

RBCPC
2011 Study Series



New Testament

Week #3
Study Guide

Acts

Posting date: April 20, 2011

www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-your-bible/

Overview

The book of Acts, traditionally called “The Acts of the Apostles,” was written by Luke. It is the second volume of his writings, recording the important events in the history of the early church.

Scripture Study – Key Passages

Open your Bible and read the following scripture:

Acts 1:4-11

1. Why did Jesus ask the apostles to *wait*? What was he trying to teach them?
2. Why wait in *Jerusalem*? Why not somewhere else?
3. Reread vs. 6. What was the apostles’ definition of “*kingdom*?”
4. How do you think Jesus’ defines “*kingdom*?”
5. Do you think the apostles understood the magnitude of Jesus’ instructions? Discuss.

Acts 2:14-21

1. What has changed in Peter’s behavior since we last read about him in the gospel of John? (see John 21:15-21)
2. How does Peter’s transformation illuminate the power of the Holy Spirit?
3. What is the importance of Peter’s reference to Old Testament prophecy?

Acts 2:44-47

1. Why did the believers meet at the temple *daily*?
2. Why did the believers meet in private homes?
3. What message does this carry for you about living in a community of believers?
4. What is the ultimate goal of meeting/sharing outside the temple?

Acts 9:1-9

1. Where is Jesus in this scripture?
2. What was so shocking about Jesus choosing Saul?
3. Why do you think Saul was blinded?
4. Why do you think he was blinded for *three days*?

Key Themes

1. Jesus commissions his disciples to be His witness to the world.
2. The coming of the Holy Spirit empowers and guides all believers to do His work.
3. Jesus’ message of salvation for everyone is part of God’s plan.

Reflection

Reflect on how quickly the message of Jesus spread *after* the baptism by the Holy Spirit. There was no internet, no Facebook, no New York Times, no cell phones. The word was spread one believer at a time. How might you continue this movement, one person at a time?

Prayer

In the book of Acts, prayer is found 22 times. A possible theme for prayer might be "*Prayer has Left the Temple.*" Prayer is appropriate anytime, anyplace, with anyone.

Once a day, for the next week, try praying in a place out of the ordinary for you – perhaps in your garden, or on a walk, or driving to work, or while washing the dinner dishes. Make a note of how your outlook on what you are doing changes as you invite Jesus into the everyday events in your life.

Homework

Read **Acts 1:1-8**, in preparation for the sermon on April 30/May 1, "*Jerusalem, Samaria, World.*" Mark words, or phrases that stand out to you.

Notes & Reflections:

