



A Study of the Book of Acts

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6. Highlights of the book of Acts:

Acts begins with Jerusalem, the metropolis of Judaism, and ends in Rome, the metropolis of Gentile world power.

Peter is Christ's "key" man, opening the church first to the Jews at Pentecost and then to the Gentiles at Cornelius' house.

Acts focuses on the apostolic ministries of Peter, the apostle to the circumcised (Acts 1-13), and then Paul, the apostle to the uncircumcised (Acts 13 –28)..

Acts is a series of sermons about Jesus Christ tied together by historical narrative to demonstrate the purpose of the church, to proclaim Jesus Christ as the one and only Savior for all people, Jew or Gentile.

Acts also demonstrates that the growth of the church is completely dependent on the sovereign grace of God poured out into hearts through the Holy Spirit. Acts refers to the Spirit fifty-five times. To remove the Holy Spirit from the book of Acts would be like unplugging a computer or removing the battery from a vehicle. Someone has aptly called this book "The Acts of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit through the Apostles."

The book of Acts, however, is far more than a valuable historical document. It is a record of the unfolding of God's plan to bring people of all nations to Himself. It enables us to understand how the early believers made the transition from Judaism to Christianity, from a primarily Jewish constituency to a Gentile one, and from an expectation that Jesus would return very soon to the realization that His coming could be much later. The book of Acts therefore sets the stage for the epistles that follow it in the New Testament. (Discovery Series booklet)

Key verses in Acts:

Acts 1:8	Acts 20:24
Acts 2:42	Acts 20:28
Acts 4:12	Acts 26:18
Acts 10:38	

Why should you study the book of Acts? What do you expect to learn?

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 1:4-11 Empowering the Church for Her Mission

Memorize: Acts 1:8 "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."

Luke begins the Book of Acts with these words: "In my former book [meaning the Gospel of Luke] I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day that he was taken up to heaven." The Book of Acts then records the things that Jesus continues to do, and all of church history to this moment records the things that Jesus is still doing through his people. He is with his people, and he is working in and through them, to bring glory to himself. (Theodore A. Turnau III).

1. What command does Christ give to his disciples before leaving? Choose one: Enjoy your vacation? Build a megachurch? Find Greek therapists to help them deal with problems? Other: _____

2. What had the Father promised to give to Christ's disciples? _____. What do these verses say about this great promise?

Ezekiel 36:27	John 16:7-15
John 14:16-17	Luke 24:45-49
John 14:26	Galatians 3:14
John 15:26	Acts 2:24

3. According to vs. 6, what was on the apostles' minds when they gathered with Christ before His ascension? Why would this be a big issue for them (cf. v s. 3)?

4. How does Christ answer their question in vs. 7. What does his answer tell you about the sovereignty of God the Father? Are there implications concerning God's future dealings with the nation of Israel?

5. Why is the promise of the Father so important for the church according to vs. 8?

6. What is needed to fulfill Christ's commission for the church? Choose one: Radio program? TV evangelism? Website? Money? Other? _____.

7. What source of power and effects of this power do you discover in these verses?

2:4	5:3,9	8:29	13:52
2:33	5:32	9:17	15:8
2:38	6:3	9:31	16:6
4:8	7:55	10:44-45	20:28
4:31	8:15-17	13:2,4	28:25

8. Using the geographical areas identified in vs. 8, make a current application of relevant geographical areas for our church today. What is the church's responsibility to these geographical locations?

9. How do you explain the ascension of Christ? Where did He go? How does 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 relate to Acts 1:9-10?

10. What hope does Christ give this little band of followers as He sends them out to witness to a world hostile to the true gospel in this passage? What do you gain for your walk with Christ from His words?

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Acts 1:12-26 Waiting for the Spirit

1. From which geographical location did Christ ascend? What else happened at this site in the Bible?

1 Samuel 15:30	John 8:1
Luke 21:37	Matthew 26:30
Zechariah 14:4	Luke 19:37
Matthew 24:3	

2. How far is a Sabbath day's journey? See Exodus 16:27-30 and Joshua 3:4 for the origin of this Jewish idea. Using a Bible dictionary, discover how the Jewish rabbis invented ways of increasing this distance.

3. What kind of place was this upper room? Why would these early followers of Christ gather in this place to wait for the Holy Spirit?

4. What do you know about these people gathered together?

Peter	Matthew
John	James, son of Alphaeus
James	Simon the Zealot
Andrew	Judas, son of James
Philip	Women
Thomas	Mary*
Bartholomew	Jesus brothers (see Mk.6:3)**

5. What did they do while they waited for God's Spirit? What do you learn from this?

6. Why did Peter and not someone else stand up to take care of this problem of Judas' replacement?

7. What was Peter's view of the Old Testament based on vs. 16?

8. What happened to Judas? How does Peter describe Judas in vs. 17? How does this illustrate passages like Matthew 7:21-23 and John 15:6? See also John 6:70-71 and John 17:12.

9. What did Psalms 69 and 109 say that led Peter to initiate this action of choosing a replacement for Judas? Again, what does this teach us about the nature of Scripture?

10. What were the qualifications for being an apostolic candidate (vs. 22)?

11. What does the name Barsabbas mean?

12. Where does the practice of casting lots come from? See Leviticus 16:8; Joshua 18:10; Nehemiah 11:9; Psalm 22:18; Matthew 27:35. Why do you think we never read of casting lots again in the entire New Testament?

13. List two practical applications for your life from this passage of God's Word:

FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION:

* What is the source of the unbiblical teaching about Mary as mother of God, she herself being virgin born, her perpetual virginity, and her bodily assumption? How do you answer those who hold these views?

** Why does the Roman Catholic church deny that Jesus had any brothers or sisters?

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 2:1-13 The Spirit Is Poured Out

Merely A Coincidence?

The stage had been set by the Ancient of Days, the pattern laid out for all to see in the first of the mo-a-dim', these appointed spring-time festivals. The Messiah of Israel put aside His glory and joined the ranks of mankind, becoming the incarnate One. He "tabernacled" among us, as John's gospel said, and dwelt among His own creation. Then came the climax of His time on earth-the crucifixion. The battle had been waged in the events of the Passover week as He became both the bread and wine and the lamb of sacrifice that death might pass over both the Jewish believers and all mankind who accept Him by faith today. Three days and nights passed until the victory was declared. At First fruits, Jesus, the slain lamb, became the Savior, the first fruit of our resurrection; glorified and dedicated, conquering the power of sin and death forevermore. With great anticipation, we count the days from Passover to Pentecost and the birth of the church. The first harvest of humankind, 3,000 strong, issued in the new era of messianic revelation, a perpetual spring season that continues to permit germination, blooming, and growth. Is it merely a coincidence that these New Testament events correspond so perfectly to the pictures and lessons presented to us in the feast days? ("God's Spring Feasts," Discovery Series, RBC).

1. In what sense can the coming of the Spirit on Pentecost be compared with the birth account of Christ?
2. How did the apostles know the Holy Spirit had come? Why did God choose to use these phenomena in connection with the Spirit's coming? Do you see any symbolism in these physical manifestations?
3. What happened to these men as the Spirit filled them?
4. What was the reaction of the Jewish people living in Jerusalem? What amazed them?
5. From what geographical locations were these Jews? Why is this important for understanding what happened this day?

6. What exactly did these Jews hear from these men?

7. How would you defend the position that these tongues (glossalalia) were really foreign languages?

Note: "with other tongues" - glossai (vs. 4); "his own language" - dialekton (vs. 6); "our own language" - dialekto (vs. 8); "our own tongues" - glossai (vs. 11).

PONDER CAREFULLY:

1. Was this particular day of Pentecost ever repeated in history?

2. Why is this historical development so important for the existence and future of the church?

3. In what way does this day contrast with the Tower of Babel? What new message was God sending to the world through this day of Pentecost?

4. Should we be praying for a new Pentecost for the church today?

5. Should we be seeking the baptism of the Spirit?

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To the End of the Earth

Acts 2:14-36 Peter's Sermon

1. How did Peter answer the skeptics of v. 13?
2. How does Peter's behavior here differ from his behavior around the time of Christ's death (cf. Lu 22:54-62)? What caused the difference?
3. What time period is Peter referring to in his quotation from Joel (v. 17)?
4. What evidence did God use to show Jesus' deity (v. 22)?
5. How does v. 23 illustrate the truths of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility?
6. In v. 24, why was it not possible for Jesus to be held by death?
7. How is the Davidic oath fulfilled in Christ (v. 30-31)?
8. What is Peter's point in contrasting Jesus and David ?
9. How does Peter interpret the two portions of David's Psalms to which he refers (see vv. 31, 33-35)?
10. What does Peter's message tell you about the early church's view of the Old Testament?

