reading in Romans tell us about this? Which culture was/is actually more sophisticated and at least in some way closer to the truth, that of the ancient or modern world?

Day 5: Read Acts 17:22-34.

9. In v. 16, Paul’s “spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.” What truths does he present about God in his sermon at the Areopagus? How do these address the problem of Athenian idolatry?

10. What plea or call does Paul deliver to the Athenians? What reasons or support does Paul provide for this?

11. How do the Athenians respond?

Acts Lesson 18
Acts 18:1-20:12

Day 1: Read Acts 18:1-17.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-3. What condition was Paul in when he arrived in Corinth?
2. Arriving in “in weakness and in fear and much trembling” as Paul did is not a bad thing, and can speak to a condition of spiritual submission to God; yet often such a spiritual condition is brought about by trials. List the trials faced by Paul so far in his European stops in Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, and Corinth.
3. How do we see in today’s passage the Lord providing comfort and support for Paul in Corinth to help him in his trials?

Day 2: Read Acts 18:18-19:7, John 7:37-39 & 16:7-11, and 1 Corinthians 12:13.

4. How did Priscilla and Aquilla respond to Apollos when they heard him? How did their treatment of him bear fruit in the spreading of Christ’s kingdom?
5. While Paul is in Ephesus we witness the last of the Pentecost experiences in Acts. What happens to those who receive the Holy Spirit? How are they enabled to go forth spreading Christ’s Kingdom?

Day 3: Read Acts 19:8-20.

6. What was the reaction to Paul’s teaching in Ephesus? How did Paul respond to this? How long was he there?

7. What happened to the false exorcists? How was Christ's kingdom spread and evil overcome through this and Paul's preaching?

Day 4: Read Acts 19:21-41.

8. What were the motivations for the attack on the church in Ephesus?

9. How might the world be similarly motivated to attack the church today? Are such attacks occurring today, but instead of through riots through media and markets? If so, how is the church responding to the assaults of the world?

Day 5: Read Acts 20:1-12.

10. What happened during Paul's teaching in Troas?

11. People might be asleep in church, and in their faith, because 1) they've never been awake, 2) they are in a compromising, backslidden state, or 3) they are resting in familiarity rather than in Christ. Evaluate your faith using these three measures. Where is your faith today?

12. How might we awake our slumbering faith? See Romans 13:12, 1 Corinthians 15:34, and Ephesians 5:14.

Acts Lesson 19
Acts 20:13-21:40 The Journey to Jerusalem & Paul's Arrest

Day 1: Read Acts 20:13-27.

1. As we've read about Paul's journeys, it has been clear that he is committed to his task. In this passage he explains his commitment to the elders at Ephesus. Describe Paul's commitment, answering questions such as who and what is he committed to, who or what does he see as less important than his commitment, and what are the results for Paul and others and as a result of his commitment?

Day 2: Read Acts 20:28-35.

2. In these verses, Paul gave the elders of Ephesus some advice. Describe below these two different aspects of his advice:
 - a. How to be vigilant:

 - b. How to live their lives:

Day 3: Read Acts 20:36 - 21:16

3. Paul had the advantage, or disadvantage, of knowing at least part of what lay in store for him in Jerusalem. What did he know? How did he know it?

4. What obstacles and pressure, external and internal, did Paul face in this passage that threatened to keep him from being vigilant in keeping his commitment? How did he respond?

5. Why did Paul respond the way he did? Use some passages from Paul's epistles to support your answer.
6. What have you learned from Paul about how to deal with the external and internal pressures you face as you seek to do God's will? List some ways you can deal with them, both proactively and reactively.

Day 4: Read Acts 21:17-26 and Romans 15:25-33.

7. What do you learn in Romans 15 about Paul's motivations for going to Jerusalem? What else do you learn about Paul and his plans?
8. What did the elders suggest to Paul? How did he respond? In light of Paul's previous positions in dealing with the Judaizers, do you think Paul was wrong here, even sinning? Explain your answer.

Day 5: Read Acts 21:27-40.

9. How did the people of Jerusalem respond to Paul's presence? Did the plan of the apostles do any good?
10. How is Paul's treatment similar to Christ's in His last days? How is it different? Why the difference?
11. How are Paul's commitment and vigilance and his love for his fellow Jews seen in vv. 37-40?

