

# The Book of Acts

This study goes nearly verse-by-verse through the Book of Acts using an expository method, meaning questions are designed to force our attention to the details of the text of Scripture. We cannot appropriately *apply* the Bible to our lives without first understanding its *meaning*, so the expository method is necessary first step. There are some questions relating to application, but most questions are designed to help us understand what the text itself is actually saying and how it relates to other parts of Scripture. These discussion questions have been mostly modified from the study by David E. Pratt, and the brief chapter summaries are by Daniel J. Harrison. This study was originally designed for the young adult group at Fairfield CRC, but to any small group or individual who wishes to use this study, I pray it strengthens your faith in Jesus our Messiah!

## Abbreviations:

Vs. – Verse

Vss. – Verses

Cf. – Confer or see also

OT – Old Testament

NT – New Testament

LXX – Septuagint (Greek translation of OT from 3<sup>rd</sup> c. BC; the standard by 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD)

DJH – Daniel J. Harrison

## Acts 1

Summary: Luke wrote this second historical account for Theophilus, which began when Jesus left his disciples. The disciples wanted to know when the Kingdom would be restored, but it was not for them to know at that time. Jesus commissioned them to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth after the Spirit pours out onto them, and then he ascended into heaven in the same way he will someday return. The Jesus-movement, about 120 people, gathered to replace the vacated apostolic ministry of Judas, which fell by lot to Matthias.

## Questions

1. To whom is this Book addressed? (vs. 1)
2. Compare Acts 1:1-2 with Luke 1:1-4. What does this tell us about who wrote Acts?
3. What group of people had Jesus chosen and given commandments to? (vs. 2)
4. How long did Jesus appear to the apostles and what did he discuss with them? (vs. 3)
5. Where were the apostles to remain and why? (vs. 4)
6. What did Jesus promise they would receive and when would they receive it? (vss. 4-5)
7. What question did the disciples ask Jesus? (vs. 6)
8. How did Jesus answer their question? (vs. 7)

9. In vs. 8, the Greek word for “Spirit comes upon you” is rare. In LXX it is used in Isa. 32:15. Read Isa. 32:14-18. What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would give them? And what are the effects of this gift?
10. Compare Acts 1:3-8 to Mark 9:1. How did the coming of the Holy Spirit relate to *when* the Kingdom will come?
11. Read 1 Cor. 15:20-26; Col. 1:9-14; and Rev. 1:9. What do we learn about *when* the Kingdom will come?
12. Describe how Jesus left the earth? (vs. 9)
13. What promise did two men in white robes make? (vss. 10-11; cf. Luke 9:28-31; 24:1-6)
14. From where did Jesus ascend to heaven, and where did his disciples then go? (vs. 12)
15. Why are there only 11 apostles listed? (vs. 13)
16. Who else was with the apostles? How many were there in total? (vss. 14-15).
17. How did Judas die? (vss. 16-18)
18. Compare the account of Judas’ death with Matt. 27:1-8. Are these accounts in conflict?
19. What did people call the place he died? (vs. 19)
20. Luke quotes Ps. 69:25 and 109:8. Describe the prophecy that Peter applied to Judas.
21. What is an apostle? (*note: some define an apostle as “special witnesses” (N.T. Wright) or “messengers with authority” (DJH)*)
22. To be an apostle, what kind of man was needed and what work would he do? (vss. 21-22)
23. What two names were suggested to replace Judas? (vs. 23)
24. Who *actually* chose Judas’ successor and how was it done? (vss. 24-26; cf. Prov. 16:33).
25. How does this apostolic selection compare to how the other apostles were chosen?
26. Considering only Acts 1 (esp. verse 8), what do you suspect the rest of the Book of Acts will be about?

## Acts 2

Summary: On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit poured out on the believers and Jews from the ends of the earth who had gathered in Jerusalem were perplexed. Peter preached to all these Jews that Jesus was their long-awaited, prophesied messiah of David and that this event of Spirit-outpouring was also prophesied by Joel. The gathered Jews who felt convicted of crucifying Jesus repented and were baptized. The Jesus-movement grew substantially as a result of the event and their sharing all things with one another.

### Questions

1. How is the arrival of the Holy Spirit described? (vss. 1-4)
2. Who was present in Jerusalem for Pentecost? Where were they from? (vss. 5-11; cf. 1:8)
3. When Luke writes that they spoke in tongues, does he have spontaneous vocalization in mind or real human languages?
4. What did the believers who spoke in tongues talk about? (vss. 11-12)
5. What explanation did the audience offer for the tongues-speaking? (vss. 13-15)
6. Peter quotes from Joel 2:28-32. What does this prophecy say would occur? (vss. 16-21)
7. What did the prophecy say a person must do to be saved? (vs. 21)
8. How did God reveal Jesus to the men of Israel? (vs. 22)
9. How did the men of Israel respond to this revelation? (vs. 23)
10. Despite what they did to Jesus, what did God do for Jesus? (vs. 24)
11. Read Psalm 16:7-11. Why do you think Peter quotes from this messianic psalm immediately after describing the resurrection? (vss. 25-28)
12. What is Peter's interpretation of Psalm 16? (vss. 29-31)
13. According to verse 30, when did Jesus' kingdom begin?
14. How does Peter connect the prophecy from 25-28 to his assertion in verse 32?
15. Read Psalm 110:1-7 and Matt. 22:41-46. Why do you think Peter quotes from this psalm at this point in his sermon? (vss. 34-35)
16. From Peter's sermon, what are the four aspects of Jesus' life that lead to the "therefore" in verse 36?
17. Summarize Peter's sermon in one or two sentences. (vss. 22-36)
18. How did the people respond after hearing the Gospel? (vs. 37)
19. Does what Peter says in vs. 38 contradict what he said in verse 21?
20. What are two of the gifts Peter said would be given to those who respond to the Gospel message with repentance and baptism? (vss. 37-38)
21. What four things did the 3,000 converts devote themselves to? (vs. 42)
22. In what ways did these early believers hold all things in common? (vss. 43-47)

## Acts 3

Summary: When Peter and John went to the temple they healed a man who was lame since birth, which brought great astonishment to the people who witnessed. Peter and John used their flogging as an excuse to share, again, the Gospel very similarly to how Peter shared it in the previous chapter, this time connecting Jesus to Moses. The mission of Jesus was to turn God's people from evil.

### Questions

1. What two apostles were involved in this story? (vs. 1)
2. Where did this story take place and at about what time? (vs. 1)
3. What problem did the man at the temple gate have and how long had he had it? (vs. 2)
4. According to 4:22, how old was this man?
5. Why was he at the temple gate, and what did he ask the apostles for? (vss. 2-5)
6. What was so amazing about this man's response to the apostles? (vss. 7-8)
7. What effect did this have on the people? (vss. 9-10; cf. Acts 4:16)
8. How can we know the man was legitimately lame, and not just faking it? (cf. Acts 4:22)
9. Where did Peter address the people and why did they come together? (vs. 11)
10. How did Peter explain how the man had been healed? (vs. 12)
11. How had the *people* treated Jesus? (vss. 13-15)
12. Who was the murderer they asked to be released instead of Jesus?
13. What did *God* do to Jesus after he had been killed? (vs. 15)
14. How did Peter explain how the man had been healed? (vss. 12, 16)
15. What led the people and rulers to kill Jesus? (vs. 17)
16. What other purpose resulted or was accomplished by Messiah's death? (vs. 18)
17. What did the people need to do about their sins? (vs. 19)
18. How does this sermon compare with Peter's sermon in Acts 2?
19. How long will Jesus remain in heaven? (vss. 20-21)
20. Who predicted the coming of a prophet like himself, and what would happen to those who would not listen to that prophet? (vss. 22-24)
21. What covenant was also fulfilled by Messiah's suffering? (vs. 25)
22. What was the promise of that covenant, and how was this covenant fulfilled? (vs. 26)

## Acts 4

Summary: Peter and John were arrested and questioned about how they healed the man. They took the opportunity to talk about the death and resurrection of Jesus. The leaders had no response because Peter and John were clearly uneducated Jews yet spoke boldly, and the over-forty-year-old man was standing right there. They prayed for even more boldness and spoke with great power to the resurrection of Jesus, which prompted more growth to the Jesus-movement and more sharing of all things with one another.

