

Acts

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Garden Women

GROW IN THE SON 2 PETER 3:18

WELCOME TO OUR BIBLE STUDY!

PURPOSE: Learning the truths of the Bible and applying them to our lives.

We'll meet together for worship and a message on Acts. Then, we'll break up into small groups to discuss the homework we completed for the week and to pray with and for each other.

PREPARING YOUR LESSON:

1. The only book you will need to answer the questions is the Bible.
2. Pray before you begin your study. Ask God to help you understand and He will do this for you. Write out your answer.
3. As you read the homework, make it a point to underline Scripture. Write thoughts and personal applications that have been helpful to you.
4. If you have problems with your lesson, call your leader. She is there to help you.
5. Keep in mind that the more time you can put into the study, the more you will get out of it.

PARTICIPATING IN A SMALL GROUP:

1. If you are new to Bible study, do not be disturbed if you are not able to answer every question. As you study, you will pick up speed in doing your lessons. You will also build up your understanding of the Bible and will soon discover that you are able to enjoy and answer more and more questions each week.
2. Be willing to share personal experiences or ways in which the Lord has helped you. Your experience may be just the encouragement someone in your group will appreciate and find helpful. Because time is short, be brief so others will have time to share.
3. If you tend to be talkative, please do not monopolize the discussion. Give quiet people a chance to express themselves also. If you are timid, you do not need to participate in the discussion until you feel comfortable.
4. There may be people from different churches in your discussion group. Make it a point not to discuss other churches or other pastors. We discuss only the Bible questions and what they mean to us personally.
5. Please do not bring other materials to share.
6. If you represent a business or other endeavor, this is not the time or place to promote or sell.

REMEMBER –WHAT IS SAID IN THE GROUP, STAYS IN THE GROUP!

Acts

BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

February 1	Week 1	Bible Study & BBQ Welcome and Introduction
February 8	Week 2	Acts 1 - 2
February 15	Week 3	Acts 3 - 5
February 22	Week 4	Acts 6 - 8
March 1	Week 5	Acts 9 - 11
March 8	Week 6	Acts 12 - 14
March 15	Week 7	Acts 15 - 17
March 22	Week 8	Acts 18 - 20
March 29	Week 9	Acts 21 - 24
April 5	Week 10	Acts 25 - 28

Acts

INDUCTIVE STUDY HELP

This year our homework format will be similar to what we did through the study of First Timothy. My heart, in going through the book of Acts in this more inductive manner, is that we would grow together in our ability to simply sit down, read the word of God, understand what He is saying, and then walk it out in the power of the Holy Spirit. I know that this method may be a challenge to some, so I wanted to give you some tools that may be helpful to you as we begin our journey through Acts together! Listed below are just a few different ways to study a passage. I find these helpful as I prepare a Bible study, so I hope that as we dig into these verses together that you will find them helpful too!

Let's read this through, pray this in, and walk it out together as we journey together through the book Acts. Let's remember as we dig into this book that all the promises in Christ are yes and amen!

Love, Christy

Saturation | Investigation | Explanation | Application

Saturation:

1. Read the passage through several times. Consider reading a variety of translations.
2. Read before and after passage to keep context.
3. Write down any thoughts or questions you may have.

Investigation:

1. Who is speaking; who is the author?
2. To whom is he speaking?
3. What is the reason or purpose for writing?
4. What is the background?
5. List facts.
6. Identify any contrasts.
7. Are there any repeated words or phrases?
8. Identify any metaphors or analogies.
9. List key words or phrases. Look them up in a dictionary, or even on Google.
10. Ask these six questions: Who? What? Where? Why? When? How?
11. Is there a list of anything? (e.g. Galatians 5- Fruit of the Spirit)

12. Is there a description given?
13. Is there a quotation used? If so, where is it taken from and to what is it referring?
14. Is there a progression or digression?
15. What does this passage tell me about God the Father, Jesus the Son, the Holy Spirit?
16. Identify the main point of the passage.
17. What does the author want to communicate?

Meditation:

1. Think on the passage.
2. Pray about the passage.
3. Make notes as you think about it. (phone, iPad, sticky notes, etc.)

Application:

1. Is there a command to obey?
2. Is there a promise to claim?
3. Is there a warning to heed?
4. Is there an example to follow or avoid?
5. What does this passage mean to me?
6. Is there an action or attitude I need to take or change? (Do I need to forgive someone?, etc.)
7. What lessons or applications can be drawn from this passage?

Acts

GREAT TOOLS AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.preceptaustin.org

www.biblegateway.com

Warren Wiersbe's "Be Dynamic" and "Be Daring" commentaries on Acts

Halley's Bible Handbook

Jon Courson Application Bible Commentary

The Book of Acts

Dear Precious Friend,

I'm pretty sure I begin every letter by saying how excited I am to study this new book with you girls; and just like always, I AM EXCITED! There is no greater adventure than living a life that is completely sold out for Jesus. As Paul says of God in Acts 17:28, "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being." The book of Acts is filled with the adventures of the lives of people that were willing to surrender all they were to Jesus, and to live, move, and find their being within Him alone. We'll see lives being saved, demons being cast out, repentance flooding into hearts, hope and joy filling lives! We will see people receiving the gifts of the Spirit and learning what it means to walk in His power, having God's protection through dangerous perils, and so much more!

Sometimes it seems as though God doesn't move through His people the way He did in the book of Acts, but that's just not the case! We have to remember that though it seems there is nonstop adventure, miracles, repentance, and salvation packed into every chapter, the book of Acts actually follows a span of 28 years contained within its 28 chapters, and there are twenty recorded miracles that take place. So, if you think about it, you're looking at multiple disciples that God worked through in miraculous ways a few times within each of their lifetimes, and that seems a little more doable, doesn't it? God is not done working and moving within His church, and He wants to use you to accomplish great things!

D.L. Moody was greatly moved when he heard this quote by Henry Barley: "The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him."