11. Does Peter preach forgiveness without preaching the conviction of sin? How does Peter's content help us as we think about our own evangelistic efforts?

12. How "seeker-friendly" is Peter's sermon? How many times does Peter use the second person "you" and with what does Peter charge his audience?

13. How does he conclude his message? What impact would this have on his hearers?

Practical Application:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 – a chicken; 10 – a lion), how bold for Christ are you in the public arena? Compare your boldness and Peter's.

2. In light of the fact that God uses evil people for His purposes (v. 23), how do you respond to the evil people God has placed in your life?

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Acts 2:37-47 The Transforming Power of the Gospel

1. What was the effect of Peter's message on the people who heard? Do a word study on the word "pierced" in vs. 37 What does the question in vs. 37 indicate about the Spirit's converting work in the heart?

2. Explain what Peter meant in each part of his counsel to these people in vv. 38-40:

Repent -
Baptized -
Forgiveness -
Gift -
Promise -
You and your children -
All...far off -
Call to Himself -
Testified...exhorting-
Be saved -
Perverse generation -

3. Since we know God saves us by faith alone in Christ alone, how do you explain Peter's reference to baptism in verse 38? (Matthew 12:41 uses the preposition "for" (eis) to indicate "on the basis of.")

4. What five-step process (from v. 37-42) did God use to bring His elect from their lost condition to active members of this early church? Does God still work this way today?

1.	4.
2.	5.
3.	

5. List and explain the four activities to which these early eagerly devoted themselves (more on this verse next study):

1.
2.
3.
4.

6. What does "continually devoting themselves" (vs. 42) indicate about their hearts?

7. List the outstanding spiritual marks of this brand new body of believers (vvs. 43-47). In what ways does your involvement and participation with your church reflect similar qualities.

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Acts 2:42 First Things for Disciples

This verse highlights four spiritual practices to which these early believers were devoted. As a local church we want our purpose and ministries to be determined by God's Word. Take some time to reflect on what each of these practices means both for our church and for you personally.

Devoted to the Apostles' Teaching

Make a list what you consider to be the most important areas of biblical teaching for a new believer. What are the first two or three books of the Bible you would want them to study? What resources are you aware of for helping a new believer learn how to study their Bible?

Devoted to Fellowship

List several typical but wrong ideas of what "fellowship" is. Discover what the word "fellowship" means. Look up these verses as a word study: 2 Cor 6:14; Gal 2:9; Phil 2:1; Phile 1:6; 1 John 1:3, 6, 7. What practical forms does Christian fellowship take? How does fellowship help believers grow in Christ? What part does the church have in encouraging fellowship?

Devoted to Breaking of Bread

What does "breaking of bread" mean? Look up these verses from Acts to get a better picture of what "breaking bread" meant: Acts 2:46; Acts 20:6; Acts 20:7; Acts 20:11; Acts 27:35. What does this practice mean for us today? Why is this important for new believers? How can you be involved in breaking of bread?

Devoted to Prayer

Why is prayer so important in the Christian life? Check out these verses on prayer in Acts: Acts 1:14; Acts 6:4; Acts 6:6; Acts 9:11; Acts 10:30-31; Acts 11:5; Acts 12:5; Acts 12:12; Acts 16:25; Acts 21:5. If your church had a meeting strictly dedicated to time in prayer, would you attend? Would you participate? Why or why not?

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To the End of the Earth

Acts 2:46 Day by Day Christianity - Be in God's Word Every Day.

"The goal of preaching certainly is to make the Word of God clear and to proclaim the truth and teach the truth to you. But it also at the same time should stimulate you to want to take up the sword for yourself, take advantage of the tremendous opportunity you do have to come to grips with the great truth of Scripture." (John MacArthur)

Almost inevitably, when a believer is struggling more than normal and he/she is asked, "Are you getting into God's Word on a daily basis?" the answer is "No." These people knew the importance of being in the Word daily:

Job 23:12 -

Psalms 119:89 -

Matthew 4:4 -

Acts 17:11 -

Without God's Word you will tend to:	With God's Word you will:
Be spiritually weak Lose the reality of the Lord Make wrong decisions in key areas of life Be tossed around by every wind of doctrine Other -	John 14:15 - Colossians 3:16 - John 8:31 - John 8:32 - 1 John 2:14 - Ephesians 5:16 - Jeremiah 15:16 - Ephesians 6:17 - John 15:3 - Psalm 119:98-100 -

DAILY TIME IN THE WORD

A daily time in God's Word is different than in-depth Bible study, although one may lead to the other. A daily time in God's Word is a daily discipline of setting aside some time to open the Scriptures, read a portion of the Word, and lift your heart to God in prayer. Do you currently have this godly discipline in your life? ____
What time of the day? _____ What is your reading plan? _____

What are the goals of a daily time in God's Word based on Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:9-12?

IMPORTANCE OF A DAILY TIME IN GOD'S WORD

What does the word "profitable" mean in 2 Timothy 3:16 _____

In what four ways is God's Word profitable for your Christian life in v. 17?

1. _____ 3. _____
2. _____ 4. _____

How does God emphasize the importance of each day in our Christian lives in these passages:
Ephesians 5:16 _____ Proverbs 8:34 _____

Hebrews 3:13 _____ Psalm 90:12 _____

Spiritual growth, like physical growth, takes place on a daily basis. We eat to nourish our physical bodies every day. We need to feed on God's Word every day.

In a world bombarding us every day with godless counsel, we daily need to be reminded of God's perspectives, God's priorities, God's principles, godly practices, and godly counsel.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFICULTIES IN DEVELOPING THE HABIT OF BEING IN GOD'S WORD EVERY DAY?

1. Necessity - Do you really think it is necessary?

Josh 1:8 Then you will make your way _____, and then you will have _____.

Psa 1:2-3 And in whatever he does, he _____.

2. Schedule - Do you really have time for it?

Matthew 6:33 But _____ His kingdom and His righteousness.

Mark 1:35 And in the _____, while it was _____, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was _____.

Daniel 6:10 he continued kneeling on his knees _____ a day, _____ and giving _____ before his God, as he had been _____.

3. Useful - Will it really help me?

“ James 1:25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and _____, not having become a _____ but an _____, this man shall be _____ in what he does.

4. Heart - Do you have a heart to know God better?

“ Psalm 119:97 O how I _____! It is my meditation all the day.

STEPS FOR A PROFITABLE DAILY TIME IN GOD'S WORD

1. Supplies: Bible (readable translation), pen, and notebook.

2. Choose your time and location: See Psalm 5:3 for one suggestion _____

3. Select your passage - Many reading programs - choose and move! Avoid the hit and miss approach. "Judas went out and hung himself." "Go and do likewise." "What you do, do quickly." Read through epistles, New Testament, Old Testament. One chapter a day. It's all God's Word, but some parts are more practical - e.g., Philippians, Colossians, James, Ephesians, etc.

4. Look for basic truths from the passage.

1) Use good hermeneutics - 2 Timothy 2:15 - _____ handling the word of truth.

a. What is the c _____ of this verse or passage?

b. What is the precise m _____ of the words?

c. What does the rest of S _____ say about this subject?

2) For example, find three basic truths from Philippians 2:1-8

a.

b.

c.

5. Make practical applications of God's Word to your life: "How does this truth apply to my relationship to:

1) Christ?

6) My finances?

2) My partner?

7) My thought life?

3) My children?

8) My job?

4) Fellow believers?

9) My in-laws and other family relationships?

5) My church ministry?

10) My unsaved acquaintances?"

6. Conclude with prayer - especially about what you discovered in reading.

7. Take what you learn from God's Word with you as you move through the day, pondering how God's Word applies to your experiences and challenges - Psalm 1:2; Joshua 1:8 - "meditate on it _____ and _____.

8. Share what you learn from the Word with someone else - Hebrews 3:13 - "encourage one another _____ after _____. You might ask another believer to hold you accountable to be in God's Word on a daily basis.

