

“The Acts of the Apostles”

Local Group Meetings

Hillcrest Bible Church

September 2018

Introduction: “The Acts of the Apostles”

The book of Acts tells the story of the early church. It begins with the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven and the disciples waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Shortly before His departure, Jesus told His disciples “... *but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).”*

The first part of this statement emphasizes the necessity of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of the church. You will notice many references to the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts – more than any other book in the Bible. Over half of the biblical references to the “Holy Spirit” are contained in Luke’s writings – 13 in his gospel and 40 in his book of Acts. This strong emphasis has led some commentators to suggest that “The Acts of the Apostles” should be more appropriately named “The Acts of the Holy Spirit”. His ministry was to exalt Jesus Christ and ensure the success of the gospel ministry. Clearly, the church was established and is sustained and protected by the mighty power of the Spirit of God.

The second part of the above Acts 1:8 statement reveals the progression of the church. The disciples were called to be the authoritative “witnesses” of Jesus Christ. This ministry began with the church in Jerusalem (Acts 2-7), continued with the church in Judea and Samaria (Acts 8-12), and then concluded with the church in all the world (Acts 13-21). Finally, the last part of Paul’s ministry (Acts 21-28) followed the same pattern of Jerusalem, Judea, and the ends of the earth, namely Rome. The establishment of the church will continue until the gospel ministry is completed through the many faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ.

The book of Acts describes only the early stages of the church, but the work of the ministry has continued throughout church history – and will continue in our day until the gospel ministry is completed. Our challenge is to follow the example of the early church in being faithful to the truth of God’s Word and dependent upon the mighty power of God. Jesus Christ promised, “*I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it*” (Matthew 16:18). Let us pray that the work of the church will continue to prosper to the glory of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Outline

Acts 1:8 “... but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Acts 1	The Ascension and the Apostles
Acts 2-7	The Church <u>in Jerusalem</u>
Acts 8-12	The Church <u>in all Judea and Samaria</u>
Acts 13-28	The Church <u>to the Ends of the Earth</u>
13-14	The 1 st Missionary Journey / Paul, Barnabas, John Mark (Jerusalem)
15:1-35	The Jerusalem Council / Paul, Barnabas
15:36-18:22	The 2 nd Missionary Journey / Paul, Silas, Timothy (Lystra), Luke (Troas), Aquila & Priscilla (Corinth)
18:23-21:14	The 3 rd Missionary Journey / Paul, Silas, Timothy (Lystra), Luke (Troas), Aquila & Priscilla (Corinth), Apollos (Ephesus), Sopater (Berea), Aristarchus and Secundus (Thessalonica), Gaius (Derbe), Tychicus and Trophimus (Asia)
21:15-23:35	Paul in Jerusalem: <u>in Jerusalem</u>
24-26	Paul in Caesarea: <u>in Judea</u>
27-28	Paul in Rome: <u>to the ends of the earth</u>

Memory Work:

Lessons 1-9	Matthew 16:18
Lessons 10-18	Luke 24:46-48
Lessons 19-27	Acts 1:7-8
Lessons 28-36	Acts 4:12
Lessons 37-45	Acts 16:14
Lessons 46-54	Acts 20:24
Lessons 55-57	Acts 1:7-8 (review)

QUESTIONS FOR LESSONS

1. Describe the historical events in this passage. What is happening?
2. What does this passage reveal about Jesus Christ – the gospel of Christ?
3. What does this passage reveal about the ministry of the Holy Spirit?
4. What does this passage reveal about evangelism and the gospel ministry?
5. What does this passage reveal about the church and church life?

Lesson Schedule

Kickoff @ Hillcrest **September 5**

The Beginning of the Church – “The Ascension” September 12

1) Acts 1: 1-11

The Beginning of the Church – “The Anticipation” September 19

2) Acts 1: 12-26

The Church in Jerusalem – “The Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost” September 26

3) Acts 2: 1-13

The Church in Jerusalem – “The Sermon Explaining the Coming” October 3

4) Acts 2: 14-36

The Church in Jerusalem – “The Great Awakening” October 10

5) Acts 2: 37-47

The Church in Jerusalem – “The Sign of the Lame Walking” October 17

6) Acts 3: 1-10

The Church in Jerusalem – “The Sermon Explaining the Sign” October 24

7) Acts 3: 11-26

The Church in Jerusalem – “The Persecution and the Defense” October 31

8) Acts 4: 1-22

The Church in Jerusalem – “The Worship of the Church in Unity” November 7

9) Acts 4: 23-37

The Church in Jerusalem – “The Church’s Struggle on the Inside” November 14

10) Acts 5: 1-11

Thanksgiving Break

November 21

Christmas Advent Lessons

Nov 28, Dec 5, 12 and 19

Christmas Break

December 26

The Church in Jerusalem – “The Church’s Struggle on the Outside” January 2 (combined)

11) Acts 5: 12-26

The Church in Jerusalem – “The Brave Witness and Bold Counsel” January 2 (combined)

12) Acts 5: 27-42

The Church in Jerusalem – “The Organization of the Church” January 9

13) Acts 6: 1-7

The Church in Jerusalem – “The Conflict with Stephen” January 16

14) Acts 6: 8-15

The Church in Jerusalem – “Stephen’s Witness of Defense (1)” January 23

15) Acts 7: 1-29 Abraham -> Isaac -> Jacob -> Joseph -> Moses

The Church in Jerusalem – “Stephen’s Witness of Defense (2)” January 30

16) Acts 7: 30-60 Moses -> Joshua -> David -> Solomon -> the Righteous One

The Church in Judea and Samaria – “The Scattered Church Preaching the Word ” February 6

