

# ACTS

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

## The Ministry of Peter Ch. 1 - 12

## The Ministry of Paul Ch. 13 - 28

The Mission & Ascension of Jesus	1:1 - 26	Paul Turns to the Gentiles	12:25 - 16:5
Pentecost & Peter's First Sermon	2:1 - 41	The Gospel Spreads to Athens	16:6 - 19:20
The Church in Jerusalem	2:42 - 6:7	The Gospel Spreads to Rome	19:21 - 28:31
The Gospel Grows: Stephen, Samaria & Saul	6:8 - 9:13		
Peter & the First Gentile Christian	9:14 - 12:25		