Are you committed to being in God's Word every day? What changes do you need to make in your daily schedule?

The Christian's "Daily Dozen" in *Control Yourself*, D. G. Kehl, pp. 79-94

Daily prayer

Daily praise

Daily promise keeping (integrity)

Daily Bible Study

Daily Self-Denial

Daily Dying

Daily Renewal

Daily Fellowship

Daily Encouragement

Daily Witnessing

Daily Giving

Daily Vigilance

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 3 A Miracle and Message

1. 3:1 What does this verse imply about the practices of these apostles in these early day of the church?
2. Why were miracles necessary to Peter and John's ministry (cf. Jn 10:25; Jn 10:37-38; 2 Cor 12:12; Heb 2:3-4)?
3. 3:5-6 What spiritual truth do Peter's classic words illustrate?
4. 3:7-10 What does this incident reveal about God's providence and our needs and desires?
5. 3:10 What was the effect of the healing?
6. 3:6-10 How does Peter and John's healing of this beggar compare to the many purported "healings" of today?
7. 3:12 How did Peter view his contribution to this healing? Was it a result of his piety or power?
8. 3:16 Whose faith made this man well?
9. 3:20 What does the phrase "times of refreshing" mean? To when does it refer?

10. 3:26 What was Peter emphasizing by saying “sent him to you first”?

11. What implications does v. 23 contain regarding God’s sovereignty (and man’s responsibility)?

12. What are the similarities between this sermon and Peter’s sermon at Pentecost in chapter 2? What principles does this show us on sharing the gospel?

Practical Application

Do you spend more time praying for “gold and silver” or for greater things?

In what areas do you need to trust God’s providence over your plans and supposed needs?

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 4:1-22 Persecution Begins

1. What distinctive characteristics identified the Sadducees? Why were they upset with Peter and John?
2. What were the two effects of Peter's message in chapter three (ch. 4:2,4)? What does this reveal about the effectiveness of the gospel?
3. Who gathered to interrogate Peter and the others? What two questions did they ask? Can you make any comparisons between this interrogation and Martin Luther's interrogation at the Diet of Worms?
4. What promise of Jesus is illustrated in v. 8 with Peter's filling of the Holy Spirit? What was the effect of this filling for Peter?
5. What Old Testament passage does Peter use in his answer in vs. 11. How does this reference apply to his audience?
6. How does modern religious pluralism explain the way to God? How does vs. 12 refute modern religious pluralism?
7. What about Peter and John amazed the council in vs. 13? Does this description support the idea that pastors do not need seminary training? Explain your answer.
8. In vs. 13, why did they associate Peter and John with Jesus (cf. Jn. 7:15)?
9. Despite recognizing this healing as a "noteworthy sign," how does the council respond in v. 17? What does this reveal about the mind of the natural man?

10. How do Peter and John respond to the Council's command to stop teaching about Jesus? What principles do you find in their response to give believers direction when the gospel comes in conflict with the culture and human government?

Personal Application: How would you handle this kind of interrogation for your faith? List three or four practical lessons you learn from how Peter and John handled their situation.

1.
2.
3.
4.

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 4:23-37 Praying for Boldness

1. How does the congregation of believers react to Peter and John's report? What other responses were possible that would have been less glorifying to God?
2. Based upon vs. 25, how did these believers view the Old Testament? What was one definite ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament times? See 2 Peter 1:20-21.
3. In v. 24, what important truth about God is the congregation taking comfort in? How does this especially offer hope during times of persecution? (See 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4 for what we as believers can expect).
4. How did these believers apply Psalm 2 to the immediate situation (see vv. 25-26).
5. By referring to Jesus in v. 27, what important truth about persecution are they referring to (cf. John 15:20)?
6. How does the early church ask God to deal with the persecution (vv. 29-30)?
7. What was the effect of their prayer (v. 31)?
8. What heart attitude did these believers have regarding giving of their resources? Did they grudgingly but dutifully give just 10% to the church? See 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.
9. How was their sharing different from a communist philosophy of life? What motivated this sharing?

10. What connection do you see between the persecution of the early church at this time and their intense fellowship and worship (cf. 2 Cor 12:10)?

Practical Application

1. Do you question God's goodness in face of opposition or do you praise Him and ask for boldness?

2. Compare your giving attitude and practice with these believers. Where do you register on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being like them)?

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 5:1-16 Don't Play Games With God

1. So far in the growth of this brand new church, all the trouble came from outside the church. Now there is internal trouble. What are some of the specific causes of internal trouble in the church? See Acts 20:29-30 for other kinds of trouble.

2. What happened in chapter four that provides the setting for the tragedy of Ananias and Sapphira?

3. Precisely what was their sin? What was motivating this couple? How does Peter describe it?

4. How was Ananias' sin connected with the following and what do you learn about each one from this account:

Satan?	Their own thoughts
The Holy Spirit?	God?

5. How does this incident compare with the Achan trouble in Joshua 7? Compare what they did, what they thought, how they responded, their view of God, and how things ended.

ANNANIAS AND SAPPHIRA	ACHAN

6. Why did God render such a severe judgment against this husband and wife? See 1 Cor. 11:30-32. What effect did it have on others in the church?

7. Compare this account with the widow's giving in Mark 12:41-44. What were the differences?

8. In what kinds of situations might believers today commit the same root sin as this couple?

9. What kinds of miracles were taking place at this time? Through whom? How does this description help you evaluate modern miracles and healing services?

SO WHAT?

Why do you think God included this account of Ananias and Sapphira in the book of Acts?

How is God wanting to change your life in view of this study of Ananias and Sapphira?

And for a very practical application – Give an extra percentage of offering this week to prove to God and yourself that you are free from the love of money. But don't tell a soul.

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 5:17-42 Obeying God Rather Than Man

1. Vv. 17-18 Where have we seen this crowd before? What motivated their arresting Peter and John this time? What is at the root (the cause) of this sinful motivation?
2. Can you think of any examples of this kind of sinful motivation among religious leaders today? How might it manifest itself in a local church?
3. Vv. 19-21 How does this jail-break highlight the sovereign power and working of God? What do you think God's purpose was for breaking these believers out of jail? Does God always do this? Explain.
4. Vv. 21b-24 What was unusual about the officers' report? What was the reaction of the leaders to the report? Can you think of other biblical examples where God did a similar work on behalf of His people?
5. Vv. 25-26 Where did they find the apostles? What were they doing? Do you find this unusual in view of the opposition they are facing? What would you be tempted to do in a similar situation?
6. Vv. 27-28 The charges brought against the apostles are amazing. Why? See Matthew 27:25.
7. Vv. 29-32 Compressed in these few verses is a most powerful message. Jot down four or five aspects of this message that especially minister to your heart:
8. V. 29 List situations you can think of where the biblical principle stated in this verse might apply today.
9. Vv. 33-39 What kind of man was Gamaliel? What counsel did he give these leaders? Find one other passage where Gamaliel is mentioned in Acts.

10. V. 40 How did these leaders treat their captives before releasing them? How would you have responded to this kind of treatment? Was this fair of God to allow His spokesmen to be treated like this?

11. vv. 41-42 You've got to love the end of this ordeal. Describe it.

12. How does 1 Peter 4:12-19 counsel us for times of opposition?

Vs. 12	Vs. 16
Vs. 13	Vs. 17
Vs. 14	Vs. 18
Vs. 15	Vs. 19

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 6:1-7 Meeting Needs through Godly Leadership

1. V. 1 What happens when the church grows? Explain this statement: “When you find a perfect church, don’t join it—you’ll ruin it.”
2. V. 1 What exactly was the nature of this problem that was threatening the unity of the church? What similar problems have the potential for dividing a church today?
3. Vv. 2-4 What were the priorities of the apostles/leaders of this first century church? What are the expectations people have of elders today that may not fit into these priorities?
4. Vv. 2-4 How did the apostles exhibit good leadership in dealing with this urgent need?
5. Vv. 3-5 What qualifications was the church to look for in selecting men to meet this need?
6. List some of the wrong reasons people are chosen for ministries in the church?
7. V. 6 How were these men appointed to their specific ministry? Why was this important?
8. For all practical purposes these seven men may be regarded as the first deacons in the church. In view of this passage, how would you explain the difference between the deacon and the elder ministry?

Elders –	Deacons -
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9. What does this passage teach you about the purpose and nature of spiritual leadership in the church?