D.L. Moody's response to that quote was an aim to be as consecrated to God as he could be, and it's my prayer that our response to the book of Acts will be the same. There was nothing magical or supernatural about the people that God used in this book. The only thing that made them great was their openness to yield to the supernatural power that God had to offer them. And friend, that same power from the same God is waiting for us today and is available to flood our lives by just simply asking for it. I pray that this book would be as life-changing for us as it was for the people who lived it. God is ready to use you in a mighty, world-changing way. So, are you ready to change the world through Him as we dive into the book of Acts together?

Love,
Christy Duff

Acts

CHAPTER 1 & 2

Dear Precious Friend,

Acts Chapters 1-2 cover the acts of the Holy Spirit and birth of the early church. Jesus commanded His followers to make disciples of all nations in Luke 24:46-49, and Acts 1:8 restates that commission with equipping, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Jesus fulfilled His words in Matthew 16:18, “I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” when the early church was born. The same Holy Spirit empowers us today to bear witness to Jesus Christ before all the earth for salvation “that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved” Acts 2:21.

Chapter 1 begins with a prologue, or introduction, referring to a “former account” written to a man named Theophilus. Early tradition identifies Luke as the author continuing his account about Jesus to Theophilus from Luke 1:3. Next, a section on the promised Holy Spirit gives insight to the preparations and meaning for the Holy Spirit’s coming. The Holy Spirit, the Promise of the Father, declared by Jesus, sets itself apart from the water baptism by John the Baptist, and will empower disciples to carry the gospel throughout the world. Following the promised Holy Spirit, Jesus ascends, or gets “taken up,” to heaven completing His earthly ministry while the apostles watch and take hope, as we do, in the promise from Acts 1:11, that “This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven. After Jesus’ ascension, waiting in prayer and supplication for the promised Holy Spirit, Peter addresses the need to replace Judas Iscariot as “written in the Book of Psalms: ‘Let another take his office’” Acts 1:20. Two qualifications required this man to have accompanied the apostles from the beginning of Jesus’ ministry eye-witnessing His miracles and teachings and eye-witnessing His resurrection. Seeking God in prayer then casting lots by faith, Matthias was chosen. What tremendous wisdom, understanding, and guidance the Word of God and prayer provided the apostles then and us still today, when we chose to live by faith and obedience!

In Chapter 2, the Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost, a major Jewish festival, also known as “the Day of Firstfruits.” This Pentecost symbolized the day of firstfruits for Christ’s church marking the beginning of the great soul harvest who will come to know Christ and unite together through the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit attracted a crowd with the sound like a rushing wind and disciples speaking in tongues, or in the original Greek, “diverse languages.” Jews, gathered from other nations in Jerusalem for the festival, witnessed the wonderful works of God through the disciples praising Him in their native languages. Some marveled and wondered what it meant, while others mocked the disciples for drunkenness. Peter gives a sermon addressing the crowd with truth and respect. He refutes accusations about the disciples’ drunkenness, explains prophecy from Joel in the Old Testament promising a time when all who followed God would receive His Spirit, and presents proofs from David’s psalms

concluding Jesus as both Lord and Christ. Peter's sermon cut to men' hearts leading them to ask "what shall we do?" Like Peter, can we lead others to salvation with the same answer he gave? "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all" Acts 2:38-39. Following Peter's sermon, the church grew exponentially creating increased needs and responsibilities including training large groups and bringing them into fellowship with other believers, teaching right doctrine, training in fellowship, or learning to share in the lives of other believers, and training in the breaking of bread and prayer. As the early church, so too today, may we learn to commit ourselves to Jesus Christ and each other in the power of the Holy Spirit working together united in the body of Christ.

Love,
Melissa Witte

Acts

CHAPTER 1 & 2

This week find what works for you! You can be thorough and answer one or two questions a day, gleaning deeply from this section; or you can answer multiple questions in multiple days. Maybe you have a busier week but have time to take a few notes and answer a couple of the questions that pop out to you. Or maybe you just have time to read the passage a few times this week, but don't forget to still come and participate in group whether you get your homework done or not! We love you; we know Jesus has great things for you through this, and we're praying that He speaks to you in a mighty way through this section of Scripture!

Love,
Christy

**Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin, and then read Acts 1 & 2.
If you have a little bit of extra time, try to read it in a couple of different translations.**

1. As you read through this week's chapters., look for and highlight the following key words if they appear: God, Holy Spirit, Jesus, believe, saved, salvation, church, witness, and any others you see as important. List what you learn about the highlighted words. Is there anything you noted that you can apply to your life or by which you can be encouraged?

2. List what you learn about the events in this week's chapters by asking these types of questions: What is going on? Who is involved? Where is it taking place? How is God using the circumstances to draw people to Himself?

3. Acts 1:8 says, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and the end of the earth." Do you see any examples this week of the Holy Spirit giving power to the disciples? Is there anything you observe about the Holy Spirit and His ministry through these chapters?

4. The Holy Spirit's power is given to us so that we can be His witnesses everywhere we go. Is there something from the chapters we're studying this week that you can be ready to share with someone who needs to hear about Jesus? Take a few minutes to pray and ask God to give you the opportunity to share it. We can't wait to hear your God-stories!

5. Are there problems faced or sacrifices made this week by our friends in Acts? How were they handled, what was the result, and in what ways can they apply to your own commitment to be a servant of Christ?

