

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Studies

Acts

The Beautiful, Amazing, Powerful, Weak, Dysfunctional Church



Bible Studies
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Acts

“The Beautiful, Amazing, Powerful, Weak, Dysfunctional Church”

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Acts - A Short Introduction

Here's what we'll be reading as we study through the book of Acts:

Chapters 1-12 (First Ten Years) Major Emphasis: The Jerusalem Church

Major Topics Covered:

Church

Gospel

Holy Spirit

Chapters 13-28 (Next 20 Years) Major Emphasis: Churches Spread Throughout the world

Major Topics Covered:

Missionary

Paul

Local Churches

Countries Mentioned at Pentecost: Rome, Crete, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphilia, Pontus, Cappadocia, Mesopotamia, Parthian Empire, Media, Elam, Arabia, Egypt, Cyrene.

Why are these important? Because all of these people from all these countries took the Gospel back home with them from the Day of Pentecost...in Acts we're going to see the Lord reach those same people in the years that followed with help to form churches so the Gospel could continue to spread.

First Ten Years:

- **First Five Years:** Pentecost, Healing, Preaching, Arrests, Annanias & Sapphira, Choosing leaders, Stephen martyred, Persecution begins, Scattering
- **Second Five Years:** Philip & the Ethiopian Eunuch, Saul is converted = Paul, Peter sees vision in a sheet, Gentiles hear the good news, Jerusalem leaders accept that the Gospel is for the gentiles, church established in Antioch, James martyred, Peter arrested & set free

Next 20 Years: Paul's Three Missionary journeys and trip to Rome.

As you read and study this book, try to answer these major questions. When you do, I think you'll have a good idea of how God wants you to serve Him for the rest of your life :

1. Why is the church necessary?
2. What does the church do?
3. What does the Holy Spirit do?
4. What should be my commitment to my local church?
5. Do I have to do anything about the Holy Spirit?
6. How should I be spreading the Gospel?

Acts 1

50 Days

1. Several questions can be answered from the first 2 verses:
 - Who is this book written to?
 - Who was the former book written to?
 - What was the content of the former book?
 - Where did the former book end?
 - What is the name of the former book?
 - What do we know about the one the book was written to?
 - What do we know about the author?

Luke 1:1-4
Acts 16:10
Col. 4:14
II Tim 4:11
Philemon 24

2. Here's a simple timeline we could put together about the life of Jesus before and after the resurrection:

Jesus comes to earth as a baby	0 AD
Jesus starts His ministry	30 AD
Jesus dies on a cross	33 AD
Jesus Resurrected	on the Third Day After the crucifixion

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Jesus shows himself to his followers After He is resurrected	for 40 days after the Resurrection
Jesus Goes up to heaven.	On the 40 th Day after the Resurrection
The Disciples wait in Jerusalem	10 more days
The Holy Spirit comes on the Day Of Pentecost	On the 50 th Day after the resurrection
The Church is born	On the 50 th Day after The resurrection

2. Verses 3-8 give us a few more details about the 40 days after Jesus was raised from the dead. What did He say in these 40 days to either comfort them, or give them direction about what to do next?

- :3 He gave them many _____
- :3 He spoke of the _____ of _____
- :4 He told them not to _____
- :4 He told them to wait for _____
- :5 He told them they were going to be _____
_____ in a few days.
- :7 He answered their question about _____

- :8 He told them they would receive _____
After the _____ was come on them

- :8 He told them their job from that point on would be to

_____.

Here's some other passages which tell us about things which happened in those 40 days:

At the empty tomb: Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-9

Mary Magdalene in the garden: Mark 16:9-11, John 20:11-18

Appearing to other women: Matthew 28:9-10

2 people going to Emmaus: Mark 16:12-13, Luke 24:13-32

Peter: Luke 24:34, I Cor 15:5

The 10 disciples in the upper room: Luke 24:36-43
John 20:19-25

The 11 disciples in the upper room: Mark 16:14, John 20:26-31, I Cor 15:5

The 7 disciples fishing: John 21:1-23

The 11 disciples on a mountain: Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15-18

Appeared to more than 500: I Cor. 15:6

Appeared to James: I Cor 15:7

His disciples on the 40th day: Luke 24:44-49, Acts 1:3-8

3. In verses 9-11, we see what happened when Jesus left them on the 40th day. What did they see?

4. In verse 11, what future event is promised?
Learn more here: Revelation 1:7, Revelation 19:11-16

5. Verses 12-15 Who returned to Jerusalem to wait...and what did they do while they waited?

Note: Jesus' mother and brothers were there now. They were not necessarily with Him all along. Mark 3:21. What has happened?

6. Verses 15-26 What was the one thing they did do, besides prayer? Why did they do it? How did they make their decision?

6. If you had been with the 120, waiting in Jerusalem after Jesus was gone to heaven, what would you have been thinkingwondering....during this 10 days?

7. Why did Jesus wait for 10 days to send the Holy Spirit?

8. Why are we willing to follow Jesus, whom we have read about, but cannot see?

Acts 2

The Day of Pentecost

In the Old Testament, our “Day of Pentecost” was called “The Feast of Weeks”, or “The Feast of Harvest”, or “The Day of First Fruits”.

In 30 AD, all of Israel was gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate this “Feast of Weeks”, 7 weeks after Jesus had risen from the dead. What happened on that day, a Sunday, forever gave Christians a new name for the day: The Day of Pentecost.

A few facts about the “Feast of Weeks”:

Leviticus 23: 15-16, Exodus 23:16, Numbers 28:26 :

- Passover was always on a Sabbath, a Saturday, in the spring. The “Feast of Weeks” was the next holiday after Passover. It always took place 50 days after the Passover Sabbath. In other words, 7 weeks and 1 day after Passover, a Sunday in early summer. The “Feast of Weeks” was so named because it occurred 7 weeks after Passover.
- It was also called the “Feast of Harvest”. It was a celebration of a bountiful harvest. As the Jewish nation gathered their early harvest from their fields, they took this one day to celebrate God’s blessings.
- Because this was the first harvest, with more to come in the fall, the holiday was also called the “Day of the First Fruits.”

1. Verses 1-16

a Where were the followers of Jesus?

b What did they hear?

c What did they see?

d What happened to them?

- e What did the crowd of people see?
 - Why were so many Jews from so many different places all in Jerusalem at the same time? .
 - Was this significant?
 - f What did the crowd of people hear?
 - g Why was the crowd amazed?
 - h What did some people think had happened?
2. How did Peter prove these weren't drunken people?
 - 3 Why do you think Peter was the spokesman?
 4. Let's try to outline Peter's sermon:
 - I. (vs. 16-21)
 - II. (vs. 22-24)
 - III. (vs. 25-31)
 - IV. (32-36)
 5. What was the result of Peter's sermon? (vs. 37)
 6. What two things did Peter tell them to do? And what two things did he say would happen? (vs. 38-40)

7. Do you think it's important that the Holy Spirit is a gift from God...not a reward for anything? (vs. 38 – 39)

8. How was it that the listeners could “save” themselves from this corrupt generation? And what did “corrupt” mean?

9. What did the new believers do? (vs. 41-47) What did you do when you first believed in Jesus?

Acts 3 & 4

The Jerusalem Church Begins to Act

1. Chapter 3: Verses 1-10.

- Why were Peter & John still going to the temple...weren't they Christians now?

