



**TO THE
ENDS
OF THE
EARTH**

ACTS 13:47

*A Fourteen Week Study
in the Book of Acts
{Chapters 1-14}*

Week 1: Acts 1

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Day One | Acts 1:1-5

What do you know about the author of the book of Acts? What is the “first book” that he refers to in v1? What instruction did Jesus give to His disciples during the 40 days following the resurrection? Why do you think they needed to wait to be baptized by the Holy Spirit? Describe a time when you felt like God was calling you to wait.

Day Two | Acts 1:6-11

What was the response that Jesus gave when they asked if He was going to restore the kingdom to Israel? How does that instruction relate to us today as we await His second coming? What does it look like for you to be a witness for Jesus to the ends of the earth? What does this passage tell us to expect regarding His second coming?

Day Three | Acts 1:12-14

What do you find significant about the people who are gathered in the upper room together, following the ascension of Jesus? Is there anyone that you are surprised to see in that list? How were they unified and of one accord? Why do you think they were devoting themselves to prayer? Are you devoted to prayer? Why or why not?

Day Four | Acts 1:15-20

What is significant about the fact that the Church began with about 120 people? What qualified Peter to stand up as a leader within that group? If scripture predicted that Judas would betray Jesus, was he still morally accountable for his actions? Why do you think that Peter was able to recover from denying Jesus while Judas was unable to recover from betraying Jesus?

Day Five | Acts 1:21-26

What were the qualifications that they were looking for in a replacement for Judas? What are your thoughts on the process that they used to select Matthias? What questions does it raise for you? How do you make difficult decisions? How do you seek to know and understand God's will when making a choice?

Group Question:

What misguided expectations do people have of Jesus today? What expectations should we place on Jesus?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

Week 2: Acts 2

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Day One | Acts 2:1-13

What is significant about the Feast of Pentecost? Why might God have chosen this as the time in which to bless the Church with the Holy Spirit? What was the purpose of having all of those who received the Spirit to speak in a variety of languages? Can you identify a time in your life when you felt the Spirit working in a supernatural way?

Day Two | Acts 2:14-21

How does Peter argue against those in the crowd who believed that they were drunk? In what way was Joel's prophecy being fulfilled at that time? Who are the different groups that receive the Spirit in Joel's prophecy? What is significant about that? According to this prophecy, what must be done in order to be saved?

Day Three | Acts 2:22-36

Why do you think Peter makes his argument by quoting from Old Testament prophecy & from the Psalms? Who was to blame for the crucifixion of Jesus? Why were Peter and the disciples uniquely qualified to testify to the resurrection? Why do you think people doubt the resurrection of Jesus today? How could you convince them it is true?

Day Four | Acts 2:37-41

Why do you think that they were cut to the heart? When they asked what they must do, what was Peter's response? Would you say the same thing to someone today? What qualified those in the crowd to be baptized that day? Are you surprised that so many became followers of Jesus that day? Why or why not?

Day Five | Acts 2:42-47

What did they devote themselves to at that time? Do you think we should be devoted to those same things today? What would (or does) that look like in your daily life? Do you think this communal way of living was unique to that place & time, or is it an expectation for us today? What was the continual result of all of this?

Group Question:

What elements of the early church life do you think we are called to replicate and live out today? What makes that challenging or difficult?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week 3: Acts 3

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Day One | Acts 3:1-5

Why would Peter and John be going to the temple? Why would the gospel message have caused conflict with Jewish authorities? Have you ever shared the gospel with someone? If so, how did it go? How might the lame man's life experience have impacted the way that he thought about God? How have your experiences impacted the way that you think about God?

Day Two | Acts 3:6-10

What makes the good news of Jesus more valuable than silver & gold? How do you decide when to provide financial or material assistance to someone in need? What is significant about the name of Jesus? Why would the people in the temple be filled with wonder and amazement over the healing?

Day Three | Acts 3:11-16

Is it hard to give credit to God? Do you find yourself wanting people to praise you, as well as God? Now after reading these verses, what is significant about the name of Jesus? What does 'Author of life' mean?

Day Four | Acts 3:17-21

Read **Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12**. How does the passage in Isaiah point to Jesus' sufferings? What does repentance look like? How can you know that your sins will be blotted out and you will not be judged according to them?