6. In Acts 1:4-5, what did Jesus command and promise? (Chapter 1)

7. We have the same promises the disciples were given as believers in Jesus. From Acts 1:8, what two promises did Jesus give them that He also gives us? (Chapter 1)

8. Write the promise that was given in Acts 1:11. (Chapter 1)

9. Jesus' disciples were together to celebrate Pentecost. What had Jesus promised His disciples in John 14:16-18? (Chapter 2)

10. That promise was fulfilled in Acts 2:2-4 by what three external signs of the coming of the Holy Spirit? (Chapter 2)

11. In Acts 2:38, write Peter's quotes and underline the promise that was given. In the next verse, write the promise using your own name. (Chapter 2)

Acts

CHAPTER 3 - 5

Dear Precious Friends,

There are so many amazing events and valuable insights in the three chapters you are about to experience, far too many to include in this letter! I encourage you as you read this biography, which may even seem repetitive to you if you are already familiar with these events, to really put yourself in the shoes of these individuals. If you are anything like me, you may find your experience simultaneously inspiring, encouraging, convicting (gulp), and stirring introspective questions.

Chapter 3 opens with Peter and John being asked for alms by a lame man outside the temple. In our world, this might be like a panhandler interrupting our errands to ask for money. Peter and John weren't able to help the man with what he asked. They could have simply said "no" and kept walking or avoided eye contact and pretend they didn't see him. But they saw through what he perceived his need to be, which was money, and helped him on a far deeper level. They also specifically told him the help came in the Name of Jesus Christ.

When people come to us with a perceived need, do we stop and address their true need? Do we tell them we are helping them in the Name of Jesus?

The miracle God performed through them attracted the attention of the masses who were impressed by their gift of healing. Rather than bask in the adoration, they seized the chance to tell about the Source of their gift, their Savior, their Lord, Jesus.

If someone gives us adulation, do we point them to Jesus or do we take the credit? Is it our accomplishment, or is it God's accomplishment that He has graciously allowed us to participate in?

Peter and John's bold evangelism upset the church leaders. Thankfully, we at The Garden Fellowship are not under this sort of misdirected leadership! But evangelism and speaking the Truth landed these two in jail and they were required to defend themselves against the church leaders. This looks like a recipe for utter disaster! Peter, who very recently denied Jesus three times out of fear he would also be arrested (Luke 22:54-62, Matthew 26:69-75), is now boldly defending himself and John against the very same individuals who sentenced Jesus to death! Where did that boldness come from? It came from being filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:8, Luke 12:11-12).

Are we sincerely asking and then allowing the Holy Spirit to fill us and give us boldness to proclaim Jesus?

Precious friends, as we pray and interact with the Holy Spirit, we need to be sincere in our hearts. Throughout this section of Scripture, you will see the amazing things that very ordinary

people can accomplish by being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. We also see some devastating consequences of trying to lie to the Holy Spirit. It is said that we “can fool all of the people some of the time and fool some of the people all of the time.” Make no mistake, there is no fooling God. There is no sense in trying to pretend with Him or hide things from Him, because He sees straight into our thoughts and our heart. (1 Samuel 16:7, Proverbs 21:2, 1 Corinthians 4:1-5)

The Holy Spirit is ready and willing to reveal great things to you and accomplish great things through you. I pray that you read and study with sincere expectation, and just see what He has planned for you!

Love,
Karin Hesseltine

Acts

CHAPTER 3 - 5

This week find what works for you! You can be thorough and answer one or two questions a day, gleaning deeply from this section; or you can answer multiple questions in multiple days. Maybe you have a busier week but have time to take a few notes and answer a couple of the questions that pop out to you. Or maybe you just have time to read the passage a few times this week, but don't forget to still come and participate in group whether you get your homework done or not! We love you; we know Jesus has great things for you through this, and we're praying that He speaks to you in a mighty way through this section of Scripture!

Love,
Christy

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin, and then read Acts 3 - 5.

If you have a little bit of extra time, try to read it in a couple of different translations.

1. As you read through this week's chapters., look for and highlight the following key words if they appear: God, Holy Spirit, Jesus, believe, saved, salvation, church, witness, and any others you see as important. List what you learn about the highlighted words. Is there anything you noted that you can apply to your life or by which you can be encouraged?

2. List what you learn about the events in this week's chapters by asking these types of questions: What is going on? Who is involved? Where is it taking place? How is God using the circumstances to draw people to Himself?

3. Acts 1:8 says, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and the end of the earth." Do you see any examples this week of the Holy Spirit giving power to the disciples? Is there anything you observe about the Holy Spirit and His ministry through these chapters?

4. The Holy Spirit's power is given to us so that we can be His witnesses everywhere we go. Is there something from the chapters we're studying this week that you can be ready to share with someone who needs to hear about Jesus? Take a few minutes to pray and ask God to give you the opportunity to share it. We can't wait to hear your God-stories!

5. Are there problems faced or sacrifices made this week by our friends in Acts? How were they handled, what was the result, and in what ways can they apply to your own commitment to be a servant of Christ?

6. In Acts 3:19, Peter tells the people to repent and be converted. What is the promise that is given to those who do repent? (*Chapter 3*)

7. A covenant is a promise (vs. 25). God kept His promise to the Jews when He sent their Messiah, Jesus. What is the promise to the Christian today in John 13:1-4? (*Chapter 3*)

8. God's Word leads to repentance, restoration and refreshing. Share some ways God has restored and refreshed you this week. (*Chapter 3*)

9. How did Peter and John have such boldness and courage (vs. 8-12)? (*Chapter 4*)

10. What absolute truth did Peter declare (vs. 12)? (*Chapter 4*)

11. Write the promise we can claim from 2 Timothy 1:7. (*Chapter 4*)

12. Peter confronted the sin of Ananias and Sapphira and said they had lied to whom (vs. 1-11)? (*Chapter 5*)

13. What were the consequences of their sin? Do you think it needed to be so harsh? (*Chapter 5*)

14. How important is truthfulness to God in these two scriptures? (*Chapter 5*)

Psalm 101:7

Proverbs 12:22

Acts

CHAPTER 6 - 8

Dear Precious Friend,

Acts Chapters 6-8 discusses the story of a remarkable man. He was a servant to the Lord. He was noted to be full of wisdom and the Holy Spirit. This man, by the name of Stephen, was chosen by God to be the first of thousands of martyrs to die for the sacred name of Jesus.