- What did the crippled man expect to receive?

- What did he receive?

- What would you say the purpose of this miracle was?

2. Chapter 3: Verses 11-26

- How does 2nd sermon of Peter's compare to the first one?

- Does he add anything new?

- Does he leave anything out?

- Does it sound stronger, more laid back, kinder, harsher????

3. Chapter 4: verses 1-4

- ❑ What was the result of this sermon?

- ❑ How does that compare to the results of the 1st sermon?

- ❑ How many people are believing?

4. Chapter 4: Verses 5-13

- ❑ Who were the authorities who questioned Peter & John?

- ❑ Do you recognize any names in that list?

- ❑ Does Peter's answer sound any different to you than his first 2 sermons?

- ❑ What did the authorities especially see in Peter & John?

- ❑ Why did Peter & John have such courage?

- ❑ What areas do I need courage in?

- ❑ How can this passage help me?

5. Chapter 4: Verses 14-22

- ❑ What stopped the authorities from doing anything to Peter & John?

6. Chapter 4: Verses 23-31

- ❑ What did Peter & John do on their release?

- ❑ What were some of the parts of their prayer?

- ❑ What were the results of their prayer?

- ❑ Is there any persecution you are facing today?

- ❑ Can you learn anything from this passage about what to do as you face persecution?

7. Chapter 4: Verses 32-37

- ❑ Again, they are all taking care of each other. “There were no needy persons among them”. “one heart and mind”. What made it impossible for them to overlook each other?

8. The Jerusalem Church was busy spreading the news about Jesus. They didn't have the New Testament, like we do today, to help them tell that news. **What scripture did they use?** The Old Testament is full of passages which talk about Jesus – passages which tell of a Savior which was to come. The Jerusalem church simply shared the Old Testament scriptures with the world, to prove that the promised Messiah had come. The Jewish Messiah had come – and He was not only the Messiah of the Jews, but he Messiah of the whole world.

Read through the following partial list of Old Testament scriptures which the Jerusalem church could have used:

A Few Prophecies from the Jewish Scriptures About the Jewish Messiah

Over 25 prophets, in over 300 prophecies, covering a period of 1,500 years, predicted the Jewish Messiah in the Jewish scriptures.....the only prophecies not fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth (Yeshua) are ones that are still yet to be fulfilled when He returns again, as He said He would.

Prophecy	Jewish Scripture	New Testament Scripture
He would be a man	Genesis 3:15	Galatians 4:4
He would be a Jew	Genesis 12:3 Genesis 18:18	Luke 3:34 Matt. 1:2 Acts 3:25 Galatians 3:16
He would be of the the tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:33 Matthew 1:2
He would be a King (of the seed of David)	Psalms 132:11,12 Jeremiah 23:5,6 Psalms 2:6-9	Matthew 1:6 Romans 1:3 Acts 2:30
He would be a prophet like Moses	Deuteronomy 18:15, 19	Matt. 21:11 John 1:45 John 6:14 Acts 3:22-23
He would be the Son of God	Psalms 2:7 Proverbs 30:4	Luke 1:32 Matthew 3:17
He would be God	Jeremiah 23:5,6	Acts 2:36

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Prophecy	Jewish Scripture	New Testament Scripture
Homage would be given Him by great Kings	Psalms 72:10,11	Matt. 2:1-11
He would be born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18-25 Luke 1:26-35
He would be born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:1	Matt 2:1, 5, 6 Luke 2:4-6
He would perform miracles	Isaiah 35:5,6	John 11:47 Matthew 11:3-6
He would come before the 2 nd temple in Jerusalem was destroyed (70 A.D.)	Daniel 9:24-26	Historical fact
He would be betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18,21
He would be rejected	Psalms 118:22,23 Isaiah 8:14, 15 Isaiah 28:16	Matt 21:42,43 Acts 4:11 Romans 9:32,33 Ephesians 2:20 I Peter 2:6-8
He would be meek & mild	Isaiah 42:2,3 Isaiah 53:7	Matt. 12:18-20 Matt 26:62,63
He would minister to Gentiles	Isaiah 42:1 Isaiah 49:1,8	Matt. 12:21
He would be smitten	Isaiah 50:6	Matt. 26:67 Matt 27:26,30

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Prophecy	Jewish Scripture	New Testament Scripture
He would suffer & bring salvation	Isaiah 53	The 4 Gospels
He would be pierced	Zechariah 12:10 Psalm 22:16	John 19:34,37
He would be forsaken by His disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Matthew 26:31,56
He would be crucified	Psalm 22 Psalm 69:21	Matthew 27:34-50 John 19:28-30
He would have his garments parted & cast lots for	Psalm 22:19	Luke 23:34
He would ascend to heaven	Psalm 68:18	Luke 24:51 Acts 1:9
He would have victory over death	Isaiah 25:8	John 20:1-10, 19-25
Gentiles shall seek the Messiah of Israel	Isaiah 11:10	Romans 11:25
Died for the sins of the Jewish people and the whole world	Isaiah 53:8	John 3:16

Acts 5 & 6

How to Grow a Church

First, before we start the study of these chapters, list your recommendations for growing a church today:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h.
- more?

As we read and discuss Acts 5&6, compare your ideas of how to grow a church with what God did to grow the church:

1. 5:1-14

- What happened here?

- What did they do that was so wrong?

- Does this happen today? Why, or why not?

- What is our lesson to be learned from this?

2. 5:15-42

- ❑ What was the result of people being healed?

- ❑ Who was arrested?

- ❑ After being set free from jail, what did they do?

- ❑ After being set free from jail, were all their problems over?

- ❑ After explaining themselves was everyone calmed down?

- ❑ What caused them to rejoice?

3. 6:1-7

- ❑ What problem arose with growth?

- ❑ What was the solution?

- ❑ What was the result of implementing the solution?

4. 6:8-15

- What was Stephen doing that got him into trouble?

- What happened when men tried to argue with Stephen?

- Stephen was a deacon (a helper for the leaders of the church) – was that all he did?

- Stephen had “hands laid on him” 2 times in this chapter... what were the 2 times?

- Stephen gets his chance to preach – what was the result?

How did God grow the church?

How does that compare with your ideas of how to grow a church?

Acts 7

Stephen Told a Story

1. (:1) What charges were they referring to?

(:2-53) Stephen answers with a story.

- Who are the main characters in the story?

- What was Stephen trying to accomplish by telling them a story they already knew?

- At what point does Stephen go from “preaching” to “meddling?”

- Could Stephen have told them about Jesus without offending them?

- Who were the ones who stoned Stephen?

- “ Then he (Stephen) fell on his knees and cried out, ‘**Lord, do not hold this sin against them**’. When he had said this, he fell asleep.”
- Why did Stephen say this?
 - Does this bring any other passage to mind? Any other time this same type of thing happened?
 - Is it a bad thing to want other people to have to pay the price for their sins?
 - Forgiveness:
 - Why should I?
 - What, practically, does that mean I should do?
 - How in the world can I do it?

3. What do you think of religious leaders today? Could they make this same mistake? How can you be sure you are following a leader who is tender to the truth?

