

Week 1

Introduction to Week 1:

Acts is the story of God's grace flooding out to the world. **Nothing is more prominent in Acts than the spread of the gospel.** Jesus promises a geographic expansion at the outset, and Acts follows the news of his death and resurrection as it spreads from a small group of disciples in Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and the faraway capital of Rome.

Through the repeated preaching of the gospel to different people groups, the gospel of grace draws them in, constitutes them as the church centered on the grace of Jesus, and then sends them out in mission to the world. **Acts is a historical account of how the resurrection of Jesus changes everything through the birth of the early church.**

God is clearly central to the gospel's expansion. He is at the heart of the gospel message and, through the Holy Spirit, he is responsible for its remarkable growth. **The gospel expands not through human strength but through the power of God over significant barriers of geography, ethnicity, culture, language, gender, wealth, persecutions, weaknesses, suffering, sickness, and imprisonments.** Many of these barriers appear so inviolable that, when the gospel is preached to a new segment of society, riots ensue. But Acts makes clear that no one is beyond the scope of God's saving power, nor is anyone exempt from the need for God's redeeming grace.

Day 1: Genesis 1; focusing on verses 27 and 28

In the first chapter of Scripture we find God's 'divine mandate' to Adam and Eve, that they are to be his heirs to the Garden of Eden. In these verses what do we find that God mandates Adam and Eve to do?

As God's image bearers are fruitful and multiple and fill the earth, what does this tell us about God and the spreading of his own likeness?

What does God's mandate to Adam and Eve tell us about the heart of God?

Day 2: Luke 23:1-25

Acts is the second part of a two-volume work, with the Gospel of Luke being the first volume. The Gospel of Luke ends with Jesus's crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension which will be the launching pad for the Book of Acts.

Put yourself in the shoes of Jesus's disciples as we read about his crucifixion. As the disciples witness the trial and crucifixion of the man they have come to believe and trust is the Messiah and Savior, what is the impact on their faith? What would your reaction have been?

Day 3: Luke 23:26-56

Jesus had taught a great deal about the kingdom of God but the disciples are witnessing his death. How can the kingdom of God advance if the man God sent has been crucified? What confusions would you have struggled with if you were one of Jesus's disciples?

Day 4: Luke 24:1-35

The spark that lights the wildfire of the book of Acts starts with, "but when they went in they did not find the body of Jesus Christ." There is an angst filled with excitement in these verses, what did you feel as you read the first half of this chapter? If what Jesus said about his death and subsequent resurrection were true, what does this mean for the advancing of God's kingdom? If death cannot hold the man God sent to advance his kingdom, what can hinder the advancement God's rule and reign?

Day 5: Luke 24:36-52

Jesus appears to his disciples and gives them a similar mandate to what we find in Genesis 1; "Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations...You are witness of these things."

Like the divine mandate in Genesis 1, God's mandate is to send his image bearers and believers to "proclaim his name to all nations beginning from Jerusalem." If you were one of Jesus's disciples having witnessed his teaching, crucifixion, death, and resurrection; what would you reaction to Jesus's mandate have been?

What does Jesus's command to proclaim his name to all the nations say about the heart of God?

Week 2

You Will Be My Witnesses

Acts 1:1-26

Day 1: Acts 1:1-5

Day 2: Acts 1:6-10

Day 3: Isaiah 43:1-13 focusing on verse 10

Day 4: 1 John 1:1-10 (focusing on verse 1-3)

Day 5: Acts 1:12-26

After Each Daily Reading, ask these questions:

What do these verses teach me about God?

What do these verses say about me?

Is there anything I can apply today?

Week 3

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-47

Day 1: Acts 2:1-13

Day 2: Acts 2:14-47

Day 3: Genesis 11:1-9

Day 4: Romans 3:9-26

Day 5: 1 Corinthians 1:-18-31

After Each Daily Reading, ask these questions:

What do these verses teach me about God?

What do these verses say about me?

Is there anything I can apply today?

Week 4

Growing Witness and Opposition

Acts 3:1-5:42

Day 1: Acts 3:1-26

Day 2: Acts 4:1-22

Day 3: Acts 4:23-37

Day 4: Acts 5:1-16

Day 5: Acts 5:17-42

After Each Daily Reading, ask these questions:

What do these verses teach me about God?

What do these verses say about me?

Is there anything I can apply today?

Week 5

Stephen

Acts 6:1-7:60

Day 1: Acts 6:1-15

Day 2: Acts 7:1-30

Day 3: Acts 7:30-60

Day 4: Deuteronomy 18:15-22

Day 5: 2 Corinthians 5:21

After Each Daily Reading, ask these questions:

What do these verses teach me about God?

What do these verses say about me?

Is there anything I can apply today?

Week 6

Saul

Acts 8:1-9:31

Day 1: Acts 8:1-25

Day 2: Acts 8:26-40

Day 3: Isaiah 53:1-12

Day 4: Acts 9:1-19

Day 5: Acts 9:20-31

After Each Daily Reading, ask these questions:

What do these verses teach me about God?

What do these verses say about me?

Is there anything I can apply today?

Week 7

The Gospel to the Gentiles

Acts 9:32-12:25

Day 1: Acts 9:32-43

Day 2: Acts 10:1-33

Day 3: Acts 10:34-48

Day 4: Acts 11:1-30

Day 5: Acts 12:1-25

After Each Daily Reading, ask these questions:

What do these verses teach me about God?

What do these verses say about me?

Is there anything I can apply today?

Week 8

Paul and Barnabas Are Sent

Acts 13:1-14:28

Day 1: Acts 13:1-25

Day 2: Acts 13:26-41

Day 3: Acts 13:42-52

Day 4: Acts 14:1-18

Day 5: Acts 14:19-28

After Each Daily Reading, ask these questions:

What do these verses teach me about God?

What do these verses say about me?

Is there anything I can apply today?

Week 9

The Jerusalem Council

Acts 15:1-35

Day 1: Acts 15:1-21

Day 2: Matthew 11:25-30

Day 3: Acts 15:22-35

Day 4: Galatians 2:1-21

Day 5: Galatians 4:1-5:1

After Each Daily Reading, ask these questions:

What do these verses teach me about God?

What do these verses say about me?

Is there anything I can apply today?

Week 10

Paul's Second and Third Missionary Journeys

Acts 15:36-21:16

Day 1: Acts 15:36-16:15

Day 2: Acts 16:16-17:34

Day 3: Acts 18:1-19:41

Day 4: Acts 20:1-38

Day 5: Acts 21:1-16

After Each Daily Reading, ask these questions:

What do these verses teach me about God?

What do these verses say about me?

Is there anything I can apply today?

Week 11

The Gospel Goes to Rome

Acts 21:17-25:27

Day 1: Acts 21:1-26

Day 2: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Day 3: Acts 21:27-40

Day 4: Acts 22:1-23:11

Day 5: Acts 23:12-35

After Each Daily Reading, ask these questions:

What do these verses teach me about God?

What do these verses say about me?

Is there anything I can apply today?

Week 12

The Gospel Goes to Rome

Acts 25:27-28:31

Day 1: Acts 24:1-25:27

Day 2: Acts 26:1-32

Day 3: Acts 27:1-44

Day 4: Acts 28:1-31

Day 5:

Has Acts brought new clarity to your understanding of the grace of God? If so, how?

Were there any particular passages or themes in Acts that brought the gospel home to you in a fresh way?

Were there any biblical connections that you made through Acts that you hadn't noticed before?

What development has there been in your view of who Jesus is and how he fulfills the Old Testament?