Day Five | Acts 3:22-26

How does Moses resemble Jesus? What are some of the benefits of turning to Jesus? What are some of the problems of rejecting Jesus? What does turning to Jesus look like in your life? How did God use Abraham's offspring to bless all of the families of the earth? How is that blessing impacting you today?

Group Question:

What are the biggest hindrances to sharing the Gospel with those who need it today? What is one step you could take this week towards overcoming them?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week 4: Acts 4

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Day One | Acts 4:1-4

Who were the Sadducees and how did their beliefs differ from that of the Pharisees? Why would that belief put them at odds with the disciples of Jesus and the message of the Gospel? What are some of the world views that people adopt today that are in opposition to the Gospel? Despite this opposition & imprisonment, what happened?

Day Two | Acts 4:5-12

What do you find most impressive about the response that Peter gives to their question? Who was responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus? Read Psalm 118:19-24. What was Peter indicating when he called Jesus the cornerstone? Why can salvation be found in no other name than the name of Jesus?

Day Three | Acts 4:13-22

What did the leaders recognize about Peter & John? Do you think that people see the same thing in you? Why or why not? What instruction did the leaders give to the disciples? What impresses you the most about their response? Can you describe a time when doing the right thing cost you something? What was the result?

Day Four | Acts 4:23-31

In your own words, what is the essence of the prayer that they lifted up to God as a result of this experience? When you face opposition for your faith, how do you typically respond? Who had ultimate control over everything that was happening? Why do you think that the earth shook as they prayed?

Day Five | Acts 4:32-37

What would it look like for the people of Riverside to be of one heart & one soul? Why do you think that the generous act of Barnabas is recorded at this point? How does it relate to his future role in the book of Acts? What is appealing about the communal living of the early church? What would make this difficult to achieve today?

Group Question:

What do you find most convicting as you look at the boldness & generosity of the early church? How is God challenging you to grow in these areas?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week 5: Acts 5

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Day One | Acts 5:1-11

In your own words, what was wrong with what Ananias & Sapphira did? What would've been their motivation to do that? What do you find surprising about what happened to them? Why do you think God judged them in such a harsh way? Is there anything that you need to confess & repent of before the Lord today?

Day Two | Acts 5:12-16

Why did God give them the ability to perform many signs & wonders at this time in church history? Why did the people hold them in high esteem but fear to join with them? How would our world change if suddenly multitudes of people began to believe in Jesus for salvation? What would need to happen in order for that to occur?

Day Three | Acts 5:17-26

Why did the High Priest and the Sadducees oppose them? Can you describe a time when you struggled with jealousy? How did you ultimately deal with it? Why do you think the angel sent them to proclaim the Gospel in the temple? Why do you think the religious leaders couldn't recognize that they were fighting against God's will?

Day Four | Acts 5:27-32

Can you describe a time when you had to choose between obeying God or obeying men? What gave the disciples such confidence in their actions? According to v31, what did Jesus come to do and to accomplish? What is the role of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Day Five | Acts 5:33-42

Why did the response of the disciples enrage the leaders? What do you like about the advice that Gamaliel gave to them? Do you think this was wisdom that came from God? Why or why not? Can you describe a time when you experienced hardship for serving Jesus? Did you rejoice or complain at that time? Why did the disciples rejoice?

Group Question:

How do you determine if something you are doing is right? If you come into hardship or opposition, are you likely to question whether you are outside of God's will?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week 6: Acts 6

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Day One | Acts 6:1-3

In your own words, what was the problem that arose? Why do you think this happened in the midst of all the good that was going on? What was the response of the disciples to this situation? What qualifications were they looking for in those that they chose to resolve it? How do we fight against injustice as a church today?

Day Two | Acts 6:4-6

Why was it important for the Apostles to be devoted to prayer and the ministry of the word? What stands out to you about the list of men that were chosen? Why would they pray and lay hands on those that they selected? How are you able to use your skills and gifts to benefit and bless the Church?

Day Three | Acts 6:7

What caused the word of God to increase and the disciples to multiply? Why was it significant that a great number of the priests became followers of Jesus? What would it look like if the Church began to grow in this way today? What is the greatest hindrance to multiplying disciples today?