4. What is your story? How often do you tell it? Fill out the following worksheet to get an idea of how to tell your story:

How to Tell Your Story (borrowed from Campus Crusade)

Here's a short little worksheet - as you think it through and fill it out you will find you have a nice outline of your own personal testimony. After you see what your story is, practice telling it a few times. Practice on your kids, your friends, your husband, your Mom & Dad, your teachers...anyone who will listen for 5 or 10 minutes. Then pray that God will give you an opportunity to tell someone you love - someone who doesn't know Jesus - your story of how you came to know Him.

The first 2 questions will help you define your life before knowing Christ.
The second 2 questions are about the time in your life when you met Christ.
The last 2 questions are about your life since Jesus became the center.

1. Where were you spiritually before receiving Christ, and how did this affect you - your feelings, attitudes, actions, and relationships?

2. What caused you to begin considering God/Christ as a solution to your needs?

3. What realization did you come to that finally motivated you to receive Christ?

4. Specifically, how did you receive Christ?

5. How did your life begin to change after you trusted Christ?

6. What other benefits have you experienced since becoming a Christian?

Simply reading these through and thinking about your answers is not really going to help you that much. Write out your answers. This forces you to actually put things into your own words - to verbalize what may be a little fuzzy in your head. After you write out your answers, then practice telling your story out loud, you'll be amazed at how easily your testimony will come out of your mouth at just the right time.

Acts 8:1-25

How Do I Know Whether or Not I am a True Believer?

Up until now, the believers in Jesus had stayed mostly in the vicinity of Jerusalem. The original group waited in the Upper Room until the Holy Spirit descended on them. Then thousands of people came to belief in Christ. They were taught by the apostles, fellowshiped with each other, broke bread together, and prayed together. The leadership of the new church needed extra help, so they appointed Deacons to help with meeting the needs of the people. They experienced some persecution in Jerusalem, and some difficulty within their own group. But mostly they grew and grew and grew. But when Stephen was martyred, everything changed....persecution especially by the one named Saul was so fierce, that many believers began to flee Jerusalem to find places where they would not be killed.

Imagine Persecution: Suzann Smith & Family disappeared last week – we think they are being held in Indy for questioning – because someone saw them carrying Bibles to church last week. You and your husband talked quietly only last night, after the kids had gone to bed, of the possibility that you should just pack up and leave in the middle of the night soon – you had heard that the Steen’s found a safe place to live in Illinois. You would really like to let the school know you are leaving, so they can replace you, but you know that could mean the word would get back to the authorities... So many in your church have already left. Your Pastor is going to stay – as long as there are people here who need to be cared for, and want to learn. One of the leaders in your church was killed last week in a mob riot....and there is a prosecutor from Indianapolis who has been given power to imprison anyone who speaks up about Jesus....

1. If all this were true....would you “preach the word wherever you went”?? (8:4)

What would it take to make you a “Philip”? (8:5)

What makes a person courageous?

I don't think they were trying to not trust Jesus – being evil in their intent – they just hadn't fully understood with their hearts that they could do nothing to deserve His love and His salvation. When the apostles arrived and spent more time teaching and perhaps answering questions, the Samaritan believers had even more joy than they had at the first – they now knew the story of Jesus, and they also knew that He had paid the full price for their sin – and they put their faith in Him, not in anything they could do.

....*Simon, however, was a different story:*

7. Why was Simon's reaction so wrong? (8:18-25)

- Was Simon's belief genuine?

- How can we tell whether or not a person's belief is genuine?

Here are a few more notes from me to guide you as you think this through:

Simon also came short of true belief with the first hearing of the Gospel, but then when he had opportunity to truly respond with faith in Jesus, he continued to respond with faith in himself, or in his money, or in what his eyes could see. He hadn't come to true faith.

This passage is a perfect example of many, many "Christians" in our culture today. They truly do not know Christ. They know about Him, they are actively involved in church, or are baptized, or take communion, or teach Sunday School classes, or Bible studies, but they have never actually "bowed the knee" to Christ. They are trusting themselves, not Jesus, for their acceptance with God. Many of these "Christians" simply have never realized how short they have come. And when they hear the Word of God taught in simplicity and power they respond by coming to personal faith in Christ. But many of these "Christians" also are like Simon – even when they hear the truth, and understand their need of a Savior, they choose to continue to trust in themselves....they like themselves way too much to admit Christ had to do it all.

As I see it, this brings up two very important questions:

1. *How do I know if I am a true believer?*
2. *How do I know if someone else is a true believer?*

These are good questions to ask – and no one should ever be afraid to ask them, and to honestly examine his or her heart for genuine answers.

Romans 8 has been the passage which sets my mind at ease – the whole chapter deals with the difference between trusting in “me” (the flesh) and trusting in Jesus (the Spirit).

How do I know if I am a true believer? If I am a true believer, the Spirit lives within me. And there are evidences of that which I can see and experience. Look, in Romans 8, at verses 10, 15, 16, 23, 25, 26 to find those evidences.

:10 – your spirit is alive – you respond inwardly to the Word of God when you hear it and read it.

:15 – you know a sense of longing for your heavenly Father

:16 – when you read the Word of God the Holy Spirit gives you peace

that you are, indeed, a Child of God.

:23 & 25 – you experience a strong pull toward the time when you will be with Jesus face to face. – an eagerness is there for eternity, even when you also feel a pull toward the things of this life.

:26 – the Spirit sometimes helps you know what to pray for, especially in those times when you don’t have clue how to pray

How do I know if someone else is a true believer? You can look for the same evidence in other lives that you look for in your own. You can listen for others to talk about their walk with God, and to show a love for Jesus – not just a love for church or religion. You can look for a love for being like Jesus. That’s how the apostles knew Simon had not bowed his knee to Christ. His actions and his words told them the truth.

If you have some doubt about another's belief in Christ, do something very simple and loving for them. Open the Bible together, and just talk about the Word – any passage will do - discuss what it means - talk about Jesus – tell your story of coming to trust Him fully. If that person is not a believer, God will point it out to them. The decision of whether or not to trust Christ is theirs – the opportunity to be a Philip or a Peter or a John is yours.

8. What can we learn from Philip's trip to Samaria which can apply to our life today?

- ❑ The fact that he went

- ❑ The way he got their attention

- ❑ The obstacles he ran into

- ❑ The fact that those in authority over him came to check it out

- ❑ The people who benefited

Acts 8:26-40

The Road to Gaza

1. (verse 26) Where was Philip when the angel told him this? Where was Gaza?

2. (verses 27-29)
 - Why would a man from Ethiopia be going to Jerusalem to worship?

 - Why would he be reading from the book of Isaiah?

 - Why would the Spirit need Philip to make this special trip to talk to this man?

 - Why couldn't the Spirit just help the man understand it Himself?
3. (verses 30- 35) What would Philip have said about those verses?

4. (verses 36-38) Why did the Ethiopian eunuch ask to be baptized?

5. (verses 39-40)
 - What did the Spirit do with Philip once the eunuch had been baptized?

□ Why didn't the Spirit get Philip there in the same way He got him out of there?

□ What do you suppose the eunuch did once he got back to Ethiopia?