10. John Piper’s message “The Marks of a Spiritual Leader” presents four essential sequences of goals and purposes that every believer should be pursuing –

- That others will glorify God
- Love both friend and foe by trusting in God and hoping in his promises
- Meditate on and pray over His Word
- Acknowledge your helplessness.

In addition, Piper lists 18 specific qualities that should characterize godly leaders in the church. In your own words, briefly explain the importance of each:

Restlessness –	A Good Judge of Character -
Optimistic –	Tactful-
Intense –	Theologically Oriented -
Self-controlled –	A dreamer -
Thick-skinned –	Organized and Efficient -
Energetic –	Decisive -
A hard thinker –	Perseverant -
Articulate –	Lover -
Able to Teach –	Restful -

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 6_8-15 The Grace and Power of a Godly Man

1. Stephen has the privilege of being the first Christian martyr. He was highly esteemed by the church in Jerusalem. Compare the world's criteria for being a "success" with God's criteria of a godly man.

The world's criteria for being a successful person:
God's criteria for being a successful person:

2. Describe each of the following qualities attributed to Stephen: Godly Qualities and Cross References

Godly Qualities	Cross References
Full of faith - v. 5	Acts 11:22-24; Romans 4:19-20; James 1:6
Full of the *Spirit - v. 5	Luke 4:1; John 7:38-39; 1 Corinthians 2:4; Galatians 5:16; 1 Peter 4:14
Full of grace - v. 8	John 1:14; Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 15:10; Ephesians 4:29; 2 Timothy 2:1
Full of power - v. 8	Acts 4:33; 2 Timothy 1:7; 2 Corinthians 4:7; Ephesians 3:16, 20
Wisdom - v. 10	1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:5-8, Colossians 3:16; 4:6; James 1:5; 3:13-18

In his book *Spiritual Leadership*, Oswald Sanders writes: "The purposes of the Spirit's filling at Pentecost were eminently practical. The apostles were faced with a superhuman task for which nothing less than supernatural power would avail. The fullness of the Spirit imparted the power they needed for the truceless warfare to which they were committed.... Reduced to its simplest terms, to be filled with the Spirit means that, through voluntary surrender and in response to appropriating faith, the human personality is filled, mastered, controlled by the Holy Spirit... Under His control, natural gifts of leadership are sanctified and lifted to their highest power. The now ungrieved and unhindered Spirit is able to produce the fruit of the Spirit in the life of the leaders, with added winsomeness and attractiveness in his service and with power in his witness to Christ. All real service is but the effluence of the Holy Spirit through yielded and filled lives."

3. What tactics did this group known as the Synagogue of the Freedmen use to bring Stephen down:
Vv. 9-10 -

Vv. 11-12 -

Vv. 13-14 -

4. Another one of Stephen's Spirit-given qualities was courage (see v. 15). What other biblical or historical characters showed great courage in similar situations?

5. Read Mark 10:35-45. What does Jesus say is the essential for "greatness" among God's people?

6. How does the church develop men and women like Stephen? Read Philippians 2 and jot down all the truths from that chapter that nurture a Stephen-type servant-leader.

Vv. 1-5	Vv. 19-24
Vv. 5-11	Vv. 25-30
Vv. 12-18	

7. Considering your personal spiritual life and ministry, in what ways could you grow more like Stephen as revealed in Acts 6, a man full of grace and power?

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 7 Stephen's Convicting Message

1. Summarize each part of Stephen's message below and show at each step how Stephen builds his case against the Jewish leaders:

Section	Summary of the section	Stephen's purpose
Abraham vv. 1-8		
Joseph vv. 9-16		
Moses vv. 17-43		
Joshua vv. 44-45		
David vv. 46		
Solomon vv. 47-50		
Stephen's Indictment vv. 51-53		

2. List any new truths or facts that stand out to you from Stephen's survey of Israel's history:

3. What was the response to his message in vv. 54, 47? How does this compare with other responses to sermons in the book of Acts?

4. What three statements does Stephen make under the pressure of these moments?

Stephen's Statements	Teaches you:
v. 56	
v. 59	
v. 60	

5. Who is the young man on the scene and how does he fit into this account?

6. Imagine you were a Fox News reporter stationed in Jerusalem and were given one minute on the evening news for this day. Write out your report. "That's right, Shep. I'm on location here just outside Jerusalem..."

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 8:1-24 A False Conversion

1. Acts 8 begins the second section of the book of Acts based on Acts 1:8. What would be the title of this new section (ch. 8-12)?

2. What were Saul's attitudes and actions toward Christians at this time? See 1 Timothy 1:12-15 for his later perspective on this part of his life. Was there ever a time in your life when you had negative thoughts or words toward Christians?

3. How did God use this persecution in vv. 1,4? What are the values of persecution for individual believers as well as the church as a whole?

4. Who was Philip and what kind of ministry did he have (vv. 5-8)? What is significant about the location?

5. Describe Simon (vv. 9-11).

6. Look over the description of Simon in vv. 9-24 and list red flags that point to major questions about his conversion:

7. What was the purpose of Peter and John coming to Samaria?

8. What did Simon ask Peter for in v. 19?

9. How did Peter respond in these verses and what did he mean?

V. 20
V. 21
V. 22
V. 23

10. What is your conclusion about Simon's conversion, true or false? Why?

11. What would attract a person like Simon to the church today?

12. Jonathan Edwards comes to this conclusion on how far a person can go in religion without true conversion in his sermon on James 2:19, "You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder." Do you agree with Edwards?

"We see how the infallible Spirit of God, in the text, plainly represents the things of which the devils are the subjects, as no sure sign of grace. And we have now, in some instances, observed how far the devils and damned men go, and will go, in their experience, their knowledge of divine things, their belief of truth, their awakenings and terrors of conscience, their conviction of guilt, and of the justice of God in their eternal dreadful damnation, their longings after salvation, their sight of the external glory of Christ and heavenly things, their sense of the vast importance of the things of religion, and another world; their sense of the awful greatness and terrible majesty of God, yea, of all God's attributes."

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 8:25-40 A True Conversion

1. What did the apostles do before returning to Jerusalem (vs. 27)? How did they do this? To whom? Why?

2. Where was Philip to go next? Who gave him these directions (vs. 26)? Why would God take Philip out of a place where many were responding to the gospel?

3. Who was traveling down this very same road? What were his responsibilities? What was he doing while riding along?

4. What did the Spirit tell Philip to do?

5. What question did Philip ask the traveler? Think up five questions you could use to initiate a spiritual conversation.

Philip's question:

Philip's question:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

6. What is this man's problem? Where was he reading in the Scriptures?

7. How does Philip respond to the man's question?

8. What indicates a work of genuine conversion in this man's life (vv. 36-39)? What passages of Scripture give us a description or the characteristics of true conversion?

9. How did Philip use his time after this divine encounter with the traveler (v.40)?

10. List the qualities in Philip's life in ch. 8 that made him an effective witness for the Lord.

11. What insights do you learn about evangelism and missions from Acts 8?

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 9:1-19 Saul's Conversion

1. What do you know about Saul? Look up Saul in a Bible dictionary to find out about his background, parentage, education, marital status, religious connections, and anything else that will help fill in your knowledge of this unique man.

2. What was Saul's attitude toward this new sect of followers of Jesus of Nazareth? (vs. 1) What are they called in vs. 2?

3. Why did he go to the high priest? What was his purpose in going to Damascus?

4. What was this new sect called according to vs. 2?

5. How does Saul's conversion affirm the doctrine of God's sovereignty and election?

6. In what sense was Saul persecuting Christ? (vss. 4-5)

7. What additional information do you learn from Saul's later testimonies about his conversion:

Acts 22:6-11	Acts 226:12-18
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8. Why do you think God dealt with Saul in this manner - flashing light, voice from heaven, falling to the ground?