Acts Lesson 21
Acts 22:1-23:30 Paul at Jerusalem

Day 1: Read Acts 22:1-21 and Isaiah 6.

1. In what ways was Saul humbled in his first encounter with Jesus?

2. How is Paul's (and Luke's) recounting of the words of Ananias important to the ministry of Paul?

3. How is the calling of Paul to ministry similar to that of Isaiah, especially in respect to the outcome of his ministry to the Jews? How does this relate to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)?

Day 2: Read Acts 22:22-29.

4. How did the Jews react to Paul's Speech? Why?

5. Find a passage in one of the Gospels where Jesus faced a similar reaction from the Jews for similar reasons. Describe what happened, why Jesus spoke the way he did to the Jews and why they reacted the way they did.

Day 3: Read Acts 22:30-23:10

6. What did Paul say to the council? How did the council respond?

7. In what ways are Paul's actions in this interaction with the Jews different than some of his previous interactions? Was Paul right or wrong to speak in the way he did to the high priest and when he sought to divide the counsel in their opposition to him? What indications, if any, are there in this experience that this was one of Paul's weakest and darkest moments?

Day 4: Read Acts 23:11, Matthew 9:2, 9:22, & 14:27, and John 16:33.

8. How had Paul's situation of being placed in the hands of the Romans dramatically changed the path of his ministry in a way that may have brought him to a place where he needed comfort?
9. Christ appears mysteriously to Paul in v. 11 as He had to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in their time of need. But he also appeared more plainly to others in Matthew 9:2, 9:22, & 14:27, and John 16:33 speaking the same word of comfort, "Take heart" or "Take courage." How do Christ's appearance and simple words bring comfort to Paul and the others?
10. In his appearance to Paul and the others, Christ also explains why they should be taking courage. What is the similar theme running throughout these appearances? How can we today also find comfort in these words of Jesus?

Day 5: Read Acts 23:12-30 and Isaiah 43:1-5.

11. How does the passage from Isaiah further describe God's provision for his people?
12. How is God's provision for his people and His ability to overcome all opposition to his plans seen in the Acts passage?

Acts Lesson 21
Acts 23:31-26:32 Paul at Caesarea

Day 1: Read Acts 23:31-24:9 and Psalm 22.

1. In the opening of his speech, to whom does Tertullus give credit for the peace and prosperity of the Jews? Who should he have given credit to? What does this say about the faith of Tertullus and those for whom he spoke?
2. What did Tertullus say they had found Paul to be? Why?
3. How is Tertullus's attack and accusations against Paul similar to those against Jesus and other Christians in the biblical accounts? And to the attacks and accusations against Christians today?

Day 2: Read Acts 24:10-22.

4. What does Paul confess about his beliefs before Felix? Upon what does Paul say his belief is based? What reason does he put forward for his being on trial?
5. How does Paul's clarity in his defense give us an example of how to be uncompromising in the defense of our faith?

Day 3: Read Acts 24:22-25:12.

6. About what did Paul "reason with" or say to Felix and Drusilla? What was Felix's response? What in your life today might you, like Felix, not want to hear the truth about?

7. How is Paul's two year imprisonment like Joseph's? Or like Daniel's being thrown into the lion's den? How do these men respond? Why?

8. Why do you think Paul appealed to Caesar?

Day 4: Read Acts 25:13-26:18 and John 3:16-21.

9. Why did God send Paul to the Gentiles?

10. Why is it that the Gentiles needed light? How do people naturally respond to light and darkness? Why?

Day 5: Read Acts 26:19-32, James 2:14-26, and Romans 10:1-4.

11. Like the rest of us, Paul was given the Great Commission by Christ. Here he claims he has been obedient to the commission or the "heavenly vision." How does Paul's obedience demonstrate his faith?

12. What is Paul's hope for Agrippa, the Jews, and for all that hear him—then or today?

Acts Lesson 22
Acts 27:1-28:10 Paul's Voyage and Shipwreck; Malta

Day 1: Read Acts 27:1-20, Matthew 14:22-33, and Romans 8:12-29.

