**Summer 2020 Reading Plan: Acts**

**Introduction to the Book of Acts**

The book of Acts is a unique book because it is transitional. It transitions us from the time of Christ in the Gospels to the time of the church, in the Epistles. In Acts we see, the ascension of Christ and the beginning of the great commission where the gospel leaves Jerusalem and heads to the uttermost parts of the earth – and eventually right to us today.

Purpose: Acts was written so we could see the birth and growth of the church and the acts of the Apostles.

Author: Luke (also the author of the Gospel of Luke)

Date: Estimated to be around AD 63-70

Key Verse: Acts 1:8  “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

In the book of Acts, we start with the accession of Jesus and then head into the ministry of Peter. There, we find the establishment and expansion of the church in the first 12 chapters.

We also see Saul converted from being a persecutor of the church to a great missionary of the church. His conversion takes places in Acts 9, but we don’t see his ministry really take off until chapter 13.

**Themes:**

There are several major themes in the book of Acts that will not only teach us about the early church but are applicable to our own lives as believers.

1.The Holy Spirit – Jesus promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would come. The Holy Spirit came with power in Acts 2.  He came to be our comforter, our teacher, and He is the power behind all that we do as believers. Nothing we do is by our own power but by His power that lives inside of us.

2.  The Church – The establishment and organization of the local church is a main story line and theme of the book of Acts. The new church had many issues much like the church today. Acts gives us a lot of great examples of how to persevere in spite of problems in our church. It also talks greatly about the churches growth.

3.  Missions/Witnessing – At the end of each gospel, Jesus left us with a commission. (Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:14-16, Luke 24:44-53, John 20:21-23) With this in mind, we know that this is the purpose of the church – to share the gospel! We must tell others. This expands not just the local church, but the entire Church universally. We also see in the book of Acts, that sharing the Gospel might come with a price but it strengthens our faith as we rely on God during those times.

4.  Persecution – The church and those who defended it suffered much persecution. The same is true today. Those who stand by the doctrines and beliefs of the church might suffer opposition or persecution. The book of Acts gives encouragement to stand firm in our faith, and to remember those who have stood firm before us.

**Final Thoughts**:

The book of Acts is going to take us on a journey of faith. It calls Christians to live outside of their comfort zone and walk boldly to share the gospel in a world that does not seek to know God. May we be encouraged as we read the acts of those who went before us and learn that we too can persevere in an age where the Gospel is not popular.

**How to make the most of your study in Acts:**

Keep a journal handy to jot down any questions, thoughts, ideas, prayers and anything you would like to share with the group.

1. Start with prayer asking the Holy Spirit to speak and teach

2. Read the daily passage – underline anything that stands out to you (a word, a sentence, as that is what the Holy Spirit has for you that day!)

3. Write down any questions (things that you want to discuss or aren’t sure about), ideas, thoughts, what the Spirit said to you in the margin of your Bible or in a separate journal

4. Ask, “How can I apply that to my current situation

5. Pray – worship & thanksgiving; prayer for self & others; application

**Reading Plan**

**Week 1**:

Acts 1:1-11

Acts 1:12-26

Acts 2:1-13

Acts 2:14-41

Acts 2:42-47

Focus Verse: Acts 1:8

**Week 2:**

Acts 3:1-10

Acts 3: 11-26

Acts 4:1-22

Acts 4:23-31

Acts 4:32-37

Focus Verse: Acts 4:31

**Week 3:**

Acts 5:1-11

Acts 5:12-16

Acts 5:17-42

Acts 6:1-7

Acts 6:8-15

Focus Verse: Acts 5:42

**Week 4:**

Acts 7:1-38

Acts 7:39-53

Acts 7:54-60

Acts 8:1-25

Acts 8:26-40

Focus Verse: Acts 8:12

**Week 5:**

Acts 9:1-31

Acts 9:32-10:22

Acts 10:23-48

Acts 11:1-18

Acts 11:19-30

Focus Verse: Acts 11:18

**Week 6:**

Acts 12:1-19

Acts 12:20-25

Acts 13:1-12

Acts 13:13-41

Acts 13:42-52

Focus Verses: Acts 13:38-39

**Week 7:**

Acts 14:1-20

Acts 14:21-15:21

Acts 15:22-35

Acts 15:36-16:15

Acts 16:16-40

Focus Verses: Acts 14:20-21

**Week 8**:

Acts 17:1-9

Acts 17:10-15

Acts 17:16-34

Acts 18:1-17

Acts 18:18-28

Focus Verses: Acts 17:24-25

**Week 9:**

Acts 19:1-22

Acts 19:23-41

Acts 20:1-6

Acts 20:7-16

Acts 20:17-38

Focus Verse: Acts 20:24

**Week 10:**

Acts 21:1-16

Acts 21:17-26

Acts 21:27-36

Acts 21:37-22:21

Acts 22:22-29

Focus Verses: Acts 22:14-15

**Week 11:**

Acts 22:30-23:11

Acts 23:12-22

Acts 23:23-35

Acts 24:1-21

Acts 24:22-27

Focus Verse: Acts 23:11

**Week 12:**

Acts 25:1-12

Acts 25:13-27

Acts 26:1-8

Acts 26:9-18

Acts 26:19-32

Focus Verses: Acts 26:17-18

**Week 13:**

Acts 27:1-12

Acts 27: 13-26

Acts 27:27-44

Acts 28:1-16

Acts 28:17-31

Focus Verse: Acts 28:31