During this time, the church in Jerusalem was rapidly growing. People were joining Christianity by the thousands. With the growing numbers, the Hellenists declared that their widows were not being taken care of as well as others. So, seven men were appointed to this task, Stephen being one of them. Stephen was noted to perform great wonders and signs among the people, and even proclaimed to fix his gaze up to Heaven and see Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. Of course, this would cause an uprising. People begin to falsely accuse him of speaking against the law and against Moses. But Stephen clearly lays it out for them, referencing names such as Joseph, Moses, David, and ultimately Jesus, in that these were all people God had sent, yet man rejected them one after the other. It is a clear picture how we can resist the Holy Spirit and the path God sets before us.

The synagogue eventually puts Stephen to death by stoning him. As he falls on his knees, crying out to Jesus, he says "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." It instantly reminded me of the first words Jesus spoke on the cross. "Father, forgive them." What a beautiful picture of the powerful grace of God, especially after following persecution. Because, with persecution, comes the most growth of the church. People scattered from Jerusalem, and preached wherever their feet took them, out into Judea and Samaria, throughout the Roman Empire, and further and further.

Stephen's death is a true example of being faithful to the Lord. He served in the ministry that God called him to, to serve tables and help widows. So, lovely ladies, remember to keep your gaze fixed on Heaven. Remember to be honored to serve in whatever ministry God calls you to. Remember to share the name of Jesus, and all that He represents. He wasn't a man that was stoned to death, away from the public eye. He was crucified publicly, for all to see, with arms stretched open, waiting to love us.

When you share the gospel, you are helping to keep dispersing the Church. And you never know who you are influencing! The one man who saw Stephen die, and would radically be changed by it, was Paul!

After all, friends, how beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news.

Love,
Caroline Fischer

Acts

CHAPTER 6 - 8

This week find what works for you! You can be thorough and answer one or two questions a day, gleaning deeply from this section; or you can answer multiple questions in multiple days. Maybe you have a busier week but have time to take a few notes and answer a couple of the questions that pop out to you. Or maybe you just have time to read the passage a few times this week, but don't forget to still come and participate in group whether you get your homework done or not! We love you; we know Jesus has great things for you through this, and we're praying that He speaks to you in a mighty way through this section of Scripture!

Love,
Christy

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin, and then read Acts 6-8.

If you have a little bit of extra time, try to read it in a couple of different translations.

1. As you read through this week's chapters., look for and highlight the following key words if they appear: God, Holy Spirit, Jesus, believe, saved, salvation, church, witness, and any others you see as important. List what you learn about the highlighted words. Is there anything you noted that you can apply to your life or by which you can be encouraged?

2. List what you learn about the events in this week's chapters by asking these types of questions: What is going on? Who is involved? Where is it taking place? How is God using the circumstances to draw people to Himself?

3. Acts 1:8 says, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and the end of the earth." Do you see any examples this week of the Holy Spirit giving power to the disciples? Is there anything you observe about the Holy Spirit and His ministry through these chapters?

4. The Holy Spirit's power is given to us so that we can be His witnesses everywhere we go. Is there something from the chapters we're studying this week that you can be ready to share with someone who needs to hear about Jesus? Take a few minutes to pray and ask God to give you the opportunity to share it. We can't wait to hear your God-stories!

5. Are there problems faced or sacrifices made this week by our friends in Acts? How were they handled, what was the result, and in what ways can they apply to your own commitment to be a servant of Christ?

6. Verse 8: Stephen, full of _____ and _____ did great _____ and _____ among the people. (*Chapter 6, NKJV*)

7. From Acts 6:10, what answer does Luke give for them disputing with Stephen? (*Chapter 6*)

8. What does this tell you about the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit? (*Chapter 6*)

9. What two things did Stephen see when he gazed into heaven (vs. 55)? (*Chapter 7*)

10. As they stoned Stephen, what did he say as he was calling on God (vs. 59)? (*Chapter 7*)

11. In verse 60, what can we learn from Stephen and his attitude toward his persecutors? (*Chapter 7*)

12. Stephen's death became a turning point for the infant church. What resulted? (*Chapter 8*)

13. According to verse 4, the scattered went _____ preaching _____ . (*Chapter 8, NKJV*)

14. When Peter and John were sent to Samaria, they prayed that the people would receive the Holy Spirit. According to John 14:16-17, what does the Holy Spirit do? (*Chapter 8*)

Acts

CHAPTER 9 - 11

Dear Precious Friend,

As I read through Acts 9-11, these words kept coming to mind: faith over fear. The men in these chapters amaze me. When the Lord said “go” they went, regardless of life-threatening situations. And, through their obedience, the gospel was taught to Jews AND Gentiles; “And a great many people were added to the Lord” Acts 11:24. I want faith and boldness like them!

I love that God chose the most broken man (Saul / Paul) to use in such mighty ways. It is so easy to get discouraged or feel incompetent as a Christian. But do not allow the enemy to lie to you! “...I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us” Philippians 3:13. Friends, please know you are never too lost or hopeless to be used by our loving Creator. You are loved and cherished!

Love,
Michelle Hitt

Acts

CHAPTER 9 - 11

This week find what works for you! You can be thorough and answer one or two questions a day, gleaning deeply from this section; or you can answer multiple questions in multiple days. Maybe you have a busier week but have time to take a few notes and answer a couple of the questions that pop out to you. Or maybe you just have time to read the passage a few times this week, but don't forget to still come and participate in group whether you get your homework done or not! We love you; we know Jesus has great things for you through this, and we're praying that He speaks to you in a mighty way through this section of Scripture!

Love,
Christy

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin, and then read Acts 9 - 11.

If you have a little bit of extra time, try to read it in a couple of different translations.