6. What did we learn about The Spirit from this passage?

Acts 9

“God Doesn’t Use Cannon Balls to knock down Canary Birds”

I had a professor in Bible College who was asked why God used such a miraculous means to save Saul, but didn’t do anything spectacular for most people. His answer: “God doesn’t use cannon balls to knock down canary birds.” I liked that answer, and somehow it has stuck with me all these years, so...you get it for a title to the story of Saul’s conversion.. ☺

1. (verse 1) Who is Saul? Why was he so angry against the Lord’s disciples?
2. (verse 2) What is this group called “The Way”? Why was he looking for them in the synagogues of Damascus?
3. (verses 3&4) What did Saul see and hear?
4. (verse 5) What did Saul ask? Does this indicate that he knew it was God talking to him?

Acts 10

Peter and Cornelius

1. (10:1-8) What do we know about Cornelius? Why does he need to talk to Simon Peter?
2. (10:9-16) What was the vision Peter saw? Describe it in your own words.
3. (10:17-23) Why did God give this vision to Peter? What did God want to accomplish?
4. If Jews of this time understood that they were to be a light to the Gentile world, why was reaching out to the Gentiles such a difficult concept to Peter? (Isaiah 60: 11, 12)
5. 10:24-29: How does Peter treat the non-Jews in this household? How does he justify his presence there? What incident from the ministry of Jesus would help Peter take this step?
6. 10:30-33 What is Cornelius expecting to hear from Peter?

Acts 11

God Prepares The Rest of the Church – It's Time to Reach the Gentile World – The Church will be Both Jews and Gentiles

1. 11:1-18 Why was Peter called on the carpet when he returned to Jerusalem? How did this problem get resolved?
2. 11:19 Why were some people telling only Jews the message?
3. 11:20-26 What seemed to be necessary in order to keep people calm and open to the way God was moving in this new “church”?
4. 11:27-30 How did God use an approaching tragedy to further cement the truth that the wall between Jews and Gentiles was down?

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5. This was just the start of the “new” look of the church: *Jews and Gentiles*.
Read Ephesians 3 to see what the Lord taught Paul about the Jews and the Gentiles.

Acts 12
James is Martyred
Peter is Delivered
Herod Dies
“But the Word of God...”

“...all men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.”

- 1 Peter 1:24&25

1. :1 Who was James? What do we know about him from the Gospels?
(see Matthew 20: 20-28)

How would this event have affected the Christians in Jerusalem?

2. :3-19 Who was Peter? What do we know about him from the Gospels?
(see John 21: 15-19)

Why would God allow James to be killed, and do something miraculous to set Peter free?

Why would the church earnestly pray for Peter (:5) ? What do you think they were praying for?

Who was the “James” Peter tells these people to deliver a message to? (:17)

How would this event have affected the Christians in Jerusalem?

3. :19-23 Compare the death of Herod to the death of James. What are the similarities? What are the differences?

4. :24 What continued to spread? (Hebrews 4:12)

5. How are you spreading the Word of God? What could you do today to spread it a little further?

At this point in our study of Acts, you may have lots of questions and thoughts about the Holy Spirit. You can use the following list of verses to give you a jumping off point for answering some of your questions or guiding a discussion about Him:

The Holy Spirit

Who is He? What Does He Do? What Doesn't He do?
Was He in the Old Testament, too? Did Jesus talk about Him?
What should I do about Him?

Look up each of these passages and see if you can answer some of your questions about the Holy Spirit. You'll come up with a few more questions, too.

Isaiah 61:1

Zechariah 4:6

John 15:26

Gen 1:2

Gen 6:3

Gen 41:38

Isaiah 42:1

Ezekiel 36:27

Matt. 1:18

Matt. 3:11

Matt. 3:16-17

Matt. 10:20

John 14:16-17

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John 14:26

John 16:7-8

John 20:22

Acts 1:5-8

Acts 2:2-4

Acts 4:8

Acts 4:31

Acts 9:31

Acts 13:2-4

Romans 5:5

Romans 8:26

I Corinthians 3:16

Galatians 4:6

Ephesians 4:30

I Thess. 5:19

Finished with Chapter 1-12, On to Chapters 13-28

Chapters 1-12 (First Ten Years)

Major Emphasis: The Jerusalem Church

Major Topics Covered:

Church

Gospel

Holy Spirit

Chapters 13-28 (Next 20 Years)

Major Emphasis: Churches Spread Throughout the world

Major Topics Covered:

Missionary

Paul

Local Churches

Acts 13

Time for the Church to Spread

1. 12:25-13:3 Who were the leaders in the church at Antioch?
2. What does it mean when it says these men were “ministering to the Lord”?
3. Why were they “fasting”? What is fasting?
4. What is the result of their ministering to the Lord and fasting?
5. :4 Who else goes with Saul and Barnabas?
6. :4 Where did they preach?

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7. :6-12 What happened in Paphos?

8. :13 What happened in Perga?

9. :14-41 What happened in Antioch of Pisidia?

- 10.:14-41 How many Old Testament verses did Paul use in his sermon?

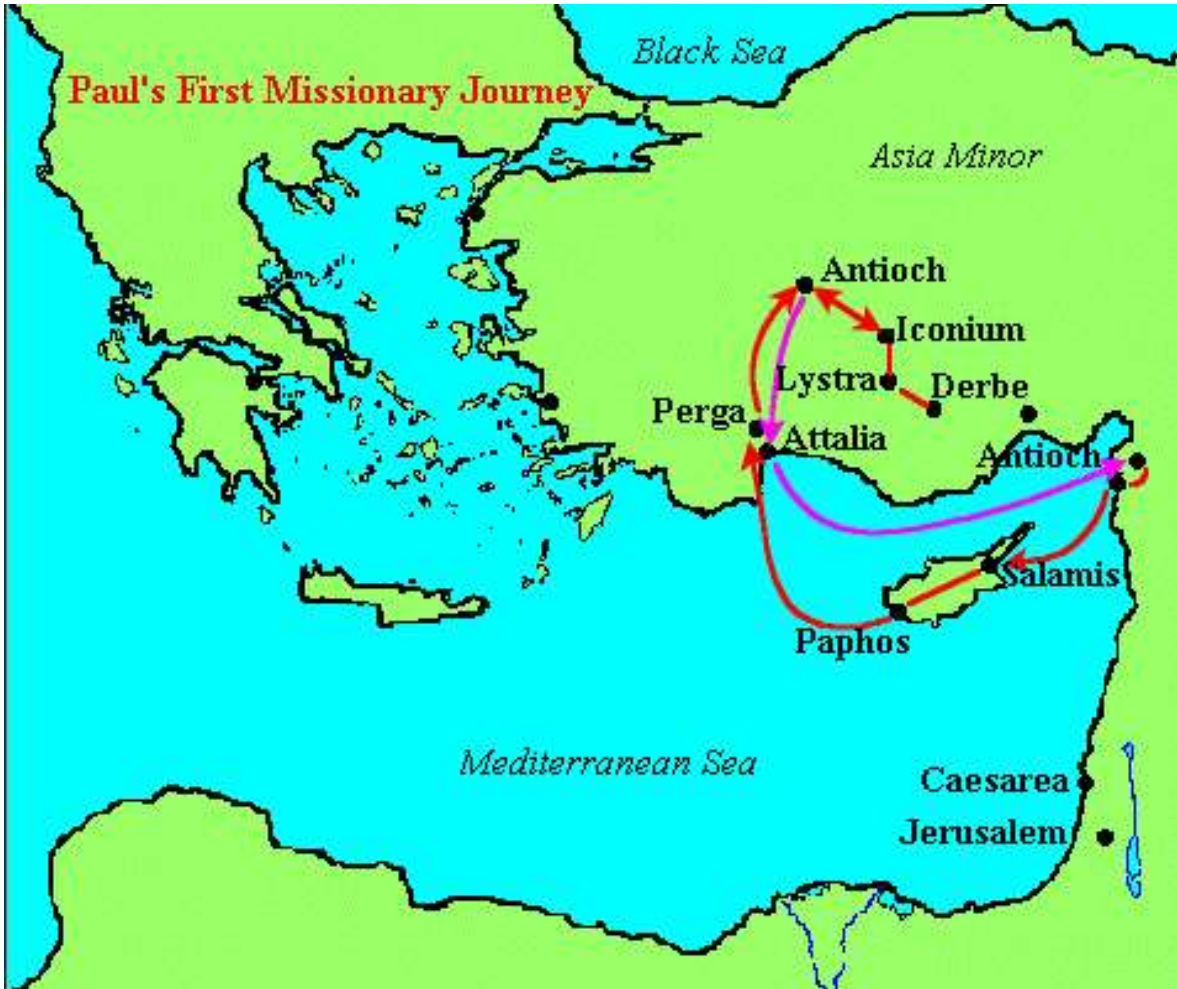
- 11.:42 Who else wanted to hear this message?
- 12.:44 What happened when Paul and Barnabus preached on the following Sabbath?

