

Assigned for Mission.

Acts 1:1-12

PRAY for wisdom and insight; **READ** the passage; **THINK** over these questions; **SHARE** the answers with your Growth Group.

1. Who wrote Acts? He refers to his former book. What is that book? (v1)
2. What was the content of the former book? (v1-4)
3. Read the first four verses of the former book. What do these verses tell us about the accuracy of both that book and Acts?
4. What promise did Jesus leave with his followers? (v5)
5. What task did he leave for his followers? (v8)
6. Share an encouraging or discouraging experience of bearing witness to Jesus. What things can you glean from these experiences to help you in your task of sharing the message of the gospel?
7. What are the biggest obstacles for you when it comes to bearing witness to Jesus?
8. The writer of Acts (and his former book) seeks to give us certainty in the claims of the gospel. How might these truths strengthen your resolve and confidence as you are faced with the task take the name of Jesus to the ends of the earth?

Equipped for Mission.

Acts 1:12-2:13

PRAY for wisdom and insight; **READ** the passage; **THINK** over these questions; **SHARE** the answers with your Growth Group.

1. What would be your response if you were there to see Jesus being taken up to heaven? (v9)
2. Why do you think the angels told the disciples not to stand around staring up in the sky? (v10-11) What was Jesus' instruction for them to do? (v4b) How might the command not to stare up toward heaven but to go and do what has been instructed be a reminder to us as to the nature of the task Jesus' followers have now?
3. What things were the disciples given to as they waited in Jerusalem? (v12-26)
4. What did the disciples understand that they were to do? (v21-22)
5. In v26 we read of the last occurrence of the apostles seeking to be led by the casting of lots. How might the coming of the Spirit in chapter 2 render this method of seeking God's will obsolete?
6. With the coming of the Spirit the disciples were given the ability to speak in other tongues. How did this enable them to begin fulfil the task that Jesus had given them before he ascended into heaven (cf 1:8)?
7. What does 2:9 tell us about the nature of this gift of tongues? What does it tell us about the ultimate target of the gospel? (cf 1:8)
8. What was the message? (v11b) What would be the content of our message as we declared the wonders of God?
9. Although there were people who spoke many different languages what does v5 tell us about their nationality? How does this fit with God's ordained order of things? (cf Rom 1:16)
10. Even though there was a great miracle what were the responses of the crowd? (v11-12) How might this observation help us in our attempts to declare the wonders of God?

New Community.

Acts 2:14-47

PRAY for wisdom and insight; **READ** the passage; **THINK** over these questions; **SHARE** the answers with your Growth Group.

1. The crowd has gathered because they have noticed something unusual (2:6). What does Peter do? (v14) There are some people who state that they will simply testify to Jesus through living a life which is obviously different. While this is certainly expected from the follower of Jesus how does the crowd's reaction Peter's response show the need for something more?
2. Read Luke 24:44-49. What city are they in and who does Peter address? What is happening here in Acts?
3. What religious background does the crowd have? What is the content of Peter's message? (v17-21; v25-28; v34b-35).
4. What proofs does Peter put forward that Jesus was the one foretold in the Scriptures? (v22-24)
5. In v36 Peter declares that Jesus is who? Discuss what it means that Jesus has both of these offices. How must this truth shape our witnessing? How does this truth compel us to witness?
6. Comment on the nature/character of the early church. In what ways would we do better to reflect these things? In what ways are we already doing some of these things?
7. What aspects of these verses are descriptive (simply telling us what happened)? What aspects would you say are prescriptive (teaching us what should happen)?
8. What was the basis of these people responding in this way? What would you say is the basis of our gatherings?

Peter presents the Gospel.

Acts 3:1-26

PRAY for wisdom and insight; **READ** the passage; **THINK** over these questions; **SHARE** the answers with your Growth Group.

1. Why do you think Peter and John were going to the temple to pray (v1)?
2. What things do you find amazing about the account of the healing of the cripple man (v2-10)? Are we presented with any specific directions or commands or promises here regarding healing?
3. How did Peter and John use this opportunity (v11, 12)? To whom does Peter turn people's attention? (v12-13)
4. What strikes you about Peter's approach of presenting Jesus to the gathering crowd? (v13-26)
5. Identify the main points in Peter's presentation of the gospel message.
6. What aspects of gospel presentation can we glean from this account?

Peter defends the Gospel.

Acts 4:1-31

PRAY for wisdom and insight; **READ** the passage; **THINK** over these questions; **SHARE** the answers with your Growth Group.

1. What were some of the things that lead to the Sanhedrin getting upset at Peter and John? (1-4) What was the result?
2. What does v4 say about the power of the gospel? In what ways do we doubt the power the gospel has to overcome hostility?
3. In v12 we have a verse we have probably heard and used many times. What does the context of this verse do for our clearer understanding?
4. What is the issue of confusion for the Sanhedrin in vv13-17?
5. What is it that is causing confusion in the ranks of the Sanhedrin? (15-22)
6. How is v28 significant in the context of this whole passage?
7. If your life was threatened as a result of preaching the gospel, what excuses might you come up with to tone it down or stop completely?
8. How does this passage reiterate the power of the gospel? Has the gospel lost any of its power since the time of Acts?
9. How might we better trust in the power of the gospel?

Counter Attack.

Acts 4:32-6:7

PRAY for wisdom and insight; **READ** the passage; **THINK** over these questions; **SHARE** the answers with your Growth Group.

1. When have you ever had or undergone a radical change?
2. What proof of a radical change do we see in vv32-35? What evidence do we have here to see that something supernatural is taking place?
3. What is the supernatural phenomenon taking place here? Why is it necessary that we have the Holy Spirit?
4. How do we go about using the gift of the Holy Spirit that God has given us? How do you go in using the gift of the Holy Spirit that God has given you?
5. How does Barnabas (v36) show that he is living up to the calling of God on his life?

