

ACTS

THE MOVEMENT BEGINS

A SIX WEEK STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

Reading Plan and Discussion Questions

As we prepare to embark on our journey into the Book of Acts, there are a few things that would be good to keep in mind. First, read Acts as fulfilling promises of the Old Testament. Prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Joel all prophesied of things that would come about during this time. Second, read this as a transitional book, going from the old covenant (Law) and merging into the new (Grace). Lastly, be prepared that some things we will study are 'descriptive', others are 'prescriptive'. Some things are recorded for our benefit, to try and replicate, others are included because they are history. Enjoy your time of study, and I look forward to journeying with you.

- Pastor Mike

WEEK 1

Sunday, September 10th

Acts 1:1-11

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

COMPANION READING

—Acts 1:12-26

—John 16:5-7

—Ezekiel 36:24-28

—Daniel 7:13-14

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (for family or small group discussion):

1. Christ instructed His followers to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promised Holy Spirit. What impact does waiting have on promises? What is the benefit of waiting with others?
2. The Spirit gives power to witness. How is witnessing related to discipleship?

WEEK 2

Sunday, September 17th

Acts 2:1-21

"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh..."
Acts 2:17a

COMPANION READING

—Matthew 3:11

—2 Chronicles 7:1-3

—Romans 10:9-13

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (for family or small group discussion):

1. The coming of the Holy Spirit was accompanied by a show of power. In what ways are we so distracted by life that only grand displays of power capture our attention? Have we missed the Spirit's moving by our inattention?
2. Do you believe that signs and wonders are the most effective way to reach the lost today?

WEEK 3

Sunday, September 24th

Acts 2:22-39

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.'" Acts 2:38-39

COMPANION READING

—1 Corinthians 15:1-19

—John 14:15-18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (for family or small group discussion):

1. Peter's witness was largely made up of citations from Scripture. Why is this important?
2. Peter's witness did not include his personal story of coming to faith. Why? What are the dangers of relying too heavily on our testimony rather than conveying truths about Christ?

WEEK 4

Sunday, October 1st

Acts 2:40-47

"And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts." Acts 2:46

COMPANION READING

—Acts 3:1-26

—John 17:20-22

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (for family or small group discussion):

1. God added to their number day by day because of the sharing and caring exhibited by the group. How can we love others in a way that God would send disciples our way?
2. Do you feel equipped to share the Gospel? If not, how can you *live* as though you really believe what Peter says?

WEEK 5

Sunday, October 8th

Acts 4:1-22

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

COMPANION READING

—John 15:20

—2 Timothy 3:12

—1 Peter 4:12-13

—Daniel 3:14-18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (for family or small group discussion):

1. The Jewish rulers and elders were astonished by the boldness of the otherwise unimpressive men, making the connection that they'd been with Jesus. Do others attribute our boldness to our connection with Christ?

WEEK 6

Sunday, October 15th

Acts 4:23-37

"And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to Your servants to continue to speak Your word with all boldness." Acts 4:29

COMPANION READING

—Malachi 3:8-11

—Deuteronomy 14:28-29

—Deuteronomy 15:7-11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (for family or small group discussion):

1. Is it our tendency, after witnessing mighty works of God, to pray immediately for more? Do we have appropriate expectations for God's continued work?
2. How can we, as groups and individuals, have more courage and boldness in being used by God?