9. For how long was Saul blinded? (vss. 8-9) What do you think God was teaching him through this ordeal?

10. Why did God choose Annanias? What did God tell him to do? (vss. 10-12)

11. Why was Annanias reluctant to go to meet Saul? (vss. 13-14)

12. What did God tell Annanias about His purpose for Saul? (vss. 15-16)

13. How does Annanias address Saul? What two things does he tell him? What else did Annanias tell Saul according to Acts 22:12-16

14. What happened immediately after Saul heard this message? (vss. 18-19)

15. What does Saul's conversion teach you about the gospel?

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 9:19-43 Saul's Preaching and Peter's Healing

1. With whom did Saul immediately begin to associate? And what did he immediately begin to do? What was his main point in his preaching? (vss. 19-20)

2. What was the reaction of those who heard him? (vs. 21)

3. What was going on in Saul's heart? What did he keep proving? (vs. 22)

4. What did the Jews plot to do? Who found out and how did he escape? (vss. 23-25)

5. What role did Barnabas play in Saul's life when he returned to Jerusalem? Why was this so important at this point in Saul's life? (vss. 26-27) Describe a situation for how this same kind of ministry is needed in the church today? How open are Christians to strangers? How is this Barnabas attitude needed in the teen class? The college class? The adult class? List below three new people you have gotten to know within the last two months:

6. How did Saul spend his time in Jerusalem? What problem did he face again? How did the church resolve the problem? (vss. 28-30)

7. What five things were happening with the church at this time? (vs. 31)

8. Who does Peter heal in Lydda?

9. Who was Dorcas and what was so special about her? (vss. 36, 39) What would a Dorcas-style Christian woman look like today in terms of her ministry? Do you know of any? How have you expressed your gratitude to her?

10. What did Peter discover when he arrived in Joppa? What did he do? (vss. 38-40)

11. How did he present Dorcas to the widows and saints? (vss. 41)

12. What was the result of this miracle all over Joppa? With whom did Peter stay in Joppa? What was his vocation?

13. While we aren't doing Peter-type miracles today, we still have opportunity to pray for people that God would quicken their spirits and they would respond to Christ in faith. Give an example of your involvement in the conversion of a new Christian - part of the witness? urging them to Christ? welcoming them as a new believer? giving them good sound literature...?

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 10:1-23 Peter's Vision of Grace for the Gentiles

1. Locate Caesarea on a map. How far was it from Joppa? Vs. 1
2. What kind of man was Cornelius? Describe his race, religion, vocation, and family. Vss. 1-2
3. At what time did Cornelius experience this vision of an angel of God? Why did God send this message to this man? Vss. 3-4
4. What was Cornelius' response to the vision? Vss. 5-8.
5. Why and at what time did Peter go to the housetop? Vs. 9
6. What was Peter wanting when he fell into this trance? Vs. 10.
7. Describe what Peter saw while in this trance. Vss. 11-12
8. What was Peter told to do? Why was he reluctant to do it? How often did God have to repeat this scene for Peter? Why three times? What else happened in three's in Peter's life? Vss. 13-16.
9. How did God orchestrate this meeting of Cornelius' soldiers with Peter? How did God assure Peter?
10. What else do you learn about Cornelius from his soldiers? Vs. 22

Ponder this:

Why is this passage so important in the unfolding of God's plan for the gospel?

Why did God use this method of teaching Peter? Why not just tell him to go to the Gentiles?

What other unusual ways has God used to teach His people something that is contrary to what they would naturally think? Has God used something unusual in your life to get your attention?

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 10:1-23 Peter's Vision of Grace for the Gentiles

1. What kinds of thoughts would have been spinning in Peter's mind as he traveled from Joppa to Caesarea, to the house of a Gentile Roman centurion? Vss. 23-24

2. How had Cornelius prepared for Peter's visit? How does he respond when Peter finally arrives? Vs. 24-26.

3. What facts does Peter acknowledge right away to this gathering of Gentiles? Vss. 27-29

4. How does Cornelius address Peter and how does he describe the purpose of this gathering? Is this a wonderful response or what? Have you ever had someone tell you this? Vss. 30-33.

5. What does Peter now understand? Vss. 34-35

6. How does Peter immediately describe Jesus? Vs. 36

7. How does Peter describe Jesus' ministry? Vs. 37-38

8. Of what does Peter claim to be a witness? Who chose him to be a witness? Vss. 39-41

9. What was Peter and the other witness ordered to preach and testify about? Vs. 42

10. What is the one great promise of which all the prophets bore witness? Vs. 43

11. What happened while Peter was telling these Gentiles about Jesus? Vs. 44

12. What amazed the Jews who were with Peter? Vs. 45

13. How did the Gentiles' speaking in tongues and exalting God prove? Vs. 46

14. Why did Peter order these Gentiles to be baptized?

PONDER THIS:

What doctrinal issues does this passage help to clarify?

How does this passage illustrate the sovereignty and providential working of God?

Peter was willing to step through the fence between Jews and Gentiles. Why? What keeps believers from stepping out of their comfort zone and befriend new people, even in a local church? What is needed to break out of this hesitance, to "think outside the pew"? How can church members make visitors feel welcome?

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 11 Are You Ready for What God Might Do?

1. Not everyone was ready for what God was doing among the Gentiles. In this chapter, who was having the biggest struggle with this?

2. What report had the people in Judea heard? Imagine the table and pillow talk in many Jewish homes at this time! Vs. 1

3. What issue rose up between some of the Jews in Jerusalem and Peter? Vss. 2-3

4. How does Peter seek to assure them? Vss. 4-16 Outline his speech:
Vss. 4-10 -

Vss. 11-14 -

Vss. 15-16 -

5. What convinced Peter that he needed to accept this new development of the gospel? Vs. 17

6. Why did everyone glorify God? Vs. 18

7. How far did these early Christians go after Stephen's death? To whom did they speak the gospel? Vs. 19

8. How began to preach to the Greeks? Where? What happened? Vss. 20-21

9. Why did the leaders in Jerusalem send Barnabas to Antioch? Vs. 22

10. What did Barnabas discover when he arrived? What did he tell them? What kind of man was Barnabas?
Vss. 23-24

11. Why did Barnabas go to Tarsus? Why did he bring this man to Antioch? What did they do there? For how long? Why?

12. What were the followers of Christ first called in Antioch? What else have people who follow Christ been called, in the Bible or outside of the Bible? What do they call Christians where you work?

13. What did Agabus prophesy to the believers in Antioch? How did these new believers in Antioch respond? What is especially wonderful about this?

Compare this chapter with this missionary email from Ken Houghten on October 23, 2003 -

Last night Dawn & I had another discipleship session with a university student studying for her MBA. She has recently professed faith in Christ. Previously she told us "I am a communist" i.e. she belongs to that political party in her home country (and still does, and has such insignia in her room). Last night I was delighted to see another student attend (as a visitor, who is still not a Christian). This other student is very much NOT a communist, and comes from a neighboring country. Their two countries don't usually get along. But these two students (one saved, one not) have become friends, and both are interested in learning more about the Lord Jesus. It reminded me of Ephesians 2 and the reconciliation that Christ brings. Not only reconciliation to God, but also to others. Because Christ lives, Ken & Dawn

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 12 God's Will for James, Peter, and Herod

1. Let's get our Herods straight. Vs. 1 Match 'em up:

___ Herod the Great
___ Herod Agrippa I
___ Herod Archeleus
___ Herod Agrippa II
___ Herod Antipas

A - Died for accepting worship
B - King when Joseph's family returned from Egypt
C - King when Jesus was born
D - Told Paul "Almost you have persuaded me."
E - Beheaded John and faced Jesus at His trial

2. Whom did Herod put to death? What encouraged Herod to go after Peter as well? Vss. 2-3

3. Why would Luke include this reference to the days of Unleavened Bread? Vs. 3

4. How did Herod secure Peter as a prisoner? Why did he wait until after Passover? Vs. 4

5. What was the church doing while Peter was in jail? Vs. 5

6. What happened on the very night before Herod was going to bring Peter out for probably execution? Vs. 6-7

7. What do you find especially interesting in this heavenly jail-break? Vss. 7-10

8. What did Peter finally realize? When? Vs. 11

9. Why did Peter go to the house of Mary? Vs. 12

10. Why did Peter have a hard time getting anyone's attention after knocking on the door? Vss. 13-16

11. What did Peter do after reporting what happened? Why did he do this? Vs. 17

12. What was the big disturbance about among the soldiers on the next day? What happened to the guards? Vss. 18-19.

13. What politico-economic issue was hot at this time in Tyre and Sidon? Vs. 20

14. What did God do to this man? Why?

15. Who returns from Jerusalem to Antioch at this time?

PONDER THIS:

Why did God allow Herod to execute James but rescued Peter from prison? Did God love Peter more than James? Was this fair of God? How would you explain this to James family? Why does God heal some people and allow others to die of the same disease? Allow a missionary husband to be killed and his wife to live?