- 13.:45-47 What is Paul's mission?

- 14.:48-52 Why did Paul and Barnabus leave Antioch of Pisidia?

15. When did Saul become Paul?

16. Pinpoint the places Paul & Barnabus travelled in Chapter 13



Acts 14

Back Home Again

1. 13:51 – 14:1 Why did Paul and Barnabus leave Antioch of Pisidia and travel on to Iconium? What kind of results did they see in Iconium?

2. 14:2 Who began to oppose them?

3. Why would Jewish people, who say they believe in the One, True God, oppose the spread of the news about Jesus, Who was the One, True God? (John 7:1-7)

4. 14:3
 - a. How long did they stay there in Iconium?

 - b. Did they let opposition stop them from their task?

 - c. What else did they do, which helped to open people's eyes to the truth of their message?

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11. 14: 20

a. What miracle took place, and why do you think so little is said about it?

b. What city do they go to next?

12. 14:21-23 Paul and Barnabus begin to back-track now, going to the cities where they had just been on this first Missionary journey.

a. Why were they doing this?

b. And why didn't they avoid these places where they had enemies who wanted to kill them?

c. What two things did they especially want to communicate with these new churches?

d. What three things did they do in every church they re-visited?

13. 14:24-26 What other churches did the re-visit on their way home to Antioch?

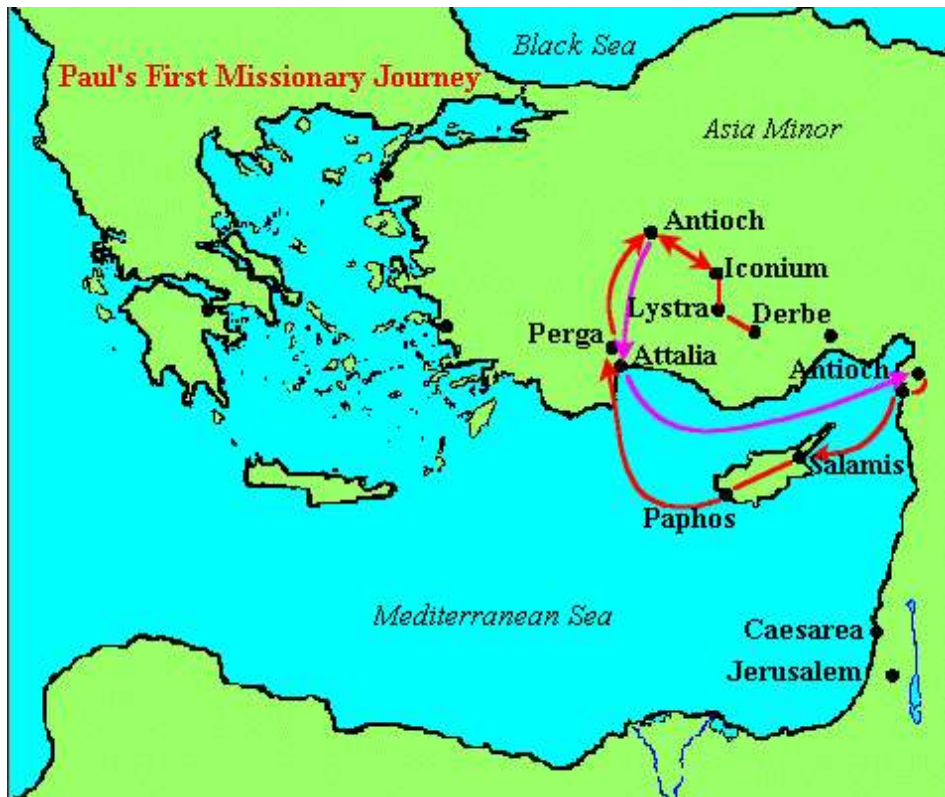
14. 14:27-28

a. What did they communicate to the church at Antioch when they were safely back?

b. Did they leave Antioch again right away?

c. Why do you think they stayed for a long time in Antioch?

15. Pinpoint the places Paul & Barnabus travelled in Chapter 14



Acts 15

Is Salvation by Grace....or by Works?

1. :1 Verse 1 describes the whole problem this chapter will deal with. What was the problem?

2. :2 Who were the two men who argued against this bad teaching?

3. :2 What did the church at Antioch decide to do about this uncomfortable situation?

4. :3 What did Paul and Barnabus do on the way to Jerusalem?
 - What does this tell you about their attitudes as they went?

5. :4&5 Which believers in Jerusalem were opposed to Paul and Barnabus? Why would they particularly have a problem with this?

6. :6&7 Did the leaders of the Jerusalem church all immediately agree on what they believed about this problem?

7. :8-11 Which apostle started to speak out in support of Paul and Barnabus? Why was he particularly qualified to have an opinion on this?

8. :12-17 Who was the next apostle to speak up in defense of Paul and Barnabus? What did he use as proof of his opinion?

9. :18-21 What things does James suggest should be advised to gentile converts about how to live their lives? Why these things?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

10. :22-29 Once the church in Jerusalem agreed on what they believed was true, what did they do? Why?

11. The 4 things the church at Jerusalem suggested...were these things necessary for salvation...or were they just common sense advice for how a Christian should live?

12.:30-31 How did the church at Antioch react to this letter from Jerusalem?

13.:32&33 What else did Judas and Silas do while they were in Antioch?

14.:34&35 Who went back to Jerusalem, and who stayed in Antioch?

15.:36 What did Paul want to do next?

16.:37-38 What was the disagreement which arose between Paul and Barnabus? Who do you think was right?

17.:39-41 What was the end result of this disagreement?