Read 5:1-10

6. How is Ananias and Sapphira's action here seen as sin? They did give some of the money to the church after all.
7. With the example of Ananias and Sapphira and if we read about Achan in Joshua 7 what is the standard that God is setting in the formation of His people?
8. What is the message we get here about false worship and deceiving the family of God?
9. What hypocrisy might we as the church be guilty of these days? What is going to be the result of all hypocrisy?

A message to die for.

Acts 6:8-8:1

PRAY for wisdom and insight; **READ** the passage; **THINK** over these questions; **SHARE** the answers with your Growth Group.

1. Are you religious? What is the difference between religion and Christianity?
2. Why would people want to oppose Stephen given the way he is introduced to us in 6:8?
3. What are the charges trumped up against Stephen? Who else was charged with similar charges?
4. What is Stephen's response to the charges? What familiar theme do we pick up during Stephen's sermon/history lesson?
5. Stephen doesn't place the law or customs or the temple at the centre of things, what is it that Stephen is all about?
6. What is it that God's deliverers always seem to have in common? (Moses, Joseph, prophets, Jesus, Stephen etc)
7. What does this say about the message? If the message is so unpopular, which it seems to be, how is it that it has been going for so long?
8. Religion seems to put God in a box and make rules on how we approach Him. As evangelicals what are the boxes that we need to be careful we don't cram God into?
9. How does religion show itself to be God's worst enemy?

On to Samaria.

Acts 8:2-40

PRAY for wisdom and insight; **READ** the passage; **THINK** over these questions; **SHARE** the answers with your Growth Group.

1. What does it take for enemies to be reunited?
2. Samaria and Israel were the best of enemies. What happened when Phillip went down to Samaria? (8:4-8)
3. What power of the gospel is seen in 8:9-13? Has the gospel lost any of its power today?
4. How does the power of the gospel give us confidence in sharing it and living it?
5. Look back through Acts so far. Note down some of the obstacles that have been faced by those promoting the gospel. How has this affected the growth of gospel ministry? What forces are able to stop or slow gospel growth? How does this encourage us in our endeavours to reach out with the good news of Jesus?
6. Who is outside the power of the gospel? 8:12-13
7. Again what is Phillip's 'go to' plan when it comes to talking to the eunuch? (34-40)
8. What confidence do the actions of men like Phillip give us when it comes to talking to people in our community?

Two down (one to go).

Acts 9:1-39

PRAY for wisdom and insight; **READ** the passage; **THINK** over these questions; **SHARE** the answers with your Growth Group.

1. Can you think of a time when things didn't seem to be going as planned, but have turned out ok or even better than what was expected?
2. By the end of chapter 8 we see the gospel is making huge inroads into new areas. Why might 9:1-2 be cause for concern for the gospel?
3. What are the obvious opposition to the gospel in our world?
4. What are some examples of the more subtle or camouflaged opposition to the gospel?
5. Saul was very passionate about his cause. What realisation is he brought to in 9:3-9?
6. What do the words of Jesus say about His relationship to the church? How might this be a wake up call to us today? (1 John 4:20-21 might help with this.)
7. Saul undergoes a huge transformation in 9:10-19? what does this show us about the power of Jesus? How do we see God's plan for His gospel continue to come about? (15-16)
8. We see here how God's gospel certainly gives 'new sight' to people. How has the gospel changed your view on things and the way you look at thing differently?
9. Do you trust that God will bring about His purposes and use His people?
- 10 Paul is told there will be a cost to following Jesus. What are some of the costs of following Jesus that we face? How do we handle this cost?

It went where!?!

Acts 9:32-11:18

PRAY for wisdom and insight; **READ** the passage; **THINK** over these questions; **SHARE** the answers with your Growth Group.

1. What was the Jewish fear of being unclean? How does 10:9-16 debunk their myths?

2. Do we have people in mind that are 'unclean' according to us? We are called not to be of the world, don't fall into the practices of the ungodly. Does this mean that they are outside the scope of God's plans?

3. Who is clean in God's sight? How are we made clean?

4. What was Peter's big lesson from this strange trance?

Read 10:34-44

5. How is the power of the gospel seen in Peter's dealings with Cornelius?

6. How has Peter's view seemed to have changed in regard to who salvation is for? (34-36)

Read 11:1-18

7. What was the problem the Jewish brothers had with Peter? (1-3)

8. What is Peter's conclusion in v17? What does it mean that God does not show favouritism?

9. The gospel is preached many, many times in these chapters. What is the response to the life saving message each time?

10. How can we should that we trust the power of the gospel?

God's hand at work.

Acts 11:19-12:24

PRAY for wisdom and insight; **READ** the passage; **THINK** over these questions; **SHARE** the answers with your Growth Group.

1. The people of God seem to be spread far and wide. But rather than suppressing the message, it seemed to spread further. (Another futile attempt by man to try and stop the unstoppable gospel)

What was the problem the Jewish brothers had in regard to the gospel message? (1-3)

2. What was the result of the persecution of the church? (19-21) What does this show us about the power of God and the way He uses the gospel?

3. What was the result of Barnabas being sent to Antioch? (22-24)

4. The Jews still outnumbered the Christians in chapter 12. What is Herod's take on the Christian movement? (1-5)

5. How do we see the worldly kingdom at work in 12:1-20?

6. How does God's Kingdom respond?

7. What are the differences between the two kingdoms and the way they work?

8. What ways do we see God's Kingdom at work today? What opposition does this kingdom face?

9. In the face of opposition, how are you encouraged through the unstoppable gospel?

Read 1 John 2:15-17

10. What are the dangers of loving the world we live in?