1. As you read through this week's chapters., look for and highlight the following key words if they appear: God, Holy Spirit, Jesus, believe, saved, salvation, church, witness, and any others you see as important. List what you learn about the highlighted words. Is there anything you noted that you can apply to your life or by which you can be encouraged?

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5. Are there problems faced or sacrifices made this week by our friends in Acts? How were they handled, what was the result, and in what ways can they apply to your own commitment to be a servant of Christ?

6. After Saul consented to Stephen's death, (chapter 8), he continued to threaten and murder disciples of the Lord. Write what Jesus said to Saul in verses 4 and 5. (*Chapter 9*)

7. Instead of entering town as a blinding wind of persecution, how did Saul enter Damascus? (*Chapter 9*)

8. Give the reason the Lord tells Ananias to go to Saul (vs. 15, 16), and the two events that will happen (vs. 17). (*Chapter 9*)

9. After God uses Peter to bring salvation to the Jews and the Samaritans, He now will use Peter to open the eyes of the Gentiles. What does Peter say in verse 34? (*Chapter 10*)

10. Verse 43: ... through His name, _____ believes in _____ will receive _____ of sins. (*Chapter 10, NKJV*)

11. Record what happens in verses 44 and 46 to the Gentiles. (*Chapter 10*)

12. Who were the first to be called Christians and in what town (vs. 26)? (*Chapter 11*)

13. What did Agabus say that the Holy Spirit showed him? (*Chapter 11*)

14. In the next verse, how did the disciples respond? (*Chapter 11*)

Acts

CHAPTER 12 - 14

Dear Precious Friend,

People often reminisce on the good old days of life, when times were good and when God really did a marvelous work in the world. It would be great to know these are “the days” while we are actually in them. Well, when I was reading over Acts 12-14, I realized that we ARE in the “good old days.” In Chapter 13, Paul reminds us of the prophet’s warning to not miss out – “... For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn’t believe even if someone told you about it.” Right now, God is at work in our community, in our church, in my heart, and in your heart. We don’t have to look back at past “Jesus movements” and say “those were the days when God did something great...”; we can say that now. I know at times I’ve been so deaf that I didn’t hear the words that He was telling me, to preach the Word in season and out. And here’s the funny thing about it: when we speak the Word in love, He says that it will not return void. He’s good for it, so we have nothing to lose.

In these chapters we actually see practical ways in which the Lord is working and using us. We see the Lord leading Peter as he blindly followed by faith out of prison. Then we see that his friends were praying, likely for his safe return. And one last thing we see is what happens when we don’t give God the glory, when we decide not to participate, or when we go against the work God is doing. We see that His Word still goes out and multiplies, with or without us. The latter resulting in a missed opportunity of being part of that beautiful work firsthand, a blessing so many are often too shy to collect.

So, my sisters, are you all in? These are the good old days we have been given and we ought not waste them!

Love,
Bryn Hebert

Acts

CHAPTER 12 - 14

This week find what works for you! You can be thorough and answer one or two questions a day, gleaning deeply from this section; or you can answer multiple questions in multiple days. Maybe you have a busier week but have time to take a few notes and answer a couple of the questions that pop out to you. Or maybe you just have time to read the passage a few times this week, but don't forget to still come and participate in group whether you get your homework done or not! We love you; we know Jesus has great things for you through this, and we're praying that He speaks to you in a mighty way through this section of Scripture!

Love,
Christy

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin, and then read Acts 12 - 14.

If you have a little bit of extra time, try to read it in a couple of different translations.

1. As you read through this week's chapters., look for and highlight the following key words if they appear: God, Holy Spirit, Jesus, believe, saved, salvation, church, witness, and any others you see as important. List what you learn about the highlighted words. Is there anything you noted that you can apply to your life or by which you can be encouraged?

2. List what you learn about the events in this week's chapters by asking these types of questions: What is going on? Who is involved? Where is it taking place? How is God using the circumstances to draw people to Himself?

3. Acts 1:8 says, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and the end of the earth." Do you see any examples this week of the Holy Spirit giving power to the disciples? Is there anything you observe about the Holy Spirit and His ministry through these chapters?

4. The Holy Spirit's power is given to us so that we can be His witnesses everywhere we go. Is there something from the chapters we're studying this week that you can be ready to share with someone who needs to hear about Jesus? Take a few minutes to pray and ask God to give you the opportunity to share it. We can't wait to hear your God-stories!

5. Are there problems faced or sacrifices made this week by our friends in Acts? How were they handled, what was the result, and in what ways can they apply to your own commitment to be a servant of Christ?

6. Herod began persecuting the church. Whom did he martyr and how? (*Chapter 12*)
7. Write what happened after Peter was arrested and put in prison (vs. 5)? (*Chapter 12*)
8. James was martyred but Peter was delivered. What thought does that bring to your mind about God's sovereignty? (*Chapter 12*)
9. Who sends Barnabas and Saul out to preach the word of God (vs. 4)? (*Chapter 13*)
10. Saul's name is changed and recorded for the first time in verse 9. What is his new name? (*Chapter 13*)
11. Read verses 10 and 11 and write what Paul was doing that made it necessary to be filled with the Holy Spirit. (*Chapter 13*)
12. Verses 8-10 record the healing of the man crippled from birth. What did Paul see that this man had? (*Chapter 14*)
13. How did Paul know this? See 1 Corinthians 12:8. (*Chapter 14*)
14. Verse 10: and he _____ and _____. Write the promise from Isaiah 35:6. (*Chapter 14, NKJV*)

Acts

CHAPTER 15 - 17

Dear Precious Friend,

Grace to you and blessings from the Lord.

