

Table of Contents

Preface	3
Table of Contents	5
References and Abbreviations	10
1. The Promise of Power (Acts 1)	12
1.1 Prologue to Acts (Acts 1:1-11)	12
Jesus Post-Resurrection Appearances (Acts 1:3-11)	14
Promise of the Holy Spirit's Coming (Acts 1:4-5)	15
The Mistaken Eschatology Question (Acts 1:6-7)	18
The Spirit Will Come upon You (Acts 1:8)	18
The Purpose of the Spirit's Coming (Acts 1:8)	20
The Spread of the Gospel (Acts 1:8)	21
The Ascension (Acts 1:9-12; Luke 24:50-53)	22
Blessing the Disciples (Luke 24:50)	23
Ascending into Heaven (Acts 1:9-11)	23
1.2 Choosing of a Twelfth Apostle (Acts 1:12-26)	24
A Replacement for Judas (Acts 1:15-17)	26
Judas's Death (Acts 1:18-19)	26
Qualifications for a Replacement Apostle (Acts 1:20-22)	26
Selection by Lot (Acts 1:23-26)	27
Lessons for Disciples	28
2. The Holy Spirit Comes (Acts 2)	30
2.1 The Holy Spirit Falls on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13; Part I)	30
The Sounds and Sights of Pentecost (Acts 2:2-3)	31
Speaking in Tongues	34
Jews Gathered from All Over the World (Acts 2:5, 9-11a)	36
Amazement of the Crowd (Acts 2:6-8, 11b-13)	37
Content of the Pentecost Tongues (Acts 2:11b-13)	37
2.2 Peter Addresses the Crowd (Acts 2:14-37)	38
Jesus Attested by Signs and Wonders (Acts 2:22)	40
Culpability for the Crucifixion (Acts 2:23)	41
Jesus' Resurrection Foretold by David (Acts 2:24-31; Psalm 16:8-11)	42
God Raised Jesus from the Dead (Acts 2:32-35; Psalm 110:1)	43

Deep Conviction (Acts 2:36)	44
2.3 Peter Calls for Repentance (Acts 2:38-39; Part II)	45
Repent, Be Baptized, and Receive the Spirit (Acts 2:38-39)	45
Salvation from a Corrupt Generation (Acts 2:40)	49
2.4 The Sweet Fellowship of the Primitive Church (Acts 2:41-47)	51
1. They welcome the message (Acts 2:41).	52
2. People are constantly being added (Acts 2:40, 47)	52
3. They devote themselves to the apostles' teaching (Acts 2:42)	52
4. They devote themselves to the fellowship (Acts 2:42)	53
5. They devote themselves to the breaking of bread together (Acts 2:42)	54
6. They devote themselves to prayer (Acts 2:42)	55
7. They care for the needy in their midst (Acts 2:44-45)	56
Lessons for Disciples	57
3. Powerful Healing, Bold Testimony (Acts 3:1-4:22)	59
Believers and Temple Worship (Acts 2:46-47)	59
3.1 Healing the Lame Beggar (Acts 3:1-10)	60
Power in the Name of Jesus (Acts 3:6, 16, 4:10)	62
Walking, Leaping, and Praising God (Acts 3:7-10)	65
3.2 Peter's Sermon in Solomon's Porch (Acts 3:11-26)	66
You Killed the Author of Life (Acts 3:12-15)	68
Faith in the Name of Jesus (Acts 3:16)	69
Repent and Turn to God (Acts 3:17-21)	70
Jesus Offers the Blessing of Abraham (Acts 3:22-26)	71
3.3 Peter and John before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:1-22)	72
Interrogation before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:5-7)	73
Peter's Declaration before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:8-12)	73
Christ the Cornerstone (Acts 4:11; Psalm 118:21-22; Isaiah 28:16)	74
Salvation in No Other Name (Acts 4:12)	75
The Sanhedrin's Response (Acts 4:13-22)	78
Obedying God Rather than Man (Acts 4:19-20)	79
Lessons for Disciples	80
4. Power and Fellowship in Jerusalem (Acts 4:23-5:42)	82
4.1 A Prayer for Boldness (Acts 4:23-31)	82
Fulfilling Psalm 2:1-2	83
Filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31)	85
4.2 Sharing Possessions (Acts 4:32-5:11)	87
Great Grace (Acts 4:33)	87

Sharing Everything (Acts 4:32)	87
No Needy Persons (Acts 4:34-37)	89
Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)	89
4.3 Apostolic Ministry and Persecution (Acts 5:12-42)	92
The Apostles' Arrest (Acts 5:17-29)	93
Peter's Clear Testimony (Acts 5:30-32)	95
Gamaliel's Counsel (Acts 5:33-42)	98
Persecution Doesn't Stop the Apostles (Acts 5:41-42)	99
Lessons for Disciples	100
5. Stephen's Ministry and Martyrdom (Acts 6-7)	103
5.1 Growth Pains in Jerusalem (Acts 6:1-7)	103
Complaints Mar Church Unity (Acts 6:1)	104
Selecting the Seven (Acts 6:2-4)	105
Qualifications of the Seven (Acts 6:3)	107
The Names of the Seven (Acts 6:4b)	108
5.2 Stephen's Powerful Ministry (Acts 6:8-14)	108
The Synagogue of the Freedmen (Acts 6:9)	109
Concerted Opposition (Acts 6:9-12)	110
False Accusations (Acts 6:13-14)	111
5.3 Stephen's Speech before the Sanhedrin (Acts 7:1-53)	113
1. Patriarchal period (Acts 7:2-16)	113
2. Moses and the Law (Acts 7:17-43)	115
3. The Tabernacle and the Temple (Acts 7:44-50)	116
Stephen's Indictment of the Jewish Leaders (Acts 7:51-53)	117
The Righteous One (Acts 7:52)	118
The Stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:54-8:1)	119
Intentional Spirit-Deafness (Acts 7:57)	121
Christ-likeness in Death (Acts 7:59-60; 8:2)	122
Lessons for Disciples	122
6. Philip Evangelizes Samaria and Baptizes an Ethiopian (Acts 8)	124
6.1 Intense Persecution (Acts 8:1-4)	124
Formal Punishments in New Testament Times	126
Spreading the Message of Jesus (Acts 8:1, 4; 11:19)	127
6.2 Philip Evangelizes Samaria (Acts 8:5-25)	128
Proclaiming Christ in Samaria (Acts 8:5-25)	128
The Descent of the Holy Spirit by the Hands of the Apostles (Acts 8:12-17)	130
Signs of the Spirit's Coming in Samaria	131

Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:9-11, 18-24)	132
Simon Magus Rebuked (Acts 8:18-24)	133
Peter and John Preach in Samaria (Acts 8:25)	135
6.3 Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)	136
Ethiopia (Cush)	136
Go to the Road, Catch Up with the Chariot (Acts 8:26-29)	137
Jesus, the Suffering Servant (Acts 8:30-35)	138
Baptism along the Road (Acts 8:36, 38)	139
Philip Is "Transported" to Azotus (Acts 8:39-40)	140
Lessons for Disciples	141
7. Saul's Conversion, Peter's Ministry (Acts 9)	143
7.1 The Conversion of Saul (Acts 9:1-31)	143
Saul of Tarsus	143
Damascus, Syria	144
Ananias, the Obedient Servant (Acts 9:10-16)	146
Ananias Ministers to Saul (Acts 9:17-19a)	147
Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem (Acts 9:19b-25)	148
Saul's Sojourn in Arabia (Galatians 1:15-17, 33-35 AD)	149
Paul's Visit to Jerusalem (Galatians 1:18-24; Acts 9:26-30, 35 AD)	149
Paul Debates the Greek-Speaking Jews in Jerusalem (Acts 9:28-29)	150
Saul Travels Home to Tarsus (Acts 9:29-30)	151
Peace in the Church (Acts 9:31)	152
7.2 The Ministry of Peter on the Plain of Sharon (Acts 9:32-43)	153
Healing of Aeneas (Acts 9:32-35)	154
Dorcas the Giver (Acts 9:36, 39)	156
The Raising of Dorcas (Acts 9:37-42)	157
Lessons for Disciples	158
8. The Spirit Falls on Gentiles (Acts 10:1-11:18)	161
8.1 A Devout Centurion in Caesarea (Acts 10:1-8)	161
Caesarea Maritima	161
Cornelius the Centurion (Acts 10:1-2)	162
Sweet-Smelling Incense before the Lord (Acts 10:4)	164
Cornelius's Vision (Acts 10:3-8)	165
8.2 Peter's Rooftop Vision (Acts 10:9-16)	166
8.3 Peter Meets with the Gentiles	169
Peter Addresses Cornelius's Friends (Acts 10:27-29)	169
Call No One Common and Unclean (Acts 10:28)	169

Cornelius's Story (Acts 10:29b-33)	170
God Doesn't Show Favoritism (Acts 10:34-43)	171
Peter Preaches Jesus (Acts 10:36-43)	172
Anointed with the Holy Spirit and Power (Acts 10:38)	172
Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection (Acts 10:39-43)	175
8.4 The Holy Spirit Comes upon the Gentiles (Acts 10:44-46)	175
Tongues as a Sign of Receiving the Spirit	176
Peter Baptizes the Gentiles in Cornelius's Household (Acts 10:47-48)	177
8.5 Criticism from the Jewish Believers in Jerusalem (Acts 11:1-18)	177
How Soon We Forget (Galatians 2:11-13)	178
Lessons for Disciples	179
9. Revival in Antioch, Persecution in Jerusalem (Acts 11:19-12:25)	181
9.1 Ministry in Antioch (Acts 11:19-30, 45-48 AD)	181
The Gospel Reaches the Gentiles in Antioch (Acts 11:19-21)	181
The Gospel Explodes among the Gentiles in Antioch (Acts 11:19-21)	182
Barnabas Is Sent to the Gentile Believers in Antioch (Acts 11:22-24)	183
Barnabas Seeks Out Saul in Tarsus (Acts 11:25-26)	184
9.2 Needs in the Jerusalem church (Acts 11:27-30)	186
Paul and Barnabas Carry a Gift to Jerusalem (Acts 11:29-30, 46 AD)	186
Meeting with Leaders of the Jerusalem church (Galatians 2:1-5)	187
9.3 Herod's Persecution in Jerusalem (Acts 12:1-25)	188
Herod Agrippa (ruled 37 to 44 AD)	188
Herod Kills James (Acts 12:1-2)	189
Herod Arrests Peter (Acts 12:3-5)	190
Peter's Escape from Prison (Acts 12:6-17)	191
Herod's Death in Caesarea (Acts 12:19b-23)	193
The Word of God Continues to Increase and Spread (Acts 12:24)	194
Lessons for Disciples	195
Appendix 1. Participant Handouts	197
Appendix 2. Chronology of the Early Church (Acts 1-12)	198
Appendix 3. Were the Early Christians Communists or Socialists?	199