1. Paul had been told (Acts 23:11) that he would go to Rome. How does he fare as he follows the path God laid out for him?

2. The apostles follow Jesus' command to take the boat, as does Peter when he is told to walk on water. What happens to them? How does Peter respond in the midst of his trial?

3. Why do Christians suffer? How are we to respond to and find comfort in suffering?

Day 2: Read Acts 27:21-24.

4. How does God make Himself and His will known to Paul in his time of trial at sea?

5. How does God make it possible today for Christians to be anchored to His presence and His will to sustain us in the trials we face in this life?

Day 3: Read Acts 27:21-24, Psalm 24:1-2, Song of Solomon 2:16, John 10:14-18, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Ephesians 5:22-32, and 1 Peter 1:13-25.

6. How does Paul describe his relationship with God? What is Paul's description of his response to his relationship? Why do you think he responds this way?

7. How is it that Paul and all Christians belong to God?

8. In what ways is the Christian's relationship with God described in Scripture? How are we to respond to that relationship?

Day 4: Read Acts 27:24-44.

9. It is one thing to believe in the existence of God, another thing to believe and trust in what he says. How does Paul exhibit belief and trust in this passage?

10. Why do you believe God? Why do you believe in His promises and that He will do what He says He will do?

Day 5: Read Acts 28:1-10.

11. After the snake bit the Maltese thought of Paul as one who deserved to die. Then, when he lived, they thought of him as a god. How do we see similar misunderstandings of Christians by unbelievers today?

12. Paul was used by God as a blessing to those around him in the midst of a storm and as a prisoner. How might God use you in any trials you might be facing today?

Acts Lesson 23
Acts 28:11-31 Rome at Last

Day 1: Read Acts 28:11-16.

1. R. Kent Hughes suggests today's passage sums up Paul's "unconquerable spirit" and says there are three parts of this: vision, faith, and perseverance. Describe Paul's vision of the Jews (Romans 9:2ff), the Gentiles (Romans 15:18-20), our reconciliation (Ephesians 2:11-22), and Christ (Colossians 3:1-4).
2. Describe Paul's faith using passages we have read in Acts (including 27:21-26) and other passages in Scripture such as 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.
3. Describe Paul's perseverance using passages we have read in Acts (including 28:17-28) and other passages in Scripture.

Day 2: Read Acts 28:16-31.

4. Paul starts his explanation to the Jews in the passage with the Kingdom of God, just like John the Baptist (Matthew 3:2) and Jesus (Matthew 4:17) did. What do you learn about the Kingdom of God from Paul in Romans 14:17, 1 Corinthians 4:20, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 1 Corinthians 15:50, Galatians 5:21, Colossians 4:11, and 2 Thessalonians 1:5?
5. Paul says that Isaiah had through the Holy Spirit rightly prophesized about the Jews. In Isaiah 6:8-10, God even told Isaiah to "Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes." How is that God can harden people's hearts (Exodus 7:17) yet still hold them responsible for the disbelief and sin?

Day 3: Read 2 Timothy 4:6-22.

6. Also read Romans 12:1. Paul said he was “already being poured out as a drink offering.” R.C. Sproul said that Paul “was making a reference to the Old Testament sacrifice system [where] animals were offered in sacrifice [and their] blood was poured out on the altar.” Paul knew that he could add nothing to the perfect sacrifice of Jesus. Why might he have said this?
7. Paul wrote, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” Go back through Acts and find some examples of each of these metaphors in Paul’s life.

Day 4: Reread 2 Timothy 4:6-22.

8. Also read James 1:12. Describe in your own words what Paul is referring to when he says there “there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day.”
9. The crown of righteousness is not only going to be given to Paul, “but also to all who have loved his appearing.” Do you love the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ? Is this crown also for you? How do you know?

Day 5: Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Acts 2:42-47, 1:6-8, & 28:23-31, and 2 Corinthians 8:3-5 & 9:13-14.

10. R. Kent Hughes suggests there are three distinct focuses of an “Acts 29” church: upward (worship), inward (care for the body), and outward (discipleship to the world). How do you see each of these described or displayed in today’s readings?