Day Four | Acts 6:8-10

What role was Stephen selected to fulfill? Now, what do we see him doing in this passage? What are the things that God is calling you to be consistent and faithful in today? How might that prepare you for new callings in the future? If you are not faithful with your current responsibility, what do you think will happen?

Day Five | Acts 6:11-15

Why did they stir up people against Stephen? What are the religious or cultural issues that people get passionate about today? How might some of those beliefs come into conflict with the Gospel? How do you respond when people say false things about you? How is defending your pride different from defending God's truth?

Group Question:

Are you surprised that the Church was growing and flourishing in the midst of all of these challenges & opposition? What challenges today feel insurmountable? Are they?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week 7: Acts 7

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Day One | Acts 7:1-16

Why do you think Stephen is recounting the history of Israel in his defense before the religious leaders? In this summarization of the origin of the nation of Israel, what stands out to you? Why do you think God chose to work through Abram and his line of descendants? Why is this history important to us today as Christians?

Day Two | Acts 7:17-29

How is God's faithfulness and control demonstrated in this telling of the story of Moses? Why did Moses fail in his initial attempts to become a leader for the Israelites? Can you describe a time when you had good intentions but did something wrong? What did you learn from that experience? Why didn't this disqualify Moses?

Day Three | Acts 7:30-43

In what way was Moses a leader like Jesus? In what ways were they different? How was the response of Israel to Moses similar to the way that they responded to Jesus? Why do our hearts gravitate towards idols rather than the true God? What are some areas of idolatry that you need to be aware of and defend against in your own heart?

Day Four | Acts 7:44-53

Why would the religious leaders have been offended by Stephen's statement that God does not dwell in houses made by men? In what way were they making the same mistakes that their forefathers had made? How do you respond to the change in tone from Stephen that begins in v51? Was it loving to speak so harshly to them? Why?

Day Five | Acts 7:54-60

Why were they so enraged at Stephen? Looking at the entirety of his message in chapter 7, what was the point he was making to them? In what way was Stephen's death similar to that of Jesus? Was the death of Stephen the result of his obedience or disobedience to God? Should we always expect earthly reward when we are obedient?

Group Question:

What strikes you the most about Stephen's speech and his character? What aspects of his faith do you want to see increase in your own life?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week 8: Acts 8

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Day One | Acts 8:1-3

Why do you think Saul approved of Stephen's murder? Do you think he felt any remorse? How do you know? What do you think motivated Saul in his persecution of the Church? Can you describe a time when your intentions were good but you came to realize later that what you did was wrong? Deep down, did you know it at the time?

Day Two | Acts 8:4-8

What would you have done in the same situation - would you keep spreading the Good News or would you be afraid? Why was Phillip's choice to go to Samaria surprising? Can you think of any accounts from the Gospels that may have set the stage for this work in Samaria? What is an unclean spirit and do you think they still exist?

Day Three | Acts 8:9-25

According to this passage, did they receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of baptism? How does that relate to baptism today? Why was Peter so upset with Simon? How does one's heart get right before God? Do you believe that Simon's response to Peter was a genuine one? How many times should forgiveness be given to someone who repents?

Day Four | Acts 8:26-33

Philip received a message from an angel about where to go and then from the Spirit about who to speak to. If you have had a similar experience, can you describe it? Why would the Ethiopian have been in Jerusalem? What clear connections to Jesus do you see in that passage from Isaiah?

Day Five | Acts 8:34-40

Have you ever had an opportunity to share the good news about Jesus? What was the response? Do you find it difficult to share your faith in Jesus? How could you become more confident in your ability to share? How do you feel about how quickly he was baptized after hearing the Gospel? How do you think God might have used this encounter in the multiplication of the Church?

Group Question:

How can you help our church to develop a greater culture of evangelism?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week 9: Acts 9

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Day One | Acts 9:1-19

What qualities did Saul possess that the Lord could use when turned to the right purpose? How do you think Ananias felt being asked to go and see Saul? Describe a time that following Jesus led you to do something that was difficult or didn't make sense? What stands out the most to you about this account of Saul's conversion?

Day Two | Acts 9:20-25

How would Saul have proven that Jesus was the Christ to the people of Damascus? Given the immediate opposition that Saul faced, why do you think the idea that "turning to Jesus will bring you worldly success & prosperity" continues to be so popular? How do you know when to push through opposition & when to flee?