As you read through these chapters, I hope that they can encourage you and be of great blessing as they were for me. God used Paul and other leaders to go out and clarify and strengthen other new believers. In Chapter 16 Paul and Silas are beaten and thrown into prison after setting a woman free of an evil spirit. Midnight comes and as they are praying and worshipping an earthquake shook the ground. Paul and Silas could have escaped but they remained in their cell. However, Paul and Silas were used by God to witness to the jailor as he was trying to hurt himself because he thought they had escaped. This jailor was about to lose his life but instead his new life and the life of his family was about to begin. He and his family were saved and baptized that night, God used a trial in the life of his servants to save this jailor and his household. May you and I continue through our trials being women of prayer and worship so that we can be an example to those around us.

Love,
Monica Garcia

Acts

CHAPTER 15 - 17

This week find what works for you! You can be thorough and answer one or two questions a day, gleaning deeply from this section; or you can answer multiple questions in multiple days. Maybe you have a busier week but have time to take a few notes and answer a couple of the questions that pop out to you. Or maybe you just have time to read the passage a few times this week, but don't forget to still come and participate in group whether you get your homework done or not! We love you; we know Jesus has great things for you through this, and we're praying that He speaks to you in a mighty way through this section of Scripture!

Love,
Christy

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin, and then read Acts 15 - 17.

If you have a little bit of extra time, try to read it in a couple of different translations.

1. As you read through this week's chapters., look for and highlight the following key words if they appear: God, Holy Spirit, Jesus, believe, saved, salvation, church, witness, and any others you see as important. List what you learn about the highlighted words. Is there anything you noted that you can apply to your life or by which you can be encouraged?

2. List what you learn about the events in this week's chapters by asking these types of questions: What is going on? Who is involved? Where is it taking place? How is God using the circumstances to draw people to Himself?

3. Acts 1:8 says, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and the end of the earth." Do you see any examples this week of the Holy Spirit giving power to the disciples? Is there anything you observe about the Holy Spirit and His ministry through these chapters?

4. The Holy Spirit's power is given to us so that we can be His witnesses everywhere we go. Is there something from the chapters we're studying this week that you can be ready to share with someone who needs to hear about Jesus? Take a few minutes to pray and ask God to give you the opportunity to share it. We can't wait to hear your God-stories!

5. Are there problems faced or sacrifices made this week by our friends in Acts? How were they handled, what was the result, and in what ways can they apply to your own commitment to be a servant of Christ?

6. After much discussion about circumcision of the Gentiles, what does Peter state in verse 8 and 9? (*Chapter 15*)

7. Record what Philippians 3:2-3 says about false teachers. Can we apply this principle today? (*Chapter 15*)

8. Review Acts 10:43, and write it here and then answer the question: who can come to the Lord? (*Chapter 15*)

9. Acts 16:25-31 records the events of Paul and Silas in prison. What were they doing at midnight? Who were listening and what do you think they might be thinking? (*Chapter 16*)

10. In verses 26-30 describe God's display of power, the jailer's panic and Paul's opportunity to preach. (*Chapter 16*)

11. What was the answer Paul and Silas gave to the question of the jailer (vs. 31)? (*Chapter 16*)

12. Acts 17:22-34 finds Paul on Mars Hill preaching repentance, resurrection and judgment. Write out the following verses on these subjects. These verses are foundational to our Christian walk and helpful to know when sharing the message of the gospel. (*Chapter 17*)

Repentance

Acts 17:30

2 Corinthians 7:10

Resurrection

John 6:40

John 11:25

Judgment

2 Corinthians 5:10

Romans 8:1

Acts

Dear Precious Friend,

CHAPTER 18 - 20

I often read the Bible as if it contains personal stories from close friends. Letters written of what has happened in their lives, filled with all the drama of their time, the joys among their congregations and the sufferings that come along with experiencing life. Acts, in particular, holds that place very well since it speaks in the context of stories being told from the perspective of experience. You have learned this, throughout the reading of it, and have come to discover that, in fact, it IS that because it was written by Luke to share the recordings of the beginnings of the church.

If unknown to you, as it was to me, our friend Luke became a believer after the Lord's resurrection. Meaning: that he wrote these accounts without knowing Jesus physically and came to hear the gospel, came to believe its power, and, in faith, lived his life for Jesus in the beginnings of a church that was just technically starting. He came to faith, in probably the hardest time to be a Christian. People were denying the gospel's power, Jesus' authority, the belief system that you can be born again, and literally being martyred. Can you imagine that? Realistically, if this was happening at the time I came to know Jesus, which was modern day 2010, this faith would sound insane to die for (did I mention I was 17 at that time? It totally would not have been cool). However, Luke did it.

In the next couple chapters, I encouraged you to make Luke a personal friend. To be curious about the founding of the Corinthian Church and the various trips traveled (Chapter 18), to get informed (and maybe even research like I did) of the political/social drama from Chapter 19, and to resonate with saying our goodbyes, like Chapter 20, to people that have made detrimental influence within our own church family.

The nerd in me wants to tell you history isn't boring and that it does tell us a lot and that Acts is *THE* book to learn about what not to do as a church body (big educational voice here). However, I acknowledge that a lot of us do not share the same itch to read various recorded accounts that feel like they don't apply to our life. And that's okay, because I know that if you made it this far to week eight, at times, especially if you are really going through it, reading the Bible feels like we are just reading someone's Cornell notes. But I say it again, make these next three chapters personal. Let the Holy Spirit tell you what He did in your older church family. Let Him tell you what He wants to do with you.

Maybe you won't be at the verge of starting political riots, but I do pray you are encouraged that what you believe is true. That the gospel is worth so much "trouble" because it is revolutionary to the heart and detrimental to the soul.

Praying the Lord works in the depth of your heart.
With so much love,
Sheyla Chea

Acts

CHAPTER 18 - 20

This week find what works for you! You can be thorough and answer one or two questions a day, gleaning deeply from this section; or you can answer multiple questions in multiple days. Maybe you have a busier week but have time to take a few notes and answer a couple of the questions that pop out to you. Or maybe you just have time to read the passage a few times this week, but don't forget to still come and participate in group whether you get your homework done or not! We love you; we know Jesus has great things for you through this, and we're praying that He speaks to you in a mighty way through this section of Scripture!

