

SESSION ONE

ACTS: THE BIRTH OF THE EARLY CHURCH



Bible study is not a class you take but a rhythm you keep as a believer.

HEAR THE WORD

Watch session one.
Take notes in your
"Digging In" Bible
Journal as you listen
and follow along.



" 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." Acts 1:8

READ THE WORD

Read Acts 1 each day for five days. Read the ESV translation two or three days, and choose additional translations on the remaining days. At least two times this week add Isaiah 32 (focus on verses 14-15) and Daniel 7 to your daily reading.

Highlight the differences you find between the various translations and circle words/phrases that interest or intrigue you for further study.

STUDY THE WORD

Pray and ask God to supernaturally help you retain what you have read through and learned as you answer the following questions:

1. **Describe what you imagine the disciples wanted from a "restored Kingdom to Israel"?**
2. **Vs. 3 says, "He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God". What is the kingdom of God?**
3. **How does reading Acts 1 clarify the prophetic texts found in Isaiah 32 and Daniel 7?**
4. **Peter takes a prominent role among those gathered, beginning in vs. 15 to the end of the chapter. Summarize the events Peter directs in the last half of Acts 1. (Read Psalm 69:25 and Psalm 109:8 for clarity on the reference in Acts 1:20)**
5. **In verse 26, we read the disciples "cast lots" to determine who would replace Judas as a disciple. This is the last time we read about "casting lots" to discern the will of the Lord in scripture. Why do you think that is?**

SESSION TWO

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HEAR THE WORD

Watch session two. Take notes in your "Digging In" Bible Journal as you listen and follow along.



This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

Acts 2:32

READ THE WORD

Read Acts 2 each day for five days. Read the ESV translation two or three days, and choose additional translations on the remaining days. At least two times this week add the book of Joel (pay special attention to Joel 2:28-32).

Highlight the differences you find between the various translations and circle words/phrases that interest or intrigue you for further study.

STUDY THE WORD

Pray and ask God to supernaturally help you retain what you have read through and learned as you answer the following questions:

1. **Have you ever been witness to something you find too incredible to describe? Try and place yourself at the scene described in Acts 2. What questions would you have about what you witnessed?**
2. **Many theologians and scholars believe that the prophecy in Joel is partially fulfilled at Pentecost, but will be further fulfilled in the days leading up to Christ's return. After reading Joel this week (specifically 2:28-32) try to imagine what a further fulfillment of this prophecy might look like in our day-and-age. Describe your thoughts.**
3. **Read Genesis 1:2, Ezekiel 37:9-14, John 3:8 and John 20:22. What do these passages seem to have in common with Acts 2? (hint: think part of the Trinity)**
4. **Read Psalm 16. According to Acts 2:34, why can't this Psalm refer to David, alone?**

SESSION THREE

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HEAR THE WORD

Watch session three. Take notes in your "Digging In" Bible Journal as you listen and follow along.



" Repent, therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus... "

Acts 3:19-20

READ THE WORD

Read Acts 3:1-4:23 each day for five days. Read the ESV translation two or three days, and choose additional translations on the remaining days. At least two times this week add these passages: Genesis 12, Genesis 15, Genesis 18. (pay special attention to covenantal references)

Highlight the differences you find between the various translations and circle words/phrases that interest or intrigue you for further study.

STUDY THE WORD

Pray and ask God to supernaturally help you retain what you have read through and learned as you answer the following questions:

1. **The lame man in Acts 3 is healed and proceeds to "leap and praise God". Describe a time in your life—or the life of someone close to you—where God moved in a powerful way. Did your response point others to God? Why or why not?**
2. **Read the following passages: Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 18:18, Gen. 22:18. Why would Peter's mostly Jewish audience have been familiar with these passages? Do these passages give you confidence in scripture? Why?**
3. **Acts 3:26 says, "God raised up his servant and sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your evil ways". How have you been blessed by Christ? Take a moment and catalog some of the "evil ways" (sinful ways) you struggle. thank God for his Spirit, which helps you overcome, and ask God to continue to give you victory over your sinful nature and reflect him.**
4. **Read Psalm 118:22. How does this verse correlate to what we see in Acts 4:11?**

SESSION FOUR

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HEAR THE WORD

Watch session four. Take notes in your Digging In Bible Journal as you listen and follow along.



“But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men..”

Acts 5:29

READ THE WORD

Read Acts 4:23-5:42 each day for five days. Read the ESV translation two or three days, and choose additional translations on the remaining days. At least two times this week add Psalm 2. (Note: the apostles believed that Psalm 2 were the words of God spoken through King David)

Highlight the differences between you find between the various translations and circle words/phrases that interest or intrigue you for further study.

STUDY THE WORD

Pray and ask God to supernaturally help you retain what you have read and learned as you answer the following questions:

1. **In Acts 4:27-31, we see believers unified in prayer. Judging by the words, how did the view God's sovereignty?**
2. **Do you believe the shaking described in Acts 4:31 is literal or metaphorical? Why or why not?**
3. **Read Joshua 7. (For review, consider watching our previous teaching on Joshua 7). How does the sin of Achan shed light on what we read about Ananias and Sapphira's sin in Acts?**
4. **Record 5 observations from Acts 5:12-42. How might the church today look different if the events described in Acts 5:12-42 did not take place? How might the Kingdom of God look different moving forward if we relinquish our obedience to follow the Lord?**

SESSION FIVE

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HEAR THE WORD

Watch session five.
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And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:7

READ THE WORD

Read Acts 6-7 each day for five days. Read the ESV translation two or three days, and choose additional translations on the remaining days.

Highlight the differences between you find between the various translations and circle words/phrases that interest or intrigue you for further study.

STUDY THE WORD

Pray and ask God to supernaturally help you retain what you have read and learned as you answer the following questions:

1. **Why do you think the apostles appointed others to the ministry of widows, instead of doing it themselves?**
2. **Do you believe Peter has Stephen in mind when he wrote 1 Peter 3:15? Why or Why not?**
3. **How does Peter's sermon in Acts 3 differ from Stephen's speech in Acts 7?**
4. **In Acts 7:55 what is special about what Stephen sees in Heaven?**

SESSION SEVEN

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HEAR THE WORD

Watch session seven.
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While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.

Acts 10:44

READ THE WORD

Read Acts 9:32-10:48 each day for five days. One day this week re-read Acts 2 and the account of the Pentacost. Read the ESV translation two or three days, and choose additional translations on the remaining days.

Highlight the differences between you find between the various translations and circle words/phrases that interest or intrigue you for further study.

STUDY THE WORD

Pray and ask God to supernaturally help you retain what you have read and learned as you answer the following questions:

1. **Write down all the things you learn about Tabitha from Acts 9:36-43. Why do you think Scripture tells us these things about her?**
2. **We are introduced to Cornelius in Chapter 10. In 10:2 he is described as a devout man, praying to God. Do you think God hears him, even though he has not coming to a saving faith in Christ at this point? Why or why not?**
3. **Make a list to compare the accounts of Acts 2 and Acts 10.**
4. **Why is Acts 10 significant to our faith today?**