Day Three | Acts 9:26-31

What role did Barnabas play in connecting Saul with the disciples? Who has been that same kind of friend to you? Describe a time when you felt led to take a chance on trusting someone. How did it work out? What was the result of Saul's conversion to the faith and his bold preaching? How does struggle relate to growth?

Day Four | Acts 9:32-35

What is significant about the words that Peter speaks when healing Aeneas? Who received the glory for this miracle? Why do you think that this miracle had such a significant impact on the entire community? Have you witnessed any form of miracle or healing? Why do you think that we don't see more of this in the church today?

Day Five | Acts 9:36-43

What legacy had Tabitha left behind her when she passed away? What is the legacy that you will leave behind when your time on earth comes to an end? Is there anything you would change? What could you do this week to pursue that change? Why did Peter remain in Joppa after performing the miracle?

Group Question:

How do you tend to think about miraculous healing in the church today? Are you skeptical, open, or apathetic towards it?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week 10: Acts 10

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Day One | Acts 10:1-8

In what way was it surprising that the Lord would speak to Cornelius? In what way was it not surprising? How does your faith affect or impact your household and your extended circle of connections? Are there people today that you would be surprised to see turn to the Lord? Why? Take a moment now and pray for them!

Day Two | Acts 10:9-23

Why would Peter's vision have been so surprising and confusing to him? What is significant about the vision happening 3 times? Have you ever held on to cultural or ceremonial beliefs that God called you to release? If so, what was difficult about that? What is more important in our relationship to God: understanding or obedience?

Day Three | Acts 10:24-33

How did Peter respond when Cornelius wanted to bow before him as a god? How did Peter's vision relate to this visit? Why was it a big deal for Peter to enter the home of Cornelius and dine with him? How has following Jesus led you to act or behave in ways that others don't agree with or understand?

Day Four | Acts 10:34-43

Do you tend to think of the Christian faith as inclusive or exclusive? Why? How does it make you feel to know that God shows no partiality? What stands out to you about this presentation of the Gospel from Peter? Have you ever shared the Gospel with someone who did not believe in Jesus? How did it go?

Day Five | Acts 10:44-48

Why was it surprising and significant that the Holy Spirit fell upon the people in the home of Cornelius? What did that signify? If they had been baptized with the Holy Spirit, why was it also right and necessary for them to be baptized with water in the name of Jesus Christ as well? Have you been baptized? If not - why?

Group Question:

How do you think the church is doing today in embracing the inclusive & expansive truths revealed in this chapter? Are we seeking to bring the Gospel to all people?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week 11: Acts 11

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Day One | Acts 11:1-14

Why did the circumcision party oppose what Peter had done? What are some of the disagreements that Christians have today? How do you know which issues are foundational (“worth dividing over”) and which ones are secondary (“agree to disagree”)? What convinced Peter that he had done the right thing in this situation?

Day Two | Acts 11:15-18

How did the Lord demonstrate that He was calling the gentiles to Himself? In what way is the baptism of the Holy Spirit a gift? What is “repentance that leads to life”? How does the Holy Spirit work and act in your life? What are some misconceptions about the Holy Spirit that are common today?

Day Three | Acts 11:19-22

How did God use the persecution and martyrdom of Stephen to expand the church? Can you describe a time when God used something difficult to grow your faith? Why do you think that originally they only shared with Jewish people? Why would the leaders have chosen to send Barnabas to Antioch?

Day Four | Acts 11:23-26

What qualities did Barnabas have that allowed the church to flourish under his leadership? What are some of the unique qualities that God has blessed you with? Why did Barnabas go to find Saul and bring him to Antioch as well? What would they have been teaching the people in the year they spent with them?

Day Five | Acts 11:27-30

What is more impressive to you in this passage - the ability of the prophet to predict the future or the generous response of the church to that information? Why? What does generosity look like in your life today? What are some ways that our church is helping others who are in need? How could you be a greater part of that?

Group Question:

When the church shares the Gospel with everyone, the Holy Spirit seems to move in powerful ways. What are some ways we can expand our reach with the Gospel?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week 12: Acts 12

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Day One | Acts 12:1-5

Why was Herod opposed to the followers of Jesus? Are you surprised that James, one of the 12 Apostles, was murdered by Herod? Why or why not? When you go through difficult times, how does it affect your thoughts towards God? When bad things happen, do you tend to amplify & increase your prayers? Does it make a difference?