18. What was the purpose of this Second Missionary Journey?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

19. There were two kinds of disputes in this chapter. What were they?

20. What do we learn from these two disputes about how to solve problems between people who love the Lord?

21. Who are the 4 missionaries we have seen so far, and what have we learned about them?

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

22. What have we learned about Missionary work from these 4 men?

Salvation by grace alone is taught everywhere throughout scripture. But still many people struggle with the fact that there is nothing....nothing.... anyone can do to earn their salvation. Not baptism, not communion, not church membership, not church attendance, not moral living, not kind and generous, unselfish acts. Nothing. Every person alive on planet earth has only one thing they can do to receive the salvation Jesus offers – believe in Him.

Do you want to look more into this? Read Philippians 3:4-10. These verses will help...but remember to do more than just read them. Scripture is not just for proving what's true, it's also for changing us from the inside. So take a little time while you are reading. Think about each verse. Ask yourself what the verses before and after are saying. Pray and ask the Lord to increase your understanding.

A correct understanding of this truth is one of the major foundations for all other things you are hungry to learn in the Bible.

What Jesus did on the cross, and what He did 3 days later.....those are the only things that count for *anyone's* salvation.

Acts 16

Second Missionary Journey – New Partners

1. Review: Chapter 15:40&41
 - a. Who did Paul take with him on this missionary journey?

 - b. Why?

 - c. Where did they go first?

2. 16:1-5
 - a. Where did Paul find Timothy?

 - b. When would Timothy have come to faith in Jesus Christ?

 - c. What do we know about Timothy's mother and father?

 - d. Did Timothy have a good reputation amongst the believers in that area?

- e. Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised?
 - f. What important message did they bring to the churches they visited?
 - g. What does “established in the faith” mean in verse 5?
 - h. What was the result of those churches being “established” in the faith?
3. 16:6-8
- a. What two places did the Lord keep them from going?
 - b. Where did they finally end up?
 - c. Why was it so difficult for Paul, Silas and Timothy to figure out where to go?
 - d. Is serving the Lord always easy and without problems?
4. 16:9-11 What did the Lord do to let Paul know where his next destination should be?

5. 16:12-13

- a. Where did Paul, Silas and Timothy go in Philippi in order to find people of Jewish background?

- b. Why didn't they go to a synagogue?

- c. Why were there only women there?

- d. What do we learn from the fact that Paul, Silas and Timothy were glad to communicate the Gospel message to even a group of women only?

6. 16:14&15

- a. Who was the first convert in Philippi?

- b. What was the first thing she did after she believed in Jesus?

- c. Why?

- d. What was the second thing she did?

- e. Why?

7. 16:16-24 What painful thing happened to Paul & Silas when Paul commanded an evil spirit to leave a young girl who was bothering them?

8. 16:25-34 What joyful thing happened when Paul commanded an evil spirit to leave a young girl who was bothering them?
9. 16:35-39 Why didn't Paul just leave when he had the chance?
10. 16:40
 - a. What did Paul make sure to do before he left Philippi?
 - b. What does that show you about Paul's purpose on this trip?
 - c.
11. Pinpoint the places Paul & Silas (& Timothy) travelled in Chapter 16



Acts 17
Thessalonica. Berea. Athens.

1. :1-9 Thessalonica. What happened in Thessalonica?
2. :10-14 Berea. What happened in Berea?
3. :15-34 Athens. What happened in Athens?
4. How are the ministries in these 3 cities the same?
5. How are they different?

6. What kind of results did Paul, Silas and Timothy see in each of these 3 cities?

7. What can you learn from chapter 17?

8. Pinpoint the cities in Chapter 17:



Acts 18:1-22
Corinth & Ephesus – Last Stops on the 2nd Missionary Journey

1. :1-4 What new things do we learn about Paul in these verses?
 - a. Occupation: _____
 - b. New friends: _____

2. :5&6
 - a. What major change takes place in Paul's ministry at this point?

 - b. Why is Paul able now to devote himself fully to preaching?

 - c. I Corinthians 2:3 How did Paul feel when he was first in Corinth, before his dear friends, Silas and Timothy, came to join him?

3. :7 Who lived next door to the synagogue?

4. :8 Who was the head of the synagogue?

5. :9-11 How long did Paul stay in Corinth?

6. Wouldn't you think that Corinth would be a good place for Paul to stay, instead of moving on like he has done before? Think of all he could still accomplish there...and he has so many to help him!

7. :12-17 What happens next? Who is stirring up persecution again? Who ends up getting a beating?

8. Review for a minute: Who were Paul's friends and co-workers For 18 months in Corinth?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.

9. :17 Was the government going to protect Paul from persecution?

10. :18 Who went with Paul when he left Corinth? Why would some of his group have stayed?

11. :18 Why would Paul have had his hair cut off?

12.:19-22 Where did Paul's journey take him once he left Corinth?

- a. To _____ with Aquila & Priscilla
- b. Then, leaving Aquila & Priscilla behind, he went to, _____ where he greeted the church there.
- c. Then to _____.

13. Pinpoint Corinth & Ephesus, then back home to Caesarea and Antioch:



This map shows Paul also going to Jerusalem before going home to Antioch, even though 18:22 doesn't mention it. This stop is assumed because of a comment Paul made in 18:21.

Acts 18:23-19:41

Third Missionary Journey – First, Back to Ephesus

1. Review: 18:22 Paul finished up his Second Missionary Journey in 18:22.

2. 18:23 What does Paul do as he starts out his Third Missionary Journey?

3. 18:14-28 These verses tell of an event which happened between the time Paul was in Ephesus on his Second Missionary Journey, and the time when Paul was in Ephesus on his Third Missionary Journey. (Paul had left Priscilla and Aquilla in Ephesus during this time)
 - Who comes to Ephesus?

 - What do we know about him?

 - Apollos was very knowledgeable about Biblical things except for one very important fact. What was it?

 - Who helped Apollos learn this very important fact?

 - Did he accept their teaching?

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4. :1-7 Now Paul arrives on the scene, and meets with a few new believers in Ephesus. What did they need to know?

5. :6 In those days, what was one reliable sign that a person had believed in Jesus? Do we still look for that sign today?

6. :8-11 For two years and 3 months Paul stayed in Ephesus. What was he doing for the first 3 months? What did he do for 2 years?

7. :11-20 What were some of the signs which accompanied Paul's ministry?

8. :21 Where did Paul want to go next? And then, where did Paul ultimately want to go? Why would Paul have wanted to go there?

9. :22 Where did Paul send Timothy & Erastus? Where did Paul stay for awhile?

- 10.:23-41 Next, we see an account of a riot at Ephesus. What caused it? How did it end?

11.:23 What was “the Way”?

12. Altogether, Paul was in Ephesus about 2 ½ years. In Chapter 20 we’ll see that he leaves after the riot started by Demetrius, the silversmith. By now, Paul was used to the fact that he would always be forced to leave because of the trouble which followed him. If Paul were alive and living through these things today, how would you be praying for him?

13.:24-41 Let’s take a look at this near-riot:

- ❑ Who started getting everyone all riled up, and how did he do it?

- ❑ How could a whole city be totally devoted to an idol? How could they be so deceived?

- ❑ Who were Paul’s companions who were captured by the crowd?

- ❑ Why wouldn’t Paul’s friends let him try to calm the crowd?

- ❑ Why was it that some of the crowd didn’t even know why they were upset?

- ❑ How did Alexander finally disperse the crowd?

- ❑ 20:1 What did Paul realize he must do?