If God knows and plans everything that is going to happen, why pray?

What contrast do you see between the rulers of this world and the servants of God's kingdom in this chapter? Can you think of other similar contrasts in the history of the church?

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 13:1-14 How God Sends Missionaries

1. Antioch became a missionary sending church. What kind of church becomes a missionary sending church? What would be some of the marks or characteristics of this kind of church?

2. What do you learn about the church in Antioch from vs. 1? What kind of leaders did this church have?

3. What was the church doing when the Spirit spoke to this church? (vs. 2-3).

4. What did the Spirit say, to whom, and how did they know this was the Spirit of God?

5. What did the church do as they sent out these missionaries?

6. Where did these men go and what was the first thing they did when they got there? (vss. 4-5).

7. What two men did they meet when they got to Paphos? Describe both men. (vs. 6-7).

8. How does this account illustrate true spiritual warfare? (vs. 8) Compare this man with the Samaritan Simon (Acts 8), Pharaoh's magicians (Exodus 7ff), and Nebuchadnezzar's "Chaldeans" (Dan. 2).

9. How does Paul deal with this man? Would you agree that Paul used the right approach? (vs. 9-11).

10. Why did the proconsul believe in Paul's message? (vs. 12).

11. Where did Paul and his companions go after this? (vs. 13-14).

12. What did John do at this point? (vs. 13). Can you think of any reasons why? (See Acts 15:36-41).

PONDER THIS:

What kind of person makes a good missionary? What special character qualities are needed?

How does God's call in vs. 2 differ from His call today?

What specific missionary ministries are you aware of right now? List them.

What aspects of missions would you like to learn more about?

What are the possibilities of God calling YOU to prepare for a specific missionary ministry? Choose from 1 to 5, 1-not the slightest interested to 5-ready to begin right now.

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

If God gave you three choices of places to serve as a missionary for the rest of your life, what three places would you choose?

Give three reasons why you would not want to become a full-time missionary:

What missionary biographies have you read? List them:

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 13:14-52 Gentiles Enter the Joy of the Gospel

1. What was Paul's mission strategy when he came to town? (vs. 14-15). What strategy would Paul use if he came to Evansville in 2003?

2. Whom did Paul address as he began his gospel message? (vs. 16)

3. Outline the main points of Paul's message (vs. 17-41)

Verses 17-25
Verses 26-37
Verses 38-41

4. How often does Paul refer to the resurrection of Christ in this message? How important is this truth?

5. What was the response to the message? (vs. 42-43)

6. What did Paul and Barnabas urge them to do? Why? (vs. 43)

7. What happened the next Sabbath down at the synagogue? (vs. 44)

8. How did some of the Jews respond? Why? (vs. 45).

9. What did Paul and Barnabas tell these Jews? (vs. 46-47)

10. How did many of the Gentiles respond to God's promise from Isaiah 42:6?

11. Which of the Gentiles believed? (vs. 48)

12. How did the Jews instigate a persecution against Paul and Barnabas? (vs. 49-50)

13. How did the disciples respond to this persecution? (vs. 51-52) See 1 Peter 4:13-14.

PONDER THIS:

Paul used appropriate messages geared to his audience when he preached the gospel. Here he was preaching to Jews. How would you present the gospel if you had opportunity to preach one time in a liberal denominational church? To a group of college students? To a businessmen's lunch? To a gathering of Muslims?

What does verse 48 teach about God's sovereignty over the soul? How would you respond to someone who argues that if you believe in God's sovereignty in salvation you'll lose your desire for evangelism and missions?

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 14 Dealing With Superstition and Hostility

1. What happened when Paul and Barnabas spoke in the synagogue in Iconium? (vs. 1)
2. How did the hostile Jews work to oppose the gospel? (vs. 2)
3. What characterized the apostles' ministry in Iconium? (vs. 3)
4. Why did Paul and Barnabas flee to Lystra? (vs. 4-7)
5. What problems did this man have? How does this miracle compare with the man in Acts 3? (vs. 8-10)
6. How did the local people begin to treat Paul and Barnabas when they saw this miracle? (vs. 11-13)
7. What facts does Paul bring out to this religiously superstitious crowd to convince them of their error? (vs. 14-18). Can you think of any religious superstitions that blind many Americans, including highly educated people?
8. What influences changed the minds of these poor lost pagans? What do they do to Paul? What does this teach about the nature of the masses and of the human heart? (vs. 19-20).
9. What did Paul and Barnabas do as they retraced their steps on this journey? (vs. 21-22).

10. In view of vs. 22, list 5 key verses that you would give to a group of new believers to encourage them:

11. What did Paul and Barnabas do to insure the future stability of the local churches? (vs. 23) Why was this so important? Where would you find the job description for these people?

12. What did these missionaries do when they returned to their home church? Why is this important? (vss. 26-28)

PONDER THIS:

The mission field is not a place of human heroism and glory. Most missionaries labor unnoticed by this world and even the church. Many missionaries don't stay on the field. List the encouraging and discouraging aspects of the mission field.

ENCOURAGING	DISCOURAGING

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 15:1-21 How the Church Solves Problems

1. What was the big controversy about between Paul and Barnabas and the men from Judea? (vs. 1-2)
2. What did the church decide to do to help solve this problem? (vs. 2)
3. What did Paul and Barnabas do as they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria? How did this affect all the brethren? (vs. 3)
4. What happened when Paul and Barnabas arrived in Jerusalem? (vs. 4-6)
5. Summarize Peter's counsel to the brethren (vs. 7-11)

Vs. 7 -
Vs. 8 -
Vs. 9 -
Vs. 10 -
Vs. 11 -

6. Summarize James' counsel to the church leaders (vs. 12-21)

Vs. 13-14 -
Vs. 15-18 -
Vs. 19-20 -
Vs. 21 -

PONDER THIS:

Imagine a group of people standing up in church and teaching the following:

1. "To be saved, faith is not enough. You must also be baptized in water."
2. "The only way to know that you have received the Holy Spirit is to speak in tongues."
3. "It's time we stopped keeping good women and faithful homosexuals from being ordained as preachers."

What are wrong ways to solve problems like these?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What are the biblical principles for solving church problems in this passage:

Vs. 1-5 - Clearly identify the problem
Vs. 6 -
Vs. 7-11 -
Vs. 12-18 -
Vs. 19-21 -

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 15:22-41 Unity and Disagreement Within the Church

1. Whom did the church in Jerusalem choose to send to Antioch to communicate their decision? (vs. 22)

2. Summarize the letter they sent explaining their decision:

Vs. 23
Vs. 24
Vs. 25-27
Vs. 28
Vs. 29

3. How did the church in Antioch receive these men and the letter? (vs. 30-31)

4. How did Judas and Silas minister to these Gentile believers? (vs. 32-33)

5. What did Paul and Barnabas do? (vs. 35)

6. What did Paul desire to do after some time had passed? (vs. 36)

7. What issue came between Paul and Barnabas? (vs. 37-38)

8. Both of these godly men were looking at this issue from different perspectives. What were they?

Barnabas' perspective -
Paul's perspective -

9. How did these two church leaders handle this difference? Was this wise? (vs. 39-41)

PONDER THIS:

Differences between believers will occur. The New Testament epistles clearly illustrate that in our fallen state we will not always agree with one another.

What did the disciples disagree about as they were being taught directly by Christ?

What are some of the differences of opinion that typically exist between church members today?

In Ephesians 4:1-4, God calls believers to be diligent to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. How do the attitudes of that passage help believers deal with differences of opinion?

All humility -
Gentleness -
Patience -
Loving forbearance -
Diligence -

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 16:1-24 The Second Missionary Journey - Evangelizing Under God's Guidance

1. What was Timothy's family background? (vs. 1)
2. What was his reputation among the believers in the area? (vs. 2)
3. What did Paul have done to Timothy? Why? What does this tell us about Timothy's character? (vs. 3)
4. What helped to strengthen the churches in the faith and encourage growth? (vss. 4-5)
5. Where did the Spirit forbid Paul and company to go to preach the gospel? (vss. 6-7)
6. What did Paul see and hear in the night? What did he conclude from this experience? (vss. 8-10)
7. In what city did they decide to stay for a while? What kind of city was it? (vss. 11-12)
8. Where did they go on the Sabbath? Why? What did they begin to do? (vs. 13)
9. Who was Lydia? What happened as Paul was speaking? (vs. 14)
10. How did Lydia demonstrate the genuineness of her faith? (vs. 15)

11. What did Paul and his friends have to deal with on the way to the place of prayer? (vss. 16-17)

12. How did Paul handle this situation? Why? (vs. 18)

13. Why did these men drag Paul and Silas before the rulers? (vs. 19)

14. What did they charge Paul and Silas with? (vss. 20-21)

15. How did the magistrates treat them? (vss. 22-24)

GOING DEEPER –

How does this passage illustrate the following evangelism and church building tactics?