Day Two | Acts 12:6-11

What do you find most amazing or interesting about Peter's escape from prison? Why do you think that God chose to free Peter from the prison? What things are you currently praying for that feel impossible? How does this account impact the boldness of your prayers?

Day Three | Acts 12:12-17

What is the connection between Peter's escape from prison and this group of people gathered together to pray? What elements of this account add to its believability as more than just a legend? Describe something that you saw God do that was almost too good to be believed.

Day Four | Acts 12:18-19

Why does Herod react so harshly to the escape of Peter from prison? Why would Herod have executed the sentries? What are some of the ways that Christians and the Church are being persecuted today? How should we respond to that persecution? What can we do to stand with those who are directly facing persecution today?

Day Five | Acts 12:20-25

Why was Herod struck dead? Although God could rightfully judge us at any time, why is it uncommon for Him to strike someone dead on the spot like this? Despite all of the opposition & persecution, what was the result in the church at this time? How do current events in the world impact your faith that God is in control?

Group Question:

What are the things that are currently happening in the world that concern you the most? Do you believe that God is sovereign over these things?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week 13: Acts 13

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Day One | Acts 13:1-3

What signs of diversity do you see in the leadership at the church in Antioch? How important is diversity in a Christian community? What benefits come from a diverse community? What role did fasting, prayer & worship play in their decision to send Saul & Barnabas out? What role does fasting, prayer & worship play in your life?

Day Two | Acts 13:4-12

What lessons can we learn from the way that Saul dealt with the magician? What are some current examples of ways that enemies of Jesus seek to make the straight paths of the Lord crooked? Why do you think that Saul & Barnabas took John Mark along with them on the journey? Has God put someone in your life that you should disciple?

Day Three | Acts 13:13-25

John left the mission. Can you describe a time when someone you were counting on let you down? How did it impact your relationship with them? Why did they typically begin by sharing the Gospel at the local synagogue? What do you find most interesting about Paul's account of the history of Israel on this occasion?

Day Four | Acts 13:26-43

How is Jesus the fulfillment of the promises that God made to His people? How does belief in Jesus free us in a way that the law of Moses never could? What was the response of the people to the message? Who are some people, who God has placed in your life, that would be open to hearing more about Jesus?

Day Five | Acts 13:44-52

What motivated the Jewish leaders to speak against Paul & Barnabas? How was God using them to bring salvation to the ends of the earth? How do we continue to do that today? What role are you playing in the spread of the Gospel? What did the affluent people of the city have to fear from Paul & Barnabas? Does this happen today?

Group Question:

Are you surprised that Paul & Barnabas' mission was so challenging? Why or why not?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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Week 14: Acts 14

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Day One | Acts 14:1-7

How does the manner in which we speak affect how the gospel is received? In what ways can minds be poisoned to prevent receiving the gospel? As believers, how can we “bear witness to the word of his grace”? In the face of adversity or rejection what is your typical response? Why?

Day Two | Acts 14:8-13

In your experience, does dealing with a severe disability draw people towards God? How did Paul “see” that the man had “faith to be made well”? How does our faith affect our ability to heal? How have you observed people misattributing the work of God to something else? Why does that happen?

Day Three | Acts 14:14-18

Why did Paul and Barnabus tear their garments? What does that reveal? What are the key points Paul and Barnabus make to try to persuade the crowd to turn “to a living God”? What stands out to you in their response? Is truth, judgement and love well balanced - or is one emphasized? Why do you think the crowd seemed unconvinced?

Day Four | Acts 14:19-23

After preaching the gospel boldly, why do you think God allowed Paul to be stoned? How has your faith in God been affected when experiencing rejection for your faith? How was Paul's ability to "strengthen the souls of the disciples" increased by his recent experience of stoning? Why is it through tribulations that we must enter the kingdom of God? Why did Paul and Barnabas appoint the elders for them?

Day Five | Acts 14:24-28

The church of Antioch sent Paul and Barnabus and now they are returning to report back to them. What does "success" look like for a missionary? How is it different from worldly success? How was God's grace evident in the work that they fulfilled?

Group Question:

Are the ups and downs of Paul's journey relatable in any way? How so? How do their experiences inspire you to live out your faith?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

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