Love,
Christy

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin, and then read Acts 18 - 20.

If you have a little bit of extra time, try to read it in a couple of different translations.

1. As you read through this week's chapters., look for and highlight the following key words if they appear: God, Holy Spirit, Jesus, believe, saved, salvation, church, witness, and any others you see as important. List what you learn about the highlighted words. Is there anything you noted that you can apply to your life or by which you can be encouraged?

2. List what you learn about the events in this week's chapters by asking these types of questions: What is going on? Who is involved? Where is it taking place? How is God using the circumstances to draw people to Himself?

3. Acts 1:8 says, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and the end of the earth." Do you see any examples this week of the Holy Spirit giving power to the disciples? Is there anything you observe about the Holy Spirit and His ministry through these chapters?

4. The Holy Spirit's power is given to us so that we can be His witnesses everywhere we go. Is there something from the chapters we're studying this week that you can be ready to share with someone who needs to hear about Jesus? Take a few minutes to pray and ask God to give you the opportunity to share it. We can't wait to hear your God-stories!

5. Are there problems faced or sacrifices made this week by our friends in Acts? How were they handled, what was the result, and in what ways can they apply to your own commitment to be a servant of Christ?

6. In Corinth, Paul again goes to the synagogue and although some are saved, many oppose his message. What does Paul say in verse 6? (*Chapter 18*)

7. After great opposition, how is Paul encouraged in verses 7 and 8? (*Chapter 18*)

8. What does God say to Paul in a vision that gives him encouragement (9 and 10)? (*Chapter 18*)

9. Verses 1-7 record the disciples of John receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. What question does Paul ask and what was their answer? (*Chapter 19*)

10. In verse 4, what was Paul's explanation about John's baptism? In verse 5, what did this baptism represent? (*Chapter 19*)

11. These 12 men were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Paul laid hands on them and the _____ came _____ them and they spoke in _____ and _____. (*Chapter 19, NKJV*)

12. What does Paul say about his ministry in verses 19-21? (*Chapter 20*)

13. What does Paul say about his life goals in verse 24? Do they mirror your goals? (*Chapter 20*)

14. Write what Paul declares in verse 27. Who also repeats these words almost every Sunday? Reading the ONE YEAR BIBLE reinforces this!!! (*Chapter 20*)

Acts

CHAPTER 21 - 24

Dear Precious Friend,

In the beginning of Chapter 21, we see Paul heading to Jerusalem. On his way, he takes a couple stops to visit believers. Some shared prophetic messages from the Holy Spirit warning Paul to avoid Jerusalem. So, did our dear Paul compromise when he decided to continue his trip to Jerusalem? It is true, these prophetic messages could have been warnings, but they could possibly stand as messages to “get ready” instead of “don’t go.” We don’t know for sure, but we can applaud Paul for his courage to lay his life in the Lord’s hands and say “the will of the Lord be done.” May we as followers of Christ have the courage to do the same.

Later in Chapter 21, when Paul arrived in Jerusalem, a well-known dispute arose: should believers forsake the Law of Moses or not? Paul had already settled that problem by declaring that the same grace that gives Gentile believers freedom to abstain from certain traditions also gives Jewish believers freedom to observe them. Even with this declaration, good intentions turned into a temple riot all when some jumped to conclusions. It’s a solemn reminder not to allow certain biases or prejudices to cause us to jump to conclusions about others.

I personally title Chapter 22: Paul’s Testimony. As Paul stood before the crowd, he began to share his story: zealous Jew, arresting Christians, turned sold-out follower of Jesus. He boldly shared his conversion and new-found calling: missionary to the Gentiles. Friend, what is your testimony? Do you have a conversion story? I pray you boldly share your testimony for the glory of the Lord. There may be parts of the story you wish were erased, but look at Paul’s story in Chapter 22, God used every moment, both good and bad, to create a beautiful testimony of His grace.

In Chapter 23, we find Paul at a low point. Paul’s witness for Christ in Jerusalem led to legalistic Jews causing a riot in the temple. Also, his testimony before the Sanhedrin left them in confusion. Jesus met Paul in his discouragement. Acts 23 says, “The Lord stood by him and said, ‘Be of good cheer.’” The Lord’s message to Paul simply infers “take courage.” Friend, if this letter finds you at a “low point” now or in the future, may you find comfort knowing that Jesus will meet you where you are, and He will reveal His next steps for you. Following His encouragement to “be of good cheer,” Jesus promises Paul that he would go to Rome. Jesus met Paul’s discouragement and insecurities with His confidence. Friend, whatever confidence the enemy or the world may try to knock out of you, I pray our Jesus will meet you where you are, encourage you, and reveal His next steps for you.

Love,
Elizabeth Witte

Acts

CHAPTER 21 - 24

This week find what works for you! You can be thorough and answer one or two questions a day, gleaning deeply from this section; or you can answer multiple questions in multiple days. Maybe you have a busier week but have time to take a few notes and answer a couple of the questions that pop out to you. Or maybe you just have time to read the passage a few times this week, but don't forget to still come and participate in group whether you get your homework done or not! We love you; we know Jesus has great things for you through this, and we're praying that He speaks to you in a mighty way through this section of Scripture!

Love,
Christy

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin, and then read Acts 21 - 24.

If you have a little bit of extra time, try to read it in a couple of different translations.

1. As you read through this week's chapters., look for and highlight the following key words if they appear: God, Holy Spirit, Jesus, believe, saved, salvation, church, witness, and any others you see as important. List what you learn about the highlighted words. Is there anything you noted that you can apply to your life or by which you can be encouraged?

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3. Acts 1:8 says, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and the end of the earth." Do you see any examples this week of the Holy Spirit giving power to the disciples? Is there anything you observe about the Holy Spirit and His ministry through these chapters?