15:36,41, 16:4-5 – FOLLOW UP	16:11-15 – FOCUSED
15:40 – 16:3 – FELLOW-LABORERS	16:16-24 – FORCEFUL
16:4-10 – FLEXIBLE	

What do you learn about these people in the passage? What is God teaching you through them?

Timothy –	Lydia –	Paul –
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THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 16:25-40 The Second Missionary Journey: Preaching Through Praising

1. What was happening in the Philippian jailhouse around midnight? (vs. 25)
2. What did God do in response? (vs. 26)
3. How did the jailor handle the situation at first? (vs. 27)
4. Who is in charge in this jail? (vss. 28-29)
5. What was this jailor's famous question? Where did he ask it? What was Paul and Silas' answer? (vss. 30-31)
6. To whom did Paul and Silas preach the Word? (vs. 32)
7. What are the evidences of genuine conversion in this jailor's actions? (vss. 33-34)

It looks as if his house was above the prison. The baptism apparently took place in the pool or tank in which he bathed Paul and Silas (Deuteronomy Wette) or the rectangular basin (*impluvium*) in the court for receiving the rain or even in a swimming pool or bath (*kolumbeethra*) found within the walls of the prison (Kuinoel). Meyer: "Perhaps the water was in the court of the house; and the baptism was that of immersion, which formed an essential part of the symbolism of the act." (A. T. Robertson's Word Pictures)

8. Why did the jailor and his entire household rejoice? (vs. 34) (Note: the word "having believed" is *πεπιστευκως*, a masculine singular perfect participle).
9. What did the magistrates send the police to tell the jailor the next morning? (vss. 35-36)

10. What was Paul's response to this order? Why would he insist on this? (vs. 37)

11. How did the magistrates handle them when they heard they were Roman citizens? (vss. 38-39)

12. What did Paul and Silas do before leaving the city of Philippi? (vs. 40)

GOING DEEPER –

Two more evangelism tactics surface in this passage. How do Paul and Silas apply them?

VSS. 25-34 – FAITHFUL	VSS 35-40 - FEARLESS
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Household salvation

How do verses 33-34 refute the idea that there may have been infants and very young children who were baptized along with the jailor and other older people in his household? (the teaching of infant baptism is called "paedobaptism [pedobaptism]").

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 17:1-15 Turning the World Upside Down

THESSALONICA 17:1-9

1. What did these evangelists find in Thessalonica? (vs. 1)
2. What was Paul's habit whenever he came to a city with a synagogue? What did he do here in Thessalonica? (vs. 2)
3. What was Paul's method and message to the Jews of this city? (vss. 2-3)
4. Who joined Paul and Silas? (vs. 4)
5. What motivated the Jews to attack the house of Jason? Who were they looking for? (vs. 5)
6. What was the Jews' charge against Jason and these traveling evangelists? (vss. 6-7)
7. How did the city officials handle this charge? (vss. 8-9)
8. What spiritual lessons do you learn from this section that you can apply to your life?

BEREA 17:10-15

9. To what city did the believers send Paul and Silas and what did they immediately do? (vs. 10)
10. In what way were the Jews of Berea more noble than those of Thessalonica? (vs. 11)

11. Who believed the gospel message in this city? (vs. 12)

12. Who stirred up opposition to the believers here? Why? (vs. 13)

13. Where did the believers send Paul? Who remained behind? What did Paul want Silas and Timothy to do? (vss. 14-15)

14. What spiritual lessons do you learn from this section that you can apply to your life?

GOING DEEPER –

Paul reasoned with the Jews out of the Scriptures. List 5-10 key points you would make from the Old Testament to prove that Jesus is the Messiah/Christ:

What are the prerequisites for having a “Berean-style” passion for God’s Word? Plug a verse or two beside each prerequisite listed below:

New birth –
Real desire –
Constant diligence –
Practical holiness –
Prayer –

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 17:16-34 The Gospel for the Intellectuals

ATHENS

1. Why was Paul's spirit provoked while he was waiting for his friends? (vs. 16)
2. How did Paul make good use of his time while in Athens? (vs. 17)
3. Which two philosophical systems did Paul encounter in Athens? (vs. 18) What were the major tenets of each?
4. What questions did these philosophers have about Paul's message? (vs. 19)
5. What opportunity did these people provide for Paul? (vs. 20)
6. How did the Athenians and foreigners spend their time? (vs. 21)
7. How did Paul introduce his message? (vs. 22)
8. What did he tell them he was there to proclaim to them? (vs. 23)
9. How does Paul present the truths about God to these philosophers? (vs. 24-26)
10. What responsibility do men have toward the true God? (vs. 27)

11. How does Paul make use of human authors to illustrate his point? (vs. 28)

12. How does Paul seek to persuade them that all their idols were useless? (vs. 29)

13. What convicting truths does Paul lay on them as he concludes his message? (vs. 30-31)

14. What were the three responses to Paul's message? (vss. 32-34)

GOING DEEPER –

Paul did not try to prove to these philosophers that God exists or give proofs for the resurrection of Christ. He simply presents these truths as facts to be believed. God is not on trial to be proved or disproved by fallen man's reason, but rather man is on trial and subject to God's judgment outside of Christ. This is called presuppositional apologetics. List the really big, major doctrines that Paul presents in this "Mars Hill" message as truths to be believed:

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To the End of the Earth

Acts 17:16-34 The Gospel in Today's Culture

Paul was aware of the philosophies or "worldviews" of his day as he spoke to the intellectuals on Mars Hill. Christians should be aware of the worldviews of our own culture. A worldview is "a comprehensive, systematic way of looking at all things." The following material is taken from James Montgomery Boice's book *Whatever Happened to the Gospel of Grace?*, chapter two.

THE PATTERN OF THIS AGE

Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Cultural Worldviews	Infecting the Church	Biblical Responses
Secularism: "The Cosmos Is All That Is"		2 Corinthians 4:18
Humanism: "You Will Be Like God"		Psalms 14
Relativism: "A Moral Morass"		Psalms 119:160 / Prov. 23:23 / John 17:17 / John 8:31,32
Materialism: "The Material Girl"		Luke 12:15ff
Pragmatism: "It Works For Me"		Matthew 7:22-23
Mindlessness: "Amusing Ourselves To Death"		2 Timothy 3

YOUR MIND MATTERS – Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 4:8 Paul understood the cultural worldviews of his day, but far more, he had a firm grasp on the great and eternal truths of God’s Word!

TEN FOUNDATIONAL LIFE TRUTHS

The supremacy of God in all things

God is in ultimate control of my world and the universe.
Isaiah 46:9-10

Ultimate joy in life comes from God

I am most satisfied when God is most glorified in me.
Psalm 37:4

The Bible is true

God's word is the final guidebook for life.
2 Timothy 3:16, 17

Ultimate authority

Allowing God’s authority in my life gives maximum freedom.
Romans 13:1-2

Authentic faith

Being satisfied with all that God promises to be for me in Jesus. Proverbs 3:5-6

Spiritual disciplines

When I think as God thinks, I will do as God says.
Romans 12:2

Moral boundaries

Purity allows me to be close with God and others.
1 Thessalonians. 4:3-8

Healthy friendships

My friends will determine the direction and quality of my life. Proverbs 13:20

Wisdom and making wise choices

I must apply godly wisdom to all the choices I make.
Ephesians 5:15-17

A life of love and humility

Consider others before myself.
Philippians 2:3-11

(From Bethlehem Baptist Church youth ministry,
Minneapolis, Minnesota)

THE BOOK OF ACTS

To the End of the Earth

Acts 18 The Cure for Discouragement

1. What do you know about the ancient city of Corinth? What do you learn about the moral and religious culture from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians? (vs. 1)

2. Whom did Paul find to hang out with when he arrived in Corinth? What did they do together? (vss. 2-3)

3. Once again, what does Paul do on the Sabbath? (vs. 4)

4. What did Paul do when Silas and Timothy met up with him? (vs. 5)

5. How did Paul respond to the Jews when they rejected the message about Christ? (vs. 6) See Mark 6:11 and Matthew 23:34-35. What does Christ say about these reactions to the gospel?