- ❑ Do you think Paul was sad to leave Ephesus?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

14. What have we learned so far about the nature of Missionary Journeys?
15. You are a missionary, too. Where is your mission field?
16. What missionary journeys have you been on? What missionary journeys are in your future?
17. Pinpoint Paul's progress so far on his Third Missionary Journey:



Acts 20
Third Missionary Journey – Part 2 – Strengthening The Pastors

1. :1-6 These verses describe the first-ever Pastor’s Conference for the church. Name the men who met together in Troas:
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -

2. What do you think these men did for 7 days in Troas?

3. How important is it for men (or women) in ministry to get together? What does it accomplish?

4. :7-12
 - What day did everyone gather to hear Paul preach?

- How long did he preach?
 - Where were they meeting?
 - What happened to Eutychus?
 - What did Paul do about it?
 - How did everyone react to this?
5. If you were in this gathering in Troas, what would you want to hear from Paul as he preaches his last message?
6. What is the value of preaching?
7. Who is the Pastor who has been the biggest influence on your walk with the Lord?
8. Why is church so important? (not “the” church...but individual churches)

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9. Do you think churches are the most important thing going on in the world today?

10. If they are, is there anything we should be doing differently?

11. How do you serve in your church?

12. Do you think there is a time to stop being an active member of your church?

13. Do you pray for your Pastor and your church? If so, what do you pray?

14.:13-17 Why does Paul not go back to Ephesus? What does he do instead of going to Ephesus?

15.:18-21 How does Paul describe his ministry?

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16.:22-23 Paul longs to go to Jerusalem, but what does he expect will happen there?

17.:24 Why does he still want to go?

18.:25 Does Paul think he will ever see these dear friends again?

19.:26-28 What directive does Paul give to them?

20. What does it mean, to “shepherd” the church?

21.:29-31 What does Paul know will happen after he leaves?

22.:32 What is Paul trusting in for their future?

23.:33-35 What does Paul remind them of about his ministry time amongst them?

24.:35 Why is it more blessed to give than to receive?

25. What have you learned from Chapter 20?

26. Pinpoint Paul's travels of Chapter 20:



Acts 21-23

Jerusalem – Riots and Chains

1. 21:1-6. Paul's first meeting with believers on the way to Jerusalem was in Tyre. What happened there?
2. 21:7-14 After a one-day stop in Ptolemais, Paul and his companions go on to Caesarea. What happens there?
3. Why will Paul not change his plans?
4. 21:15-25 The believers in the church in Jerusalem decide Paul should make a public statement about what he is actually teaching. How does he do this?
5. 21:26-36 What was the uproar all about?

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6. 21:37-22:21 Paul asks for a chance to speak to the murderous crowd. What does he tell them?

7. 22:22-24 What did Paul say which got the crowd so stirred up again?

8. 22:25-29 What did Paul say which got the commander's attention?

9. 22:30-23:5 Who is Paul appearing before now?

10. 23:6-10 What does Paul say which gets everyone upset in the Sanhedrin? Did he do this on purpose? What was he trying to accomplish?

11. 23:11 What was God accomplishing through all this? How do you think this word from God made Paul feel?

12. 23:12-35 What plot is hatched? What happens?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

13. Why did the Lord send all those warnings?

14. Do you think Paul is pleased that he did not listen to all the warnings he had received? Why, or why not?

15. Check out the map to see where Paul has travelled in this chapter – some of it as a prisoner...



Acts 24

A More Convenient Time

1. :1 Who came down to Caesarea from Jerusalem in order to make their case against Paul?
2. :2-9 What were their charges against Paul?
3. :10-14 What does Paul admit he is guilty of?
4. :15 What does Paul say his hope is?
5. :16 What does Paul say he does because of this hope?
6. :17-21 What does Paul challenge his accusers to do?

7. :22 What does Felix do about this troubling case?

8. :23 What kind of freedom is Paul given while he awaits further trial?

9. :24 Who does Paul speak to next?

- 10.:25 What were the important points of Paul's speech to Felix and his wife?

- 11.:25 What was Felix's reaction to this speech?

12. :26-27 How long did Paul remain a prisoner in Caesarea?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

13. Did you respond right away to the Gospel message, or did you put off considering it?
14. Have you ever had anyone tell you they wanted to wait until a more convenient time?
15. Is there ever a more convenient time?
16. How would you answer someone who wanted to wait to make a commitment to Jesus Christ?
Look at the story of the poor man, Lazarus: Luke 16:19-31

17. Do you spend time reading your Bible and talking to Jesus every day? If not, are you waiting until a more convenient time?

- *Look at II Corinthians 6:1&2. This is Paul's plea to those who have believed in Jesus Christ, and then become lax in their walk with Him.*

- *The verse above is taken from Isaiah 49:8, which tells us that the more convenient time – the convenient time for God - has already come – it came with Jesus Christ's arrival on planet earth.*

Note: Felix waited two years for a more convenient time. Finally, he left his position of authority, but retained Paul as a prisoner for the next ruler to deal with. He didn't want to anger the Jews by letting Paul go free. As far as we can tell, Felix never made a decision to believe in Jesus Christ.

Acts 25 & 26

I Wish You Were Just Like Me...Except for These Chains

1. 25:1-8 We would call this a _____ trial.
2. 25:9-12 What does Paul do in order to keep from going back to Jerusalem?

Funny...isn't it? Paul wanted so much to go to Jerusalem two years previously that he was willing to face even death. But now he is working as hard as he can not to go to Jerusalem, because he knows there are men there who want to kill him. What has changed?

3. 25:13 – 26:23 Now there have been 3 different Roman rulers who have listened to Paul's story. Who are they?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. How did the first one respond to Paul's story? Acts 24:24&25
5. 25:24 How did the second one respond to Paul's story?

6. 25:25-28 How did the third one respond?

7. 25:29 Is Paul discouraged? What is his goal in life? Is he meeting his goal?

8. 25:30-32 What conclusion does King Agrippa come to?

APPLICATION:

9. Let's practice telling the Gospel story by using the "4 Spiritual Laws":

The Four Spiritual Laws

Just as there are laws which govern our universe, like "What goes up must come down", etc., there are also laws which govern our relationship with God. Very simply, here are the 4 Spiritual Laws:

1. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life
John 10:10b

2. You will not ever know that plan because you have sinned.
Isaiah 59:2, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23

3. God knew you needed a Savior from your sin problem, so He entered our world as a tiny baby, then died on a cross to take your punishment instead of you, and then rose Himself from the dead so that he could rescue you from your sin and keep you rescued forever.
Romans 5:8, I Peter 3:18, John 3:16

4. It's not enough to just know these things. You also have to believe them.
What does that mean?
John 1:12, Revelation 3:20

Acts 27:1-28:10

Shipwrecked for the Lord

1. 27:1&2 Who were some of the people on this voyage?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.

2. 27:3 What happened at their first stop?

3. 27:4-8 What seems to be the overall characteristic of this trip?

4. 27:9-12 What did Paul warn them about, and did they heed his warning? Why not?

5. 27:13-20 What things did the sailors do to try to save the ship?

6. 27:21-26 What did the angel tell Paul?

7. 27:27-37 Why are they finally listening to Paul?

8. 27:39-44 Did it happen just as Paul had told them the angel said?

9. 28:1-6 What happened to Paul on Malta?