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5. Are there problems faced or sacrifices made this week by our friends in Acts? How were they handled, what was the result, and in what ways can they apply to your own commitment to be a servant of Christ?

6. What message did the Holy Spirit give Paul through the prophet Agabus in Acts 21:10-11? (*Chapter 21*)

7. How did Paul respond to the warning and pleas of his friends? (*Chapter 21*)

8. Verse 14 states "The will of the Lord be done." Write the encouraging words of Psalm 143:10. (*Chapter 21*)

9. From verses 3-5, write Paul's testimony of his childhood, his training, his religious zeal and his religious associations. (*Chapter 22*)

10. Paul continued with his testimony in verses 7 and 8. Write the words Jesus said to Paul. (*Chapter 22*)

11. Paul told the listening crowd Jesus had given him what command in Acts 22:21? How did the crowd respond? (*Chapter 22*)

12. After Paul's encounter with the Sanhedrin, what happened to Paul the following night? What did the Lord tell Paul, and how do you think this ministered to him (vs. 11)? (*Chapter 23*)

13. What do you learn from Isaiah 41:13? (*Chapter 23*)

14. Read Acts 23:31-35 and write how God fulfilled His promise to Paul from verse 11. (*Chapter 23*)

15. In verse 25, write the three topics Paul discussed with Felix and Drusilla.
(Chapter 24)

16. Why do you think Felix became afraid and sent Paul away (vs. 25)? (Chapter 24)

17. Felix avoided making a decision about Paul's case and about Paul's message. What is the danger of procrastination according to James 4:13-14? What are some excuses people give today to postpone making a decision for Christ? (Are there things in your life you are neglecting until a "more convenient" time?). (Chapter 24)

Acts

CHAPTER 25 - 28

Dear Precious Friend,

In this action-packed account of Paul's imprisonment in Caesarea, we see several things unfold: multiple court hearings with high-ranking officials, lies and accusations by certain Jews desiring Paul's death, Paul's testimony and radical transformation after encountering our risen Savior, Paul's courage in proclaiming the gospel to others, the lack of justice in the Roman courts by officials who knew of Paul's innocence, delays and imprisonment for over two years, another attempt to murder Paul thwarted, and Paul's appeal to Caesar (which the Lord used to bring Paul to Rome).

As I read through the chapters, God kept impressing on me the verses, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us RUN with ENDURANCE the race that is set before us. Let us FIX our eyes on JESUS, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. CONSIDER HIM who endured such hostility from sinners, so that you WILL NOT grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:1-3

I cannot imagine living in Paul's shoes. He endured SO many trials in his life. Just in these chapters, he was falsely accused of crimes by would-be murderers (these Jews tried to kill Paul multiple times, but God kept him safe). While they were pointing the finger at him and making up false accusations, Paul could have easily pointed the finger back at them for their crimes (but he didn't). He was also imprisoned for over two years waiting for justice that never came. And, on top of this, he had enemies who were actively planning ways to kill him. But what is Paul's reaction to these trials? He continues to fix his eyes on Jesus, to remember what Jesus did for him, and to RUN his race (the course Jesus set him on) with ENDURANCE, holding tightly to his faith in our Savior!!

Like Paul, we are also running a race. We each have different trials and an enemy who would love to throw our gaze onto something other than Christ. But may I encourage you to keep pursuing Him with endurance, to keep diving deeper in His Word, to cling tightly to His promises, to remember all that He has done and to trust Him to continue to take care of us. Just as Jesus never abandoned Paul, He will never abandon us. Keep pressing in closer to Jesus.

He is worth it!

Love,
Laura Singh

Acts

CHAPTER 25 - 28

This week find what works for you! You can be thorough and answer one or two questions a day, gleaning deeply from this section; or you can answer multiple questions in multiple days. Maybe you have a busier week but have time to take a few notes and answer a couple of the questions that pop out to you. Or maybe you just have time to read the passage a few times this week, but don't forget to still come and participate in group whether you get your homework done or not! We love you; we know Jesus has great things for you through this, and we're praying that He speaks to you in a mighty way through this section of Scripture!

Love,
Christy

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin, and then read Acts 25 - 28.

If you have a little bit of extra time, try to read it in a couple of different translations.

1. As you read through this week's chapters., look for and highlight the following key words if they appear: God, Holy Spirit, Jesus, believe, saved, salvation, church, witness, and any others you see as important. List what you learn about the highlighted words. Is there anything you noted that you can apply to your life or by which you can be encouraged?

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5. Are there problems faced or sacrifices made this week by our friends in Acts? How were they handled, what was the result, and in what ways can they apply to your own commitment to be a servant of Christ?

6. Festus succeeded Felix as governor. After hearing Paul and the accusations against him, what did Festus say was the heart of the case (vs. 19)? *(Chapter 25)*

7. Write your thoughts concerning this issue after reading 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. *(Chapter 25)*

8. How did Festus hope to resolve the situation? *(Chapter 25)*

9. In Acts 26:6, what reason did Paul give as to why he was on trial? *(Chapter 26)*

10. Write the promise made by God to the fathers as found in Isaiah 9:6. *(Chapter 26)*

11. From Acts 26:29, what was Paul's final message to the court? *(Chapter 26)*

12. Paul is on his way to Rome to stand trial as a Roman citizen. What does he say in verse 10? *(Chapter 27)*

13. After encouraging words to the men, what promise did the angel of God say to Paul in verses 23 and 24? *(Chapter 27)*

14. How was Paul's prophecy of Acts 27:22, 34 fulfilled in verse 44? *(Chapter 27)*

15. Even though Paul is now in custody in Rome, he continues to share. Give the reason Paul says he is in chains. *(Chapter 28)*

16. Because of their unbelief, what did Paul say would be done (vs. 28)? (*Chapter 28*)

17. How did Paul spend the next two years as seen in verse 31? How does this speak to you? (*Chapter 28*)