6. What happened when Paul moved to Titius Justus' house? (vss. 7-8)

7. How does the Lord encourage Paul through this night vision? (vss. 9-10) What does this tell you about missions and God's work through the gospel?

8. How long does Paul stay in Corinth? (vs. 11)

9. What do the Jews charge Paul with? (vss. 12-13)

10. How did Gallio, the proconsul of the area, handle this grievance of the Jews? (vss. 14-17)

11. Trace Paul's return journey to Antioch. (vss. 18-22)

12. What is Paul's purpose in setting out on his third missionary journey? (vs. 23)

13. What are Apollos' good qualities? Why did Priscilla and Aquila need to correct him? (vss. 24-26)

14. How did Apollos minister in Achaia? (vss. 27-28)

GOING DEEPER

With Paul - Why did Paul need God's encouragement in Corinth? List some of your discouragements and what God used to encourage you.

With Apollos - Apollos needed to be corrected in his theology. How does he receive this? What doctrinal corrections have you made in your Christian walk? Who helped you? How long did it take?

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To the End of the Earth

Acts 19 Spiritual Warfare

Spiritual warfare involves correcting doctrinal error - vss. 1-7

1. What was the problem with these disciples in Ephesus? (vss. 1-3)

2. How did Paul correct this problem? (vss. 4-7)

Spiritual warfare involves conflict with hardened hearers - vss. 8-10

3. Why did Paul go to the school of Tyrannus? (vss. 8-10)

4. How does God use conflict in Paul's ministry?

Spiritual warfare involves conflict with religious fakes - vss. 11-20

5. What powers did God give Paul while he was in Ephesus? (vss. 11-12)

6. When God works, who else gets busy? Why weren't these exorcists successful in their efforts? (vss. 13-16)

7. How did the power of Christ radically change the lives of many of the Ephesian people? What would be a comparable response to the gospel today? (vss. 17-20)

Spiritual warfare involves conflict with religious rip-offs and opportunists - vss. 21-41

8. Once again we see what rules the world. In a word, what is it? Any examples today of false teachings with big money behind them? (vss. 21-27)

9. How does the melee of vss. 28-32 illustrate the unbelieving world's dealing with God and His truth?

10. Why did the Asiarchs (who were they?) urge Paul not to go into the theater? (vss. 30-31)

11. How does the town clerk quiet these Ephesian craftsmen down? How does this section illustrate the importance of human government?

GOING DEEPER

There are a number of very practical principles in this section:

1. Be willing to be teachable, like those disciples in Ephesians.
2. God works powerfully with and through His people and the truth.
3. God uses error for His own glory and purposes.
4. The world is desperately blind and confused in its lostness and depravity.
5. Be willing to listen to Christian friends.

Do you see any more?

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To the End of the Earth

Acts 20 Principles of Spiritual Leadership

(Some of the following outline is based on John MacArthur's excellent series on Acts 20)

1. What do you learn about leadership from Paul's travels through Greece and back up to Troas? (vss. 1-6)

2. What qualities of leadership does Paul demonstrate as he ministers on the first day of the week in Troas? (vss. 7-12)

3. In Miletus Paul called a conference for the elders of Ephesus. Describe his ministry perspectives in the following categories:

Toward God - vs. 19
Toward the church - vs. 20
Toward the world - vs. 21
Toward himself - vss. 22-24

4. How does Paul emphasize the necessity of a leader's absolute commitment to truth in

Vss. 25-27
Vs. 28
Vss. 29-31
Vs. 32

5. Leadership demands integrity. In what areas of his life did Paul exhibit sterling character? (vss. 33-38)

GOING DEEPER

From the following verses, what are the most important attitudes or practices God wants to see in your life:

<p>Acts 20:19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;</p>	
<p>Acts 20:24 "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.</p>	
<p>Acts 20:26-27 "Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.</p>	
<p>Acts 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.</p>	
<p>Acts 20:32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.</p>	

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To the End of the Earth

Acts 21 God's Will and Human Counsel

1. Where did Paul's ship land on the Palestinian coast? What did the believers keep telling him? (vss. 1-6)

2. Where did Paul stay in the city of Caesarea? Who all tried to convince him not to go up to Jerusalem? How did the believers conclude their efforts? (vss. 7-14)

3. Was the report about Paul true? What was the real problem here in the church in Jerusalem? Which of Paul's epistles was written to explain the grace of God in contrast to the law of Moses? (vss. 15-21)

4. What does Paul do to try to defuse the situation? Was he wise in conceding to this counsel? (vss. 22-26)

5. What was Paul's real conviction about the law of Moses as he stated it in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Galatians 5:6, and Galatians 6:15?

6. What were the charges brought against Paul? Was it true? What did Paul preach about the law and the temple in Romans 3:20; 7:7; 8:3-4; and Galatians 3:21-25? (vss. 27-29)

7. Once again we see God using human government to protect His people. Where else has this happened in the book of Acts? Remember that one of Luke's purposes in writing Acts is to demonstrate that Christianity is not a subversive movement or a threat to the prevailing government. (vss. 30-36)

8. What do you discover about Paul's political, academic, and social credentials in this ordeal?

GOING DEEPER

Here are some words of wisdom from Chuck Swindoll about getting advice from others:

1. If you seek advice, be discerning.
2. If you give advice, be wise.
3. If you reject advice, be careful.

When is it safe to refuse the counsel of other believers and follow what you believe to be God's will for you?
How do you know you are doing the right thing?

Taking the big view of what is happening here in Acts 21 with these false accusations, where is God in this?
How is God using this ordeal in Paul's life?

How do you handle false accusations? What negative reactions do you tend to have? How does God want you to react? What will help you to react to false accusations in a biblical, God-honoring fashion?

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To the End of the Earth

Acts 22-26 Ready to Give An Answer - Paul's Defense of the Gospel

Highlights of Paul's answer to the Jews - Acts 22:1-21

Response to his message - Acts 22:22-29

Highlights of Paul's answer to the Sanhedrin - Acts 22:30 - 23:6

Response to his message - Acts 23:7-35

Highlights of Paul's answer to Felix- Acts 24:1-21

Response to his message - Acts 24:22-27

Highlights of Paul's answer to Festus - Acts 25:1-12

Response to his message - Acts 25:13-22

Highlights of Paul's answer to Agrippa - Acts 25:23 - 26:29

Response to his message - Acts 26:30-32

GOING DEEPER

1. What other Christian leaders have been called to give an answer for their faith before civil authorities? How did they handle it?

2. Knowing that God is working behind the scenes to accomplish his purposes here, what Romans 8:28 "good" do you see God working out through these trials and experiences in Paul's life?

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To the End of the Earth

Acts 27-28 Rome At Last

God's man in a crisis - Acts 27 - 28:15

1. How was Paul treated by the centurion? vss. 1-8

2. How did Paul advise the men in charge of the ship? Whose advice did they follow? What made them think they were right? vss. 9-13

3. How does this storm account show the difference between a man of faith in God and the world as they face a crisis together? vss. 14-26

The lost world:	A man of faith in God:
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4. How does Paul, the prisoner, give leadership to the rest of the men in this crisis? vss. 27-44

5. How was Paul treated on the island of Malta? Why? 28:1-10

God's man keeps on preaching - Acts 28:11-31

6. What kind of prison arrangements were provided for Paul? vs. 16

7. Whom does Paul call together? How does he introduce himself? What is their response? vss. 17-22

8. What did Paul explain to these people? How did Paul handle their response? Vss. 23-29

9. Describe Paul's two-year ministry in vss. 30-31.

GOING DEEPER

1. Why did Paul always go to the Jews first? (See Romans 1:11)
2. Why kind of evangelistic "success" did Paul have? What is our main responsibility in evangelism?
3. What epistles did Paul write while in prison during this time?
4. What does Paul teach about the ministry of the gospel as we leave the book of Acts? See Acts 20:24
5. List three or four different ways you can be involved in evangelism.