17) Acts 8: 1-24

The Church in Judea and Samaria – “The Witness to a Gentile” February 13

18) Acts 8: 25-40

The Church in Judea and Samaria – “The Damascus Road” February 20

19) Acts 9: 1-19

The Church in Judea and Samaria – “The Hanging Basket” February 27

20) Acts 9: 20-31

The Church in Judea and Samaria – “Two Signs and Wonders ” March 6

21) Acts 9: 32-43

The Church in Judea and Samaria – “Two Visions” March 13

22) Acts 10: 1-23

The Church in Judea and Samaria – “The Sermon: Jesus Christ is Lord of All” March 20

23) Acts 10: 24-48

The Church in Judea and Samaria – “The Defense: Gentiles Received the Holy Spirit” Mar 27

24) Acts 11: 1-18

The Church in Judea and Samaria – “Christians in Antioch” April 3

25) Acts 11: 19-30

The Church in Judea and Samaria – “Deadly Persecution and Divine Deliverance” April 10

26) Acts 12: 1-17

Spring Bible Conference Break

April 17

The Church in Judea and Samaria – “Herod’s Death and the Church’s Advance” April 24

27) Acts 12: 18-25

The Church Worldwide – The 1st Missionary Journey May 1

28) Acts 13: 1-12 “The First Missionaries: Barnabas and Saul/Paul”

The Church Worldwide – The 1st Missionary Journey May 8

29) Acts 13: 13-41 “Jesus, a Savior to Israel”

The Church Worldwide – The 1st Missionary Journey May 15

30) Acts 13: 42-52 “Israel First: a Light for the Gentiles”

The Church Worldwide – The 1st Missionary Journey May 22

31) Acts 14: 1-18 “Persecution, the Lame Walk, and the Greek gods”

The Church Worldwide – The 1st Missionary Journey May 29

32) Acts 14: 19-28 “Angry Stones and an Open Door of Faith”

The Church Worldwide – The Jerusalem Council TBD

33) Acts 15: 1-21 “The Presentation to the Council”

The Church Worldwide – The Jerusalem Council TBD

34) Acts 15: 22-35 “The Resolution of the Council”

The Church Worldwide – The 2nd Missionary Journey TBD

35) Acts 15:36 -16:15 “A Sharp Disagreement and Church Growth”

The Church Worldwide – The 2nd Missionary Journey TBD

36) Acts 16: 16-40 “The Prison Ministry”

The Church Worldwide – The 2nd Missionary Journey TBD

37) Acts 17: 1-15 “Ministry at Thessalonica and Berea”

The Church Worldwide – The 2nd Missionary Journey TBD

38) Acts 17: 16-34 “Ministry at Athens: an Altar to an Unknown god ”

The Church Worldwide – The 2nd Missionary Journey TBD

39) Acts 18: 1-22 “Ministry at Corinth and Ephesus”

The Church Worldwide – The 3rd Missionary Journey TBD

40) Acts 18:23 -19:20 “Apollos at Ephesus and Corinth: Paul at Ephesus ”

The Church Worldwide – The 3rd Missionary Journey TBD

41) Acts 19: 21-41 “Paul in Asia: Artemis/Diana of the Ephesians”

The Church Worldwide – The 3rd Missionary Journey TBD

42) Acts 20: 1-16 “Paul in Greece, Troas and Miletus: Eutychus”

The Church Worldwide – The 3rd Missionary Journey TBD

43) Acts 20: 17-38 “Paul and the Ephesian Elders”

The Church Worldwide – The 3rd Missionary Journey TBD

44) Acts 21: 1-14 “Paul and Philip: the prophecy of Agabus”

The Church Worldwide – Paul in Jerusalem TBD

45) Acts 21: 15-26 “Paul and the Jewish Christians”

The Church Worldwide – Paul in Jerusalem TBD

46) Acts 21: 27-40 “The Arrest of Paul”

The Church Worldwide – Paul in Jerusalem TBD

47) Acts 22: 1-21 “The Defense of Paul before the Jews”

The Church Worldwide – Paul in Jerusalem TBD

48) Acts 22: 22-30 “Jewish Disorder and Roman Citizenship”

The Church Worldwide – Paul in Jerusalem TBD

49) Acts 23: 1-11 “The Sanhedrin and the Resurrection: the Word of the Lord”

The Church Worldwide – Paul in Jerusalem TBD

50) Acts 23: 12-35 “The Plot and the Journey”

The Church Worldwide – Paul in Caesarea TBD

51) Acts 24: 1-27 “Paul before Felix”: Two Years Passed”

The Church Worldwide – Paul in Caesarea TBD

52) Acts 25: 1-27 “Paul before Festus: ‘I appeal to Caesar’: King Agrippa”

The Church Worldwide – Paul in Caesarea TBD

53) Acts 26: 1-32 “Paul before King Agrippa: Almost a Christian”

The Church Worldwide – Paul to Rome TBD

54) Acts 27: 1-26 “Paul in the Storm at Sea: the Word of the Lord”

The Church Worldwide – Paul to Rome TBD

55) Acts 27: 27-44 “Paul in the Shipwreck: All Safe on Land”

The Church Worldwide – Paul to Rome TBD

56) Acts 28: 1-15 “Paul at Malta: the Viper and the Ministry”

The Church Worldwide – Paul to Rome TBD

57) Acts 28: 16-31 “Preaching the Kingdom of God and Teaching the Lord Jesus Christ”

Wrap-up @ Hillcrest TBD