10. 28:7-10 What else did Paul get to do on Malta?

APPLICATION:

11. The Lord could have easily given Paul and his shipmates clear sailing.
Why, instead, did He give them:
 - Storms
 - Difficulty
 - Despair
 - No food for 2 weeks
 - Shipwreck
 - Snake bite

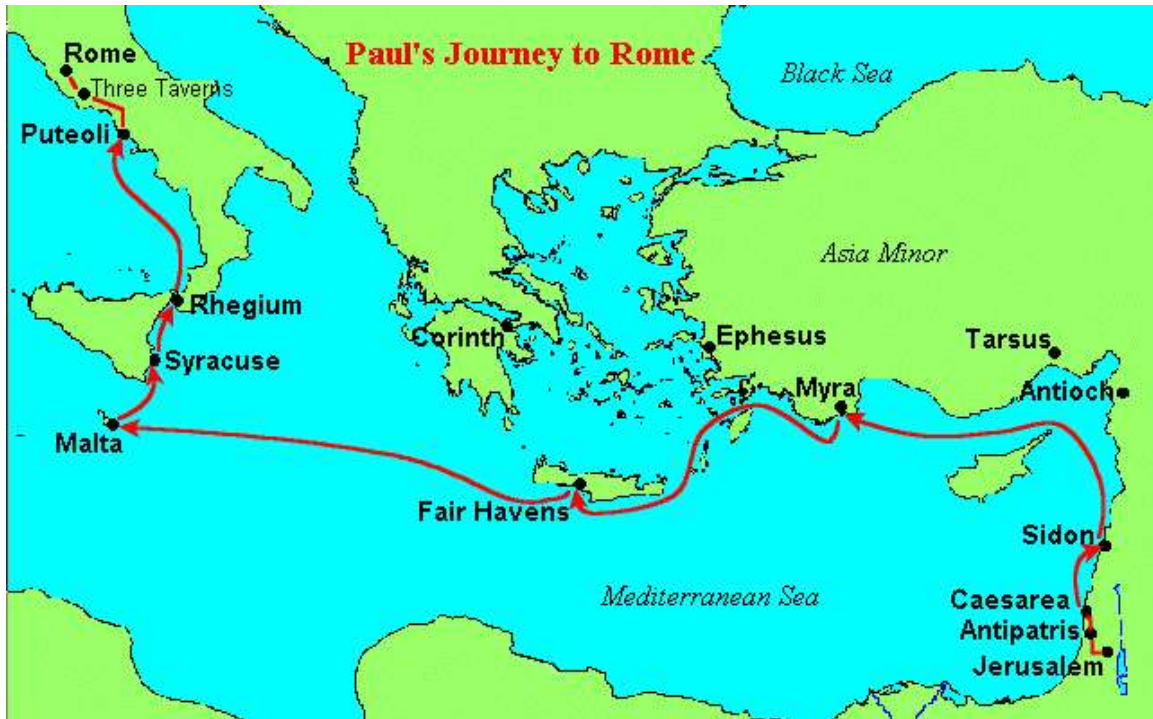
12. Are you ready to be content with the Lord's plan for your life?

13. Do you realize you are unique in God's plan?

14. Do you accept that He is using you?

15. Will you praise God, instead of be afraid, the next time you are shipwrecked?

16. A map of Paul's journey to Rome – check to find all the places he has been so far....



Acts 28

This is Where I Always Wanted to Go

1. :1-10 – We covered these verses in our last lesson – so – just to review – Paul and his whole ship end up safely on the island of Malta after a shipwreck. How did the Lord bless their shipwreck on Malta?

2. :11 Interesting details...
 - a. The ship they boarded to leave Malta – where was it from?

 - b. What is a figurehead?

 - c. Who were the “twin brothers”?

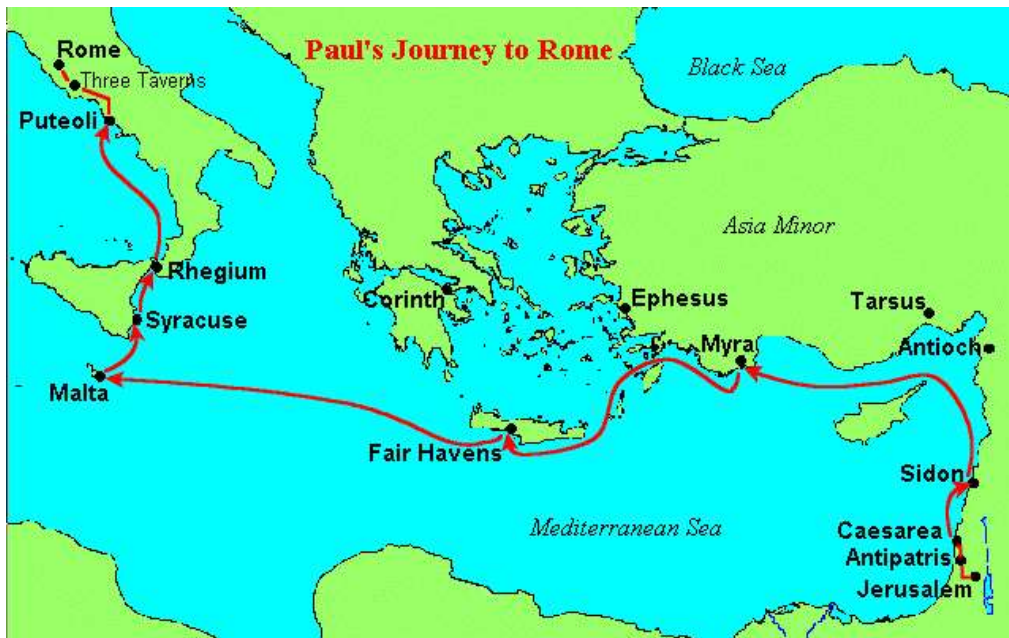
 - d. Do these details tell you anything about the people Paul was now going to be sailing with?

3. :12-15
 - a. What was encouraging to Paul on this leg of the trip?

 - b. Why is the fellowship of other Christians so encouraging?

 - c. Is fellowship with other Christians necessary to the health of our walk with Christ? (Hebrews 10:25) What happens to Christians who have no fellowship with other Christians? (look at Hebrews 10:24)

- d. Find on this map the places Paul went on this last part of his trip to Rome...and note where there were already bodies of believers.



4. :16 What small mercies does the Lord keep giving Paul as he is forced to endure imprisonment?
- Acts 23:11
 - Acts 24:25
 - Acts 27:3
5. :17-22 What was Paul's first action in his plan to bring the Gospel to Rome?
6. :23-28
- What is Paul's attitude toward those Jews who do not believe?

- b. Why doesn't he continue to work with them? (Read Ephesians 3:1-13 to understand Paul's heart's desire at this time)

 - c. Does Paul believe the Lord has turned His back on the Jews? (Read all of Romans 11 to get the answer to this question)
7. :30 What, then, was the end result of the hardship Paul endured since his imprisonment in Jerusalem over 2 years previously?

APPLICATION:

- 8. What has the book of Acts taught you about God?

- 9. What has the book of Acts taught you about Paul?

- 10. What has the book of Acts taught you about your church?

- 11. What has the book of Acts taught you about yourself?

- 12. What ACTIONS are you going to take as a result of studying ACTS?

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