### Questions

1. Who got arrested? Who arrested them? Why did they arrest them? (vs. 1-3; cf. 3:1; 4:7)
2. What effect did their arrest have on the other people? (vss. 3-4)
3. Who conducted the “trial”? (vss. 5-6)
4. What was the chief question of the trial? (vs. 7)
5. How did Peter and John respond to this question? (vss. 8-10)
6. Peter summarizes his confession about Christ in three points. What are the three? (vs. 10)
7. What can save us today? (vs. 12; cf. 2:21, 38)
8. What does the name “Jesus” mean? (cf. Matt. 1:21; Luke 2:21)
9. In what sense were Peter and John “uneducated and untrained”? (vs. 13; cf. Matt. 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11). *Must* preachers go to seminary? *Should* preachers go to seminary?
10. Describe/summarize the miracle performed in Acts 3 that is in question in Acts 4.
11. Why were the Jewish rulers unable to speak against this miracle? (vss. 14-16)
12. What was their decision about the apostles? (vss. 17-18)
13. How did Peter and John respond? (vss. 19-20). What does this teach about preaching?
14. What can we learn about submitting to rulers and about how we should treat rulers who sin by misusing their authority? (cf. Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-20)
15. In the end, what punishment was given to Peter and John? (vs. 21)
16. Where did the apostles go when released and what did they do? (vs. 23)
17. What did the disciples do when they heard Peter and John’s report? (vss. 24-31)
18. How did they start their prayer? (vs. 24)
19. They quote Psalm 2:1-2. *Who* put this prophecy in the mouth of David? (vss. 25-26)
20. How do vss. 27-28 relate to the prophecy in vss. 25-26?
21. What did the disciples request in their prayer and what was God’s response? (vss. 29-31)
22. How does this prayer compare with the Lord’s Prayer?
23. What work commanded by Jesus were the apostles doing? (vss. 32-33)
24. Verses 34-35 say that needy people were provided for. Were these needy *Christians* or needy *non-Christians*, or both?
25. What name did the apostles give to Barnabas and what was he doing? (vss. 36-37)

## Acts 5

Summary: Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit about the value of their sold land by which they brought proceeds to give to the apostles; they both died as a result of their sin. When the Sadducees arrested the apostles for preaching about Jesus, the angel of the Lord released them to return to preaching. When they were brought before the Sanhedrin, Gamaliel convinced them to not persecute the apostles because it would either come to ruin or it was a work of God. So the apostles were released.

### Questions

1. In addition to Barnabas, what man and woman also made a contribution, and what error did they make? (vss. 1-3)
2. What distinction is made between individual possessions and church possessions? (vs. 4)
3. What happened to Ananias? (vss. 5-6)
4. When did Sapphira come and what answer did she give regarding the sale? (vss. 7-8)
5. How did Peter describe their error? How does this apply to our own giving? (vs. 9)
6. What effect did their deaths have on the church? (vss. 10-11)
7. Where did the disciples meet and how did they increase in number? (vss. 12-14)
8. What miracles were the apostles doing? (vss. 15-16)
9. Who arrested them again and what was the reason for the arrest? (vss. 17-18)
10. How were the apostles released, and what were they told to do? (vss. 19-20)
11. When they sent for the apostles, what did they find at the prison? (vss. 21-23)
12. What effect did this have on the rulers, and where were the apostles? (vss. 24-25)
13. What complaint did the high priest raise? (vss. 26-28)
14. How did Peter respond to their complaint? (vs. 29)
15. Many California churches used Acts 5:29 to defy Gov. Newsom's COVID restrictions. Is this a correct application of this principle? (cf. Question 14 from Acts 4)
16. What claims did Peter make about Jesus? (vss. 30-31)
17. Other than the apostles, who *also* bears witness about Jesus? (vs. 32)
18. What was the council's reaction to Peter's speech? (vs. 33)
19. How does this response compare to the response of a different audience in Acts 2:37?
20. What man suggested a different course of action to the council? (vs. 34; cf. Acts 22:3; *note: the Jewish Mishnah from the early third century refers to this man by name as the greatest teacher of his day, who we may rightly call a first century rabbinical icon*)
21. Based on the events told in vss. 35-37, what was Gamaliel's conclusion? (vss. 38-39)
22. What attitude did the apostles have regarding their flogging? (vss. 40-41)
23. Despite the command to the contrary, what did the apostles continue to do? (vs. 42)

## Acts 6

Summary: The ministry of the word was being impeded by the need to minister to widows and the needy. So the apostles appointed seven men to be table-servers (prototype-deacons). As a result the ministry of the word flourished. One of those seven, Stephen, performed signs and wonders, which stirred up some antagonists who brought false accusations against him before the Sanhedrin.

### Questions

1. What are the two groups described? What is different about who they are? (vs. 1)
2. What problem arose between the two groups? (vs. 1)
3. What reason did the apostles give for why they could/should not do this work? (vss. 2, 4)
4. Who did this work before? (cf. 4:35)
5. Are the apostles suggesting that ministries of preaching and teaching are *more* important than ministries of care and justice? How should these different ministries coincide?
6. What solution did the apostles propose? (vs. 3)
7. What character-qualifications were needed for these men? (vs. 3)
8. How were “The Seven” appointed to serve? (vss. 5-6)
9. As they resolved this problem, what happened to the church? (vs. 7)
10. Consider 1 Cor. 12:4-6, 12-31. What lesson does Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Cor. 12 teach us about the effect of our own service and others’ service within the local church?
11. What power did Stephen possess? (vs. 8) Prior to this in Acts, who did these things?
12. Who disputed with Stephen? (vs. 9)
13. Why were they unsuccessful in proving him wrong? (vs. 10)
14. After failing to prove him wrong, what did they try next? (vss. 11-14)
15. List the charges made against Stephen. Were any of these true?
16. Why was the Sanhedrin staring at Stephen? (vs. 15)

## Acts 7

Summary: In response to their accusations, Stephen retold Israel's whole story, starting with Abraham, working through Joseph, Moses and the exodus, and through David and Solomon. Stephen went through all of this simply to highlight that the Sanhedrin were just like the prideful, stiff-necked ancestors of old who resisted God's redemption. They did this by ignoring the Righteous One and instead murdered him. In response to his charged rebuttal, they stoned him and while they stoned him Stephen saw the glory of the Lord and asked God to forgive his stoners.

*Due to the length of the chapter, take vss. 1-29 the first week and vss. 30-60 the second week.*

### Questions

1. What were the accusations leveled against Stephen at the end of chapter 6?
  2. What title does Stephen bestow on God? (vs. 2; *note: the only other occurrence of this title is in Psalm 29:3, a psalm that calls all of creation to be witnesses of God's lordship*)
  3. Where did God appear to Abraham and what command did he give him? (vss. 2-3)
  4. To whom did God promise to give the land? (vss. 4-5)
  5. What did God predict about Abraham's descendants? How was this fulfilled? (vss. 6-7)
  6. What does "covenant" mean? (vs. 8)
  7. How did Joseph end up in Egypt and what happened to him there? (vss. 9-10)
  8. What problem occurred? (vs. 11)
  9. What did Joseph have to do with this problem? (vss. 12-13)
  10. How did Joseph provide for Jacob and his family? (vss. 14-15)
  11. Where did Jacob die and in what tomb was he buried? (vss. 15-16)
  12. What happened to these people in Egypt and how did this fulfill the promises made to Abraham? (vs. 17)
  13. What change happened in the Egyptian government that affected Jacob's descendants? (vss. 18-19)
  14. How did Moses come to be raised by Pharaoh's daughter? (vss. 20-21)
  15. How is Moses' education described? (vs. 22)
  16. What happened when Moses was 40 years old? (vss. 23-24)
  17. What reason is given for why Moses did this? (vs. 25)
  18. What problem did Moses observe next and how did he try to solve it? (vs. 26)
  19. What reaction did he receive to his effort? (vss. 27-28)
  20. How did Moses respond to this treatment by an Israelite? (vs. 29)
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21. Where did Moses go, and what happened to him there? (vs. 30)
22. How did God identify himself? (vss. 31-32)
23. What did God plan to do for Israel and what would be Moses' role? (vss. 33-34)
24. How did God view Moses (vs. 35)
25. How did Stephen describe Moses' success in accomplishing God's purpose? (vs. 36)
26. What had Moses predicted? (vss. 37-38; cf. Deut. 18:15, 18)
27. What are some of the ways Jesus was similar to Moses?
28. How did the people treat Moses during his lifetime and how did this compare with how first century Jews treated Moses? (vs. 39)
29. What example illustrates the attitude of people in Moses' day? (vss. 40-41)
30. Quoting Amos 5:25-27, what consequence did God predict would come? (vss. 42-44)
31. Who brought the tabernacle into Canaan and what promise did this fulfill? (vs. 45)
32. What had David asked to do for God? Who actually did this? (vss. 46-47)
33. What evidence is given to show that God does not dwell in physical buildings? (vss. 48-50; cf. Isa. 66:1-2)
34. In what ways was Stephen's audience like their fathers? (vss. 51-53)
35. Though Stephen was interrupted, can we infer where his sermon was headed?
36. How had Stephen answered the accusations made against him?
37. How did the people present respond to Stephen's sermon? (vs. 54)
38. What amazing thing did Stephen see? (vss. 55-56)
39. How did the people respond to Stephen's vision? (vss. 57-58)
40. As they were stoning him, what requests did he make, and who else has made similar requests? (Vss. 59-60)
41. What lessons can we learn about how we should respond when others falsely accuse us as a result of our faith in Jesus Messiah?

## Acts 8

Summary: Saul approved of Stephen's stoning and caused the believers to be scattered throughout the region. Philip went to Samaria and preached the Gospel, which was received very well by the Samaritans. A sorcerer seemed to be converted but tried to buy the apostolic gift. He was rebuked and told to repent by Peter. Philip was led towards an Ethiopian Eunuch who was leaving Jerusalem after trying to worship and was told the Gospel from Isaiah 53. He was immediately baptized and went on rejoicing without noticing that Philip had disappeared.

### Questions

1. After the execution of Stephen, what problem did the church have, and what was the result of this problem? (vs. 1)
2. What final information are we given about Stephen's death? (vs. 2)
3. What lessons can be drawn from the disciples' view of death? (vs. 2)
4. Describe Saul's involvement in the persecution? (vs. 3)
5. What did the scattered Christians do and who was involved in this work? (vs. 4)
6. Who preached in Samaria and where have we already read about this man? (vs. 5)
7. What new stage has the spread of the Gospel reached? (vss. 1-5; cf. Acts 1:8)
8. What attitude did the people have toward the Gospel? (vss. 6-8)
9. Describe the work of Simon and the effect it had on the people. (vss. 9-11)
10. What did Philip preach? (vs. 12)
11. Describe the response to Philip's preaching? (vs. 12; cf. Mark 16:15-16)
12. What was Simon's reaction? What does this show about Simon's former power? (vs. 13)
13. Who came from Jerusalem and for what purpose? (vss. 14-17)
14. What request did Simon make? (vss. 18-19)
15. List phrases that show Simon was guilty of sin. (vss. 20-24)
16. What did Simon need to do to be forgiven? (vs. 22)
17. What did the apostles do as they returned to Jerusalem? (vs. 25)
18. Where was Philip told to go next, and how was he told? (vs. 26)
19. Why was the eunuch traveling and what was he doing as he traveled? (vss. 27-28)
20. What did the *Spirit* tell Philip to do? (vs. 29)
21. What question did Philip ask? (vs. 30)
22. How did the eunuch respond and what does this show about his character? (vs. 31)
23. Explain the quote from Isa. 53? What did the eunuch ask Philip about this? (vss. 32-34)
24. What was Philip's answer? (vs. 35)
25. What did the Eunuch want to do? (vs. 36)
26. How is the baptism of the eunuch described? (vss. 38-39)

## Acts 9

Summary: Saul was on his way to persecute other Christians when Jesus appeared to him and called him to repentance, which he did. God directed another disciple Ananias (different from ch.5) to connect with Saul who finished Saul's conversion with Saul's baptism. Saul tried to join the disciples and was helped by Barnabas but the Hellenistic Jews tried to kill him, so the disciples sent him away. Peter healed a bedridden man and resurrected a beloved, elderly woman, which brought great astonishment to the region and the church.

### Questions

1. What was Saul doing and where did he want to go? (vss. 1-2)
2. What did he see and hear as he got near the city? (vss. 3-4)
3. How was it true that Saul was persecuting *Jesus*? (vss. 4-5)
4. What did Jesus tell Saul to do? (vs. 6)
5. What was different about the experience of Saul and those traveling with him? (vs. 7)
6. What problem did Saul have when he arose and how did he know he had that problem? (vs. 8)
7. What did Saul do after he arrived in the city? (vs. 9)
8. Who did the Lord send to Saul and how did the Lord speak to this man? (vs. 10)
9. What was Saul doing at the time? (vs. 11)
10. What reasons did God give Ananias for why he should go to Saul? (vss. 13-16)
11. What happened to Saul as a result of Ananias' visit? (vss. 17-19)
12. What did Saul do after his baptism and how did this affect the people? (vss. 20-21)
13. How effective was Saul's teaching? (vs. 22)
14. What did the Jews decide to do about Saul? (vs. 23)
15. How did he escape? Where did Saul go and what did he want to do? (vss. 24-26)
16. Who helped the church understand Saul? (vs. 27)
17. What work did Saul do at Jerusalem? (vs. 28)
18. Why and how did Saul leave? (vss. 29-30)
19. In what three regions did the church exist? (vss. 31-32)
20. What man was healed? (vss. 33-34)
21. How did the people respond to this miracle? (vs. 35)
22. Who is Tabitha and how is she described? (vss. 36-37)
23. What is the name of the disciple who died and what was her character like? (vs. 38)
24. Who did they send for and when he arrived what was going on? (vs. 39)
25. Is it appropriate to mourn the death of fellow-believers?
26. Describe the miracle that occurred and the effect this had on the people? (vss. 40-42)

## Acts 10

Summary: An angel spoke to Cornelius, a good man, to send for Peter. Those he sent arrived shortly after Peter saw in a trance God declare that Gentiles were clean. Peter went to see Cornelius to preach the Gospel, and in so doing Peter learned the lesson that God doesn't show favoritism between Jew and Gentile. The Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles, which perplexed the Jewish believers who went with Peter. Peter immediately baptized Cornelius and his relatives who had gathered to hear Peter's message.

### Questions

1. What are we told about Cornelius? (vss. 1-2)
2. What did he see in his vision and what was he told about his prayers? (vss. 3-4)
3. What instructions did the angel give Cornelius? (vss. 5-8)
4. Where was Peter when he received an incredible vision? (vss. 9-10)
5. Describe the vision. (vss. 11-13)
6. How did Peter respond and what reply did he receive? (vss. 14-16)
7. What happened while Peter was meditating on the vision? (vss. 17-18)
8. Who spoke to Peter next and what did he say? (vss. 19-20)
9. What did Peter say to Cornelius' messengers? (vs. 21)
10. What are some similarities and differences between the messengers' description of Cornelius? (vs. 22; cf. vss. 1-2)
11. What reason did the messengers give for why Cornelius had sent for Peter?
12. Who was waiting for Peter with Cornelius? (vs. 24)
13. What did Cornelius do and how did Peter respond to this act? (vss. 25-26)
14. What does Peter's conclusion teach us about relationships between believers of different races or ethnicities? Are there types of Christians we shouldn't "associate" with? (vs. 28)
15. What was Cornelius' house expecting? (vss. 30-33)
16. What theological statement does Peter begin his sermon with? (vss. 34-35)
17. What did *Jesus* preach and to who was he initially sent? (vs. 36)
18. How is Jesus' ministry described? (vss. 37-41)
19. What responsibility was then given to some of the witnesses to these things? (vs. 42)
20. What is it about Jesus that one needs to believe to be saved? (vs. 43)
21. What happened to listeners as Peter spoke and what were they able to do? (vss. 44-46)
22. What effect did this have on the Jewish Christians who had come with Peter?
23. What did Peter conclude and command the Gentiles to do? (vss. 47-48)

## Acts 11

Summary: Back in Judea, the more devout Jewish believers criticized Peter for what he had done with the Gentiles. But Peter explained to them what happened, beginning with the trance and ending with the Spirit's outpouring during his preaching. This caused silence but then rejoicing among them because God gave life through repentance even to the Gentiles.

### Questions

1. Who confronted Peter and how did they question him? (vss. 1-3)
2. What is it that they heard about the Gentiles? (vs. 4)
3. Summarize Peter's retelling of his vision. (vss. 5-10)
4. What did the Spirit tell Peter? (vss. 11-12)
5. How many disciples went with Peter to see Cornelius? (vs. 12)
6. From what the angel told Cornelius, what can we learn about the importance of *hearing* the Gospel? (vss. 13-14; cf. Rom. 10:9-15)
7. What was the supernatural event Peter described? (vs. 15)
8. What is meant by the expression of "at the beginning"? (vs. 15)
9. Peter says he remembers some words of Jesus. Where do these words appear? (vs. 16)
10. What conclusion did Peter and the other Jews reach? (vss. 17-18)
11. What group of Christians does the narrative return to? (vs. 19; cf. Acts 8:1)
12. Who preached to a different group of people, and to whom did they preach? (vs. 20)
13. Who heard about this preaching and what did they do about it? (vs. 22)
14. What did Barnabas see at Antioch? (vs. 23)
15. What was the effect of Barnabas' work? (vs. 24)
16. After, where did Barnabas go and why? (vs. 25)
17. What term was first used to describe disciples of Jesus at Antioch? (vs. 26)
18. Who came to Antioch and where did they come from? (vs. 27)
19. Who made a specific prediction, and what was that prediction? (vs. 28)
20. What did the church decide to do about this problem? (vs. 29)
21. To who was the money sent and how did they send it? (vs. 30)

## Acts 12

Summary: King Herod killed James of Zebedee and arrested Peter during the feast of unleavened bread (Passover week). Peter was heavily guarded but an angel rescued him in the middle of the night without the soldiers knowing. Peter thought it was a vision but after passing through a wall he knew it was real. He went to Mary's house and told them of his rescue.

### Questions

1. What kind do we read about and what did he do? (vss. 1-2)
2. Acts 12 begins and ends with a "James." Which James is talked about in vs. 2? (cf. Matt. 4:21; 20:20-38)
3. What did he do to Peter? (vss. 3-4)
4. As a young Christian community, what is significant about *when* this happened?
5. What did the church do while Peter was in prison? (vs. 5)
6. How was Peter bound and who released him? (vss. 6-7)
7. What did the angel say to Peter? (vss. 7-8)
8. Where did the angel take Peter and how did they get through the gate? (vss. 9-10)
9. What had Peter initially thought was happening?
10. Where did Peter go after? (vss. 11-12)
11. Does God always deliver his faithful servants from their enemies? Give some examples.
12. Who came to the door when Peter arrived and what did she do first? (vss. 13-14)
13. How did the people first react? (vs. 15)
14. What did the people do as Peter continued to knock? (vs. 16)
15. What did Peter tell the people, and what did he then do? (vs. 17)
16. What happened between Herod and the soldiers as a result? (vss. 18-19)
17. What peoples displeased Herod? (vs. 20; *note: these two cities are North of Israel on the coast and were critical to the region for trade. In the OT prophets, these two represent the unrepentant pride of the nations that think they are greater than the God of Israel.*)
18. How did the people honor the king? (vss. 21-22)
19. What happened to the king as a result and why? (vs. 23)
20. What effect did this have on the Jesus-movement's efforts? (vs. 24)
21. What two men are reintroduced and what relief-mission were they on? (vs. 25)
22. Who did they take with them? (vs. 25)

## Acts 13

Summary: Paul and Barnabas spoke to the Jews in Antioch, replaying the history of God's covenant-faithfulness and called on them to believe in Jesus, through whose death and resurrection is found justification. The Jews present did not like what they were preaching, so Paul and Barnabas announced that they had been appointed to the specific ministry of taking the Gospel to the Gentiles; to the ends of the earth, which prompting great rejoicing among the Gentiles.

*Due to the length of the chapter, take vss. 1-23 the first week and vss. 24-52 the second.*

### Questions

1. Name some teachers and prophets in the church at Antioch? (vs. 1)
  2. Who was separated for special work and what was their work? (vss. 2-3)
  3. Where did they go first, and who went with them? (vss. 4-5)
  4. Name the two men they found at Paphos? (vss. 6-7)
  5. What is different about this sorcerer from Simon in Acts 8?
  6. What did Elymas do wrong? (vs. 8)
  7. How might someone today try to turn another person "away from the faith"?
  8. What other name does Saul have? (vs. 9; *note: many wrongly believe Saul had a transformative name-change like Abraham. "Saul" is his Pharisee name, likely after King Saul since both came from the tribe of Benjamin. "Paul" is his Greek name.*)
  9. What consequence came on Elymas for his wrong? (vss. 10-11)
  10. What effect did this have on Sergius Paulus? (vs. 12)
  11. What two places did Paul visit next? (vss. 13-14)
  12. What did John Mark do at Perga? (vs. 13; cf. Acts 15:36-41)
  13. What did Paul do in Antioch? (vss. 14-16)
  14. Where did Paul begin in Israel's history? (vss. 17-18)
  15. What land did God give Israel and how were they first ruled? (vss. 19-20)
  16. What form of government did they have next? (vs. 21)
  17. Who were the first two kings and how is the second described? (vs. 22)
  18. Who was *the* descendant of David? (vs. 23)
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19. Describe the one who came before Jesus? (vss. 24-25)
20. How does Paul summarize the word he was sent with? (vs. 26)
21. How did the people and rulers condemn/treat Jesus? (vss. 27-29)
22. What did God do for Jesus and how could the people know this was true? (vss. 30-31)
23. Paul quotes from Ps. 2:6-8, Isa. 35:1-5, and Ps. 16:7-11. Read these passages. What are some common elements in these verses? (vss. 32-35)
24. How can we know that David did not fulfill the prediction? (vss. 36-37)
25. What blessing did Jesus provide and why did people need it? (vss. 38-39)
26. Paul quotes Hab. 1:5. Read Hab. 1:2-11, 2:2-5. What example is this for us? (vss. 40-41)
27. What was the result of Paul's sermon in Antioch? (vss. 42-43)
28. Who came together to be taught the next week and what was the Jewish reaction to this? (vss. 44-45)
29. Paul responds by quoting Isa. 49:6. Read Isa. 49:1-13. Who is this passage talking about? Elsewhere this is described as *Jesus' mission* (Luke 2:32). In what sense is Jesus' mission *also* the mission of believers? (vss. 46-47)
30. What effect did this teaching have on the Gentiles? (vss. 48-49)
31. What prompted Paul and Barnabas to leave and where did they go? (vss. 50-51)
32. What attitude did the Christians in Antioch have after all this? (vs. 52)



## Acts 14

Summary: Paul and Barnabas had great success in Iconium but some of the Jews did not like it so they were going to stone them, but they fled to other towns. When they preached in those other towns, they were mistaken for Greek gods, but they used this mix-up to call them to repentance and point them toward the true Gospel. After that they returned to Antioch and reported the work of the Lord, namely the beginning of the inclusion of Gentiles into the faith.

### Questions

1. Where did they preach and what was the result? (vs. 1)
2. How did some Jews react? (vs. 2)
3. What were the signs and wonders a witness of? (vs. 3)
4. What condition resulted among the people? (vs. 4)
5. Some people blame preachers anytime division follows from their preaching. What can we learn from examples like this?
6. Why did Paul and Barnabas leave Iconium and where did they go? (vss. 5-6)
7. What did they do in these cities? (vs. 7) When it comes to attractional churches, what can we learn from examples like this?
8. What problem did a man in Lystra have and how long had he had it? (vs. 8)
9. Describe how the man was healed? (vss. 9-10)
10. What did the people of Lystra claim when they saw this miracle? (vs. 11)
11. Who did they mistake Paul and Barnabas for and what Pagan got involved? (vss. 12-13)
12. What did Paul and Barnabas explain about themselves to the people? (vss. 14-16)
13. What did they teach the people about the nature of God? (vs. 17)
14. What “witness” (evidence) did God give about himself? (vs. 18) Where else does the Bible refer to such evidence?
15. Who came to town and what problem did they cause for Paul? (vss. 19-20)
16. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after Lystra and what did they do there? (vss. 20-21)
17. Then where did they go and for what purpose? (vss. 21-22)
18. What lessons can we learn about preaching and spiritual growth? (vs. 22)
19. Then what did Paul and Barnabas do? (vs. 23; cf. 1 Tim. 3; Titus 1)
20. Where else did Paul and Barnabas go? (vss. 24-25)
21. What city did they finally return to? (vs. 26)
22. What did they do at Antioch? (vss. 27-28)

## Acts 15

Summary: Some Jewish believers tried to compel Gentile believers to abide by Jewish ethnic customs, which brought dismay to the new Christians. Paul and Barnabas debated them and then went to Jerusalem for assistance. After hearing arguments for both sides, James (and the Holy Spirit) decided that Gentile inclusion fulfills Scripture and must not involve the ethnic markers of the Jews, because Gentiles are saved by grace through faith just like Jews are. That said, Gentile believers must flee from idolatry, sexual immorality, and blood sacrifice. Paul and Barnabas took the letter and then resolved to visit the churches they started, but they disputed on how to do this, so they split up.

### Questions

1. What theological debate is introduced? (vs. 1)
2. What did Paul and Barnabas do about the issue? (vs. 2)
3. What did the church decide to do about the issue? (vs. 3)
4. What information did Paul and Barnabas report and to whom did they report? (vss. 3-4)
5. What position did the Pharisee-believers defend? (vs. 5)
6. What was done in Jerusalem about the problem? (vss. 6-7)
7. How did Peter describe what God had done for the Gentiles? (vss. 7-8)
8. What did Peter assert that this proved? (vs. 9)
9. What is Peter's conclusion? (vss. 10-11)
10. What did Barnabas and Paul talk about? (vs. 12)
11. What did James talk about? (vss. 13-14)
12. James quotes the OT, mostly from Amos 9:11-12 but also part Isa. 45:17-24. How does James use this quotation in vss. 15-18 to support his conclusion in vss. 19-21?
13. What was decided should be done, and what men were chosen to do it? (vs. 22)
14. How did the letter describe the theological debate? (vss. 23-24)
15. Why did they send a letter *and* some men to deliver the message? (vss. 25-27)
16. Whose authority was behind the decision? (vs. 28)
17. What did they mean by saying they would lay "no greater burden" on them? (vs. 28)
18. The Jerusalem Council *did* place burdens on the Gentiles who turn to Christ. What two words are used to introduce these burdens and what are they? (vss. 20, 28-29)
19. What did they do when they arrived at Antioch and how did people react? (vss. 30-31)
20. What did Judas and Silas do? (vss. 32-34)
21. What work occupied Paul and Barnabas after that? (vs. 35)
22. What did Paul suggest they do? (vs. 36)
23. Who did Barnabas want to take and how did Paul feel about this? (vss. 37-38)
24. What was the result of this disagreement? (vss. 39-41)

## Acts 16

Summary: Paul called Timothy to join him in his ministry travels and they went throughout the region, leading to Rome, specifically Philippi, where they converted Lydia and her household. Paul exorcized a girl using a demon to make her owners money and the owners threw him and Silas in jail. In the night there was an earthquake and the jailer sought to kill himself because the doors were shook open. But Paul stopped him because nobody had actually escaped. The jailer took them to his house where he and his family became believers in Jesus.

### Questions

1. Who did Paul find at Lystra? What was his family background and reputation? (vss. 1-2)
2. What did Paul have done to Timothy and why? (vs. 3)
3. What information did they provide as they traveled? (vs. 4)
4. What effect did their work have on the churches? (vs. 5)
5. Why did they not preach in these listed Asian cities? (vss. 6-8)
6. Describe Paul's vision. What does it mean? (vs. 9)
7. What did Paul's company do as a result of the vision, and how does this relate to the preaching instructions from vss. 6-7?
8. Who is being talked about in the "us" and "we" of vss. 10-11?
9. Where did they go and who did they find to teach? (vss. 12-13)
10. How did the woman respond to their message? (vs. 14)
11. Why does God open people's hearts?
12. What service did Lydia offer the preachers? (vs. 15)
13. How is the slave-girl described and how did she describe Paul and Barnabas? (vss. 16-18)
14. What did her masters do to Paul and Silas and accuse them of? (vss. 19-21)
15. What did the magistrates do to Paul and Silas? (vss. 22-23)
16. What did the jailer do to secure Paul and Silas? (vs. 24)
17. How did Paul and Silas respond to this treatment? (vs. 25)
18. What happened about midnight and how did it affect the prisoners? (vs. 26)
19. How did the jailer respond? How did Paul stop the jailer? (vss. 27-29)
20. What did the jailer ask and how did Paul and Silas respond? (vss. 30-31)
21. What else did the jailer and his household do? (vss. 32-34)
22. What did the magistrates decide the next day and how did the jailer feel? (vss. 35-36)
23. What objection did Paul raise? (vs. 37)
24. How did the magistrates respond to Paul's objection? (vss. 38-39)
25. What did Paul and Silas do next? (vs. 40)

## Acts 17

Summary: Paul and Timothy went into Thessalonica where they encountered the Bereans who were committed to the Scriptures. Many of them believed the good news about the resurrection. Paul went on to Athens and was deeply troubled by the idolatry, but he used it as a springboard to evangelize to the pagans before rebuking them for idolatry. His preaching about the resurrection sharply divided the crowd.

### Questions

1. Where did Paul and company go next? (vss. 1-2)
2. What did Paul try to prove and what authority did he use? (vs. 3)
3. Describe the contrasting reactions in vss. 4-5.
4. How was Jason treated and what accusation was made? (vss. 6-8)
5. In what sense had Paul and Silas turned the world upside down?
6. What did the rulers do to Jason? (vs. 9)
7. Were the accusations of vs. 7 true?
8. Where did Paul and Silas go next? (vs. 10)
9. Describe the attitude of the Jews in Berea toward the Gospel and the OT. (vs. 11)
10. What effect did their Bible teaching have? (vs. 12)
11. Who heard about the preaching in Berea, and what did they do? (vs. 13)
12. Where did Paul, Silas, and Timothy go? (vss. 14-15)
13. How did the idolatry in Athens affect Paul and where did he teach? (vss. 16-17)
14. What philosophies did he encounter and what did they think of his teaching? (vs. 18)
15. Where did they take Paul so he could speak and why were they so interested in his ideas? (vss. 19-21)
16. How did Paul introduce his message to the Athenians? (vss. 22-23)
17. On what work of God did Paul base his argument? (vs. 24)
18. What expressions in vss. 25-28 show our dependence on God?
19. What had the Athenian poets said about our relationship to God, and what would this mean about the nature of God? (vss. 28-29)
20. What does God command of all people? (vs. 30)
21. Why must all people everywhere do this? (vs. 31)
22. How did the preaching of the resurrection affect the Athenians?(vss. 32-34)
23. Is Paul's method one that Christians today can/should replicate?

## Acts 18

Summary: Paul then went to Corinth where he met and stayed with fellow tentmakers Aquila and Priscilla. Paul taught in the synagogue but then was taken into custody by jealous Jews but the proconsul released him and he went to Syria. Aquila and Priscilla heard an eloquent, yet incomplete, Bible teacher named Apollos and they taught him the rest of what happened to Jesus, which made his ministry even stronger.

### Questions

1. Where did Paul go after Athens? (vs. 1)
2. Whom did Paul meet in Corinth? Where did they come from and why? (vs. 2)
3. What did Paul have in common with these people? (vs. 3)
4. Where did Paul preach, and what did he preach? (vss. 4-5)
5. How did they respond and what did Paul say about it? (vs. 6)
6. Into whose house was Paul received, and where was it located? (vss. 7-8)
7. What promise was made to Paul in a vision, and what was he told to do? (vss. 9-10)
8. How long did he stay in Corinth? (vs. 11)
9. Who brought Paul before a ruler, and who was the ruler? (vs. 12)
10. What accusation was made against Paul? (vs. 13) Was this accusation true?
11. Why was Gallio not concerned? (vss. 14-16)
12. What in turn was done to a Jewish leader, and what did Gallio think of that? (vs. 17)
13. Where did Paul go next and who went with him? (vs. 18)
14. What city did Paul teach next and where in that city? (vs. 19)
15. How did Paul respond to their request? (vss. 20-21)
16. Where else did he visit as he completed his trip? (vs. 22)
17. Where did he go as he began his third preaching trip? (vs. 23)
18. Who came to Ephesus and what was he like? (vs. 24)
19. Do preachers need to be eloquent?
20. What problem did Apollos have? (vs. 25)
21. Who corrected him and how was it done? (vs. 26)
22. When Paul writes the famous words of 1 Tim. 2:12 about women (*or wives*) not being permitted to teach or usurp authority from men (*or their husbands*), he is writing to Timothy *in Ephesus*, the same place Priscilla teaches Apollos. Read 1 Tim. 2:8-12. How should we understand Paul's instruction in light of Priscilla's teaching of Apollos? Does the text suggest Priscilla was in error or are these talking about different circumstances?
23. Where did Apollos want to do and what did Christians do to help him? (vs. 27)
24. What work did Apollos do in Achaia? (vs. 28)

## Acts 19

Summary: When in Corinth, Paul baptized some disciples of John who also hadn't heard all about Jesus and then preached about the Kingdom in the synagogue. Paul confronted false exorcists, sons of the high priest, who were overpowered by the real demon. Paul's ministry disturbed the idolatry-industry in Ephesus, which prompted a riot to put an end to his ministry. However, the city clerk recognized that Paul had not broken the law and that the riot could be seen as a violation of the law.

### Questions

1. What question did Paul ask in Ephesus and how did they answer? (vss. 1-2)
2. What did Paul ask next and how did they respond? (vs. 3)
3. What did Paul say about John's baptism? (vs. 4)
4. Read Romans 6:3-9. What's the difference between John's and Jesus' baptism?
5. Were these twelve men "re-baptized"? (vss. 5-7)
6. Where and what did Paul teach? (vs. 8)
7. Why did he leave and what was the effect of his work? (vss. 9-10)
8. Describe the miracles performed. (vss. 11-12)
9. What did some Jews try and do and how did the demons respond? (vss. 13-16)
10. How did the people respond to this and why would this have such an effect? (vs. 17)
11. What did the magicians do? (vss. 18-19)
12. Where did Paul plan to visit next and who did he send to Macedonia? (vss. 20-22)
13. Who was Demetrius and what work was he in? (vss. 23-24)
14. Why was he so upset with Paul? (vss. 25-27)
15. How did Demetrius' friends react and how did the city react? (vss. 28-29)
16. What did the disciples prevent Paul from doing? (vss. 30-31)
17. Why was the mob confused? (vs. 32)
18. Who tried to calm down the crowd and how did that work out? (vss. 33-34)
19. Who finally calmed down the crowd and what did he say about Artemis? (vss. 35-37)
20. What advice did he give Demetrius? Was the advice taken? (vss. 38-40)

## Acts 20

Summary: Paul spoke for a while, during which a boy fell asleep and died, but Paul revived him and kept preaching until morning. Paul didn't have time to go to Ephesus because he wanted to get to Jerusalem before Pentecost. He met with the Ephesian elders and told them that the Spirit has told him in every city that chains and persecution awaits him. They wept together when he told them he would never see them again.

### Questions

1. What did Paul do after the riot and how did this compare with his plans in 19:21? (vs. 1)
2. What problem did Paul face in Greece and what did he do about it? (vss. 2-3)
3. In addition to the man who traveled with Paul, what other unnamed character makes another appearance? (vss. 4-5)
4. What is significant about their stay in Troas for seven days during the days of unleavened bread? (vs. 6; cf. 2 Cor. 2:12-13)
5. What is meant by "break bread"? (vs. 7)
6. What happened to Eutychus and why? (vss. 8-9)
7. What did Paul do about this? (vss. 10-12)
8. Who met Paul at Miletus? (vs. 17)
9. Describe the problems Paul faced preaching in Asia? (vss. 18-19)
10. Despite these problems, where, to whom, and what did he preach? (vss. 20-21)
11. Where did Paul intend to go and what was predicted to face him there? (vss. 22-23)
12. What attitude did Paul have towards them? (vs. 24)
13. What did Paul predict in vs. 25 and how does this connect to the message he preached to them?
14. What does "blood" represent in vs. 26?
15. What lesson is there about preaching in vs. 27?
16. Describe the work of elders. (vs. 28)
17. How did Jesus make the church *his*, and what does this teach about the importance of the local church?
18. What are elders supposed to guard against? (vss. 29-31; cf. 2 Pet. 2:1-3)
19. What is God's word able to do? (vs. 32; cf. Eph. 4:29)
20. Instead of coveting, what had Paul done? (vss. 33-34)
21. Paul quotes Jesus, although these words aren't recorded in any of the Gospels. Did Jesus actually say these words? (vs. 35; cf. John 21:25)
22. How did Paul conclude his talk and how did this affect the elders? (vss. 36-38)

## Acts 21

Summary: Paul made his way to Philip the evangelist and was approached by Agabus who performed a sign-act prophecy that Paul would be bound by the Jews and delivered to the Gentiles. This is what happened when the Jews became angry and accused him of speaking against Moses. But Paul insisted he was clear of wrongdoing. He stood up to begin speaking to them.

### Questions

1. How does Acts 21 pick up where Acts 20 left off? (vss. 1-3)
2. What warning did some disciples give Paul once he arrived at Tyre? (vs. 4)
3. Who accompanied Paul's group to the ship? (vss. 5-6)
4. What did they do at the beach?
5. What places did Paul and his companions visit next? (vss. 7-8)
6. What was noteworthy about Philip's daughters? (vs. 9)
7. What prophet came from Jerusalem? Describe his sign-act. (vss. 10-11)
8. How did Paul's companions react to this prediction? (vs. 12)
9. How did Paul react? (vss. 13-14)
10. Finally arriving in Jerusalem, with whom did they lodge? (vss. 15-16)
11. With whom did Paul meet and discuss? (vss. 17-19)
12. What kind of people were James and the elders concerned with? (vs. 20)
13. What had these people heard about Paul? (vs. 21) Was this true?
14. What did they recommend to Paul? What did they hope to accomplish? (vss. 22-24)
15. What previous decision do they reference? What was the decision? (vs. 25)
16. What did Paul do? (vs. 26)
17. Who stirred up trouble and what did they accuse Paul of? (vss. 27-28)
18. What was the basis of their accusation and what was the result? (vss. 29-30)
19. What were the Jews attempting to do to Paul and who heard about it? (vs. 31)
20. What did the chief captain do? (vss. 32-33)
21. What question did he ask and how did they respond? (vss. 33-34)
22. What did he do to protect Paul and why? (vss. 35-36)
23. What did Paul request? (vs. 37)
24. Who did the chief captain think Paul was? (vs. 38)
25. Who was Paul *actually* and what request did he therefore make? (vs. 39)
26. Where did Paul stand and in what language did he speak? (vs. 40)



## Acts 22

Summary: Paul recounted his former life of persecuting Christians and his conversion experience, adding that those with him had to escort him as a result of his blindness, something only implied in the original account. After he was baptized he was given the ministry of taking the Gospel to Gentiles. Those present despised his words and wanted him dead, but the commanders did not harm him, for he was a Roman citizen by birth.

### Questions

1. What was the purpose of Paul's speech? (vs. 1)
2. What advantage was there by speaking in Hebrew? (vs. 2)
3. What is Paul's background? (vs. 3)
4. Who is Gamaliel? (cf. Acts 5:34; *see Question 20 above in Acts 5 section*)
5. How did Paul prove his zeal? (vs. 4)
6. To where and why did Paul travel? (vs. 5)
7. Who appeared to Paul and how did it happen? (vss. 6-8)
8. What did Paul's companions witness? (vs. 9)
9. Is this different from Luke's narration of the event in Acts 9?
10. What question did Paul ask and what was the answer? (vs. 10)
11. What disability struck Paul and what proof was provided? (vs. 11)
12. Who came to see Paul and what kind of man was he? (vs. 12)
13. Why did he say *Jesus* had appeared to Paul? (vss. 13-15)
14. What did he command Paul to do and why? (vs. 16)
15. What message did Paul receive and how? (vss. 17-18)
16. What was Paul's response to this? (vss. 19-20)
17. Where would God send Paul? (vs. 21; cf. Acts 9:15; 13:46)
18. How did the riot in Jerusalem react to this? (vss. 22-23)
19. What did the commander decide to do next and why? (vs. 24)
20. How did Paul stop them? (vs. 25)
21. What did the commander do? (vs. 26)
22. What difference was there to his two citizenships? (vss. 27-28)
23. What effect did this have? (vss. 29-30)

## Acts 23

Summary: Paul was brought before the Sanhedrin to face a religious trial. Paul took advantage of the divide between the Pharisees and Sadducees to rile them up by identifying himself and his plight with that of the Pharisees. He was taken back to the barracks for safety; meanwhile a plot was formed to kill Paul, but his nephew learned about it and went to Paul. Paul sent his nephew without revealing the family connection to the commander who orchestrated a middle of the night prison-swap to get Paul out of the area.

### Questions

1. What claim did Paul make before the council? (vs. 1)
2. What did the high priest command to be done to Paul? How did Paul respond? (vss. 2-3)
3. What did Paul say when told the man was the high priest? (vss. 4-5)
4. Why did Paul retract his statement? (vs. 5)
5. What's different about Sadducees and Pharisees? Which was Paul aligned with? (vs. 6)
6. What effect did Paul's statement have? (vss. 7-9)
7. How did the commander save Paul? (vs. 10)
8. What did the Lord promise Paul? (vs. 11)
9. What was the plan of the forty and what help did they need from the chief priests and elders? (vss. 12-15)
10. Who discovered the plot and what did he do about it? (vs. 16)
11. How was this relayed to the commander and what was the message? (vss. 17-21)
12. What warning did the commander give? (vs. 22)
13. What arrangements did the commander make for Paul? (vss. 23-24)
14. To whom did the commander write? (vss. 25-26)
15. How accurate were the details in the commander's letter? (vss. 27-28)
16. What conclusion did the commander state about Paul's guilt? (vss. 29-30)
17. What did the soldiers do with Paul? (vss. 31-33)
18. What was the governor's decision about Paul? (vss. 34-35)

## Acts 24

**Summary:** A few days later the Jews and their lawyer arrived to make their case before the judge. They accused Paul of desecrating the temple and disregarding their laws. Paul gave a defense that he has upheld the law and that it is these Jews who have disregarded the law and the prophets. Moreover, he was purified when he was dragged out of the synagogue (and those people weren't even there!). The judge decided to wait until he heard from the commanded. Felix kept Paul in prison and after two years was replaced by Festus.

### Questions

1. Who came to Caesarea and why? (vs. 1)
2. How did Tertullus begin his speech? (vss. 2-4)
3. Explain each of the accusations made against Paul? (vss. 5-8)
4. What method did Tertullus propose to use to prove the charges? (vs. 8)
5. What did the other Jews say about the charges? (vs. 9)
6. How did Paul begin his answer? (vs. 10)
7. What was Paul's point by including the element of time? (vs. 11)
8. What claim did he make and what was his argument? (vss. 12-13)
9. What did Paul admit to be true? What did Paul believe and hope for? (vss. 14-15)
10. What good did Paul work toward? (vs. 16)
11. Why had Paul come to Jerusalem (vs. 17)
12. What was he doing in the temple and what was he *not* doing? (vs. 18)
13. Who was not present to accuse him and what was Paul's point in saying so? (vss. 18-19)
14. What was the only thing the Jews could hold against him? (vss. 20-21)
15. What did Felix conclude? (vs. 22)
16. Describe Paul's treatment as a prisoner? (vs. 23)
17. Who was Felix's wife and what opportunity did this provide to Paul? (vs. 24)
18. What are three things Paul spoke to Felix about and how did Felix react? (vs. 25)
19. What did Felix want from Paul? (vs. 26)
20. How long did this continue? (vs. 27)

## Acts 25

Summary: After Festus took over, the Jews and their lawyer tried again; however, when he brought Paul in, their accusations did not line up. They wanted him to be tried in Jerusalem so their plot could still happen, but Paul—insisting on his total innocence—instead appealed to Caesar. Festus arranged for Paul’s case to go up to the king who was very interested in hearing about a dead man that was alive again. Festus presented Paul to him and stated that he found him innocent and that the case was strange and perplexing.

### Questions

1. Where did Festus go, and who confronted him there? (vss. 1-2)
2. What did these men request and why? (vs. 3)
3. What response did Festus give? (vss. 4-5)
4. When and where did Paul’s next hearing occur? (vs. 6)
5. Who accused Paul and what proof did they give? (vs. 7)
6. How did Paul answer the charges? (vs. 8)
7. What suggestion did Festus make and why? (vs. 9)
8. What reasons did Paul give for refusing the suggestion? (vs. 10)
9. What alternative outcomes did Paul describe regarding his care? (vs. 11)
10. What decision did Festus make? (vs. 12)
11. Who came to visit Festus? (vs. 13; *note: this individual took over when his dad died in Acts 12. Bernice is his wife and also his sister. He held the seat that oversaw the temple*)
12. How did Festus describe Paul’s case? (vss. 14-15)
13. What answer had Festus given to the Jews who requested that Paul be punished, and why did he answer that way? (vs. 16)
14. What was the result? (vs. 17)
15. What problem did he find that the Jews had with Paul? (vss. 18-19)
16. What request had he made and why did he make it? (vs. 20)
17. How did he say Paul had responded? (vs. 21)
18. What did King Agrippa Herod II want to do? (vs. 22)
19. Who attended Paul’s hearing? (vs. 23)
20. How did Festus describe Paul to those present? (vs. 24)
21. What did he say about Paul’s guilt? (vs. 25)
22. What reasons did he give for bringing Paul before them? (vss. 26-27)

## Acts 26

Summary: The King gave Paul permission to talk and Paul recounted the story of his upbringing in the ways of the Pharisees and of his conversion again. Paul was obedient to the Lord's mission for him when he was seized in the temple, but he has done nothing wrong other than uphold the writings of the prophets that the messiah must suffer, die, and be raised from the dead. Festus thought Paul was crazy, but the rulers present agreed that he did nothing deserving of death and that his appeal was unnecessary.

### Questions

1. Why was Paul glad to make a defense before Agrippa? (vss. 1-3)
2. What kind of person had Paul been since his youth? (vss. 4-5)
3. Or what hope was he being judged? (vss. 6-8)
4. What was Paul's attitude toward Jesus before his conversion? (vs. 9)
5. What was Paul's evidence for his zeal? (vs. 10-11)
6. Who spoke to Paul and what did he say? (vss. 12-15)
7. I (DJH) describe the Gospel in two realms: "Gospel on the Ground" and "Gospel in the Air." Read Rom. 4:25-5:9 and Rom. 10:6-11 for a description of the "Gospel on the Ground," and read Eph. 2:1-7, Col. 1:13-20, and 2:12-15 for a description of the "Gospel in the Air," which is frequently referred to by theologians as the "Cosmic Gospel."
8. Is Paul's work described in terms of the "Gospel on the Ground," "Gospel in the Air," or both? (vss. 16-18)
9. How did Paul respond to the charge given to him by Jesus? (vss. 19-20)
10. How did the Jews treat Paul for his teaching? (vs. 21)
11. What did the OT say about Jesus? (vss. 22-23; cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-14)
12. What accusation did Festus make against Paul and how did Paul respond? (vss. 24-25)
13. What did the king know and what did he ask Paul? (vss. 26-27)
14. What was Agrippa's response? (vs. 28)
15. What was Paul's hope for Agrippa and others? (vs. 29)
16. What was their determination regarding Paul? (vss. 30-32)

## Acts 27

Summary: When they found out that Paul's friends were voyaging out to sea, they sent Paul with them. While at sea, the crew did not listen to Paul, who recounted to them a vision from an angel he had received. A massive storm threatened their lives because they did not listen. Paul gave further instructions, and if they listened, they would all survive. They ended up shipwrecked in a way not too far from the shore, and everyone on the ship made it to shore alive.

### Questions

1. Who supervised Paul's trip to Rome? (vs. 1)
2. On what ship did they travel and who accompanied Paul? (vs. 2)
3. Describe the trip from Sidon to Myra. (vss. 3-5)
4. Describe the trip to Italy. (vss. 6-8)
5. What time of year was it and what warning did Paul give? (vss. 9-10)
6. Who did the centurion listen to, what decision was made, and why? (vss. 11-12)
7. How did they proceed and what problem arose? (vss. 13-15)
8. What provisions did they make to deal with the problem? (vss. 16-20)
9. How long did this continue and how did it affect the people? (vs. 20)
10. What revelation did Paul receive? (vss. 21-26)
11. What lessons can we learn about faith and prayer? (vss. 24-25)
12. On the 14<sup>th</sup> night, what conclusion did the sailors reach, and how did they confirm it? (vss. 27-28)
13. What did they do to avoid crashing on the shore? (vs. 29)
14. What were the sailors prevented from doing? (vss. 30-32)
15. What did Paul *say* to encourage everyone? (vss. 33-34)
16. What did Paul *do* to encourage everyone? (vs. 35)
17. What effect did this have on the other people and how many were there? (vss. 36-38)
18. Why did their decision the next day not work? (vss. 39-41)
19. How did everyone escape to land? (vss. 42-44)

## Acts 28

Summary: They realized they were in Malta and the people were very kind to them. Paul was bit by a viper, which caused the people to despise him, but after time passed and nothing bad happened, they instead thought he was a god. Paul told the Jews in Rome what happened to him by the Jews elsewhere, but they had heard nothing from Judea and inquired into his message, since it had caused a lot of confusion amongst the Jews. Paul told them about the Kingdom, which caused some to believe but others didn't. Paul quoted from Isaiah, which caused a sharp disagreement, and so the Jews left. Paul lived alone with his prison guard and proclaimed the Kingdom for two years without any disturbances.

### Questions

1. What was the name of the island where Paul was shipwrecked? What were the inhabitants like? (vss. 1-2)
2. What problem did Paul have and what did the natives think? (vss. 3-4)
3. What similar errors are sometimes made today?
4. What did Paul do and what did the people think? (vss. 5-6)
5. What prominent person lived nearby and how did he treat survivors? (vs. 7)
6. Describe the miracle done for the man's relative. (vs. 8)
7. What other miracles did Paul do? (vss. 9-10)
8. On what ship did they leave the island? (vs. 11)
9. How was Paul helped? (vss. 12-15)
10. What freedom was Paul given? (vs. 16)
11. How did Paul characterize his legal case with the Romans? (vss. 17-18)
12. For what reason did Paul come to Rome? (vss. 19-20)
13. What had the Jews heard about Paul and why did they want to talk to him? (vss. 21-22)
14. What did Paul talk about and what effect did this have? (vss. 23-25)
15. Paul quotes Isa. 6:9-10. What is Paul's point? (vss. 26-27)
16. What were Paul's plans in the future? (vss. 28-29)
17. How long did he live in that house and what did he do? (vss. 30-31)
18. What did Paul preach about? (vs. 31)
19. Reflect on the Book of Acts. How has Acts 1:8 been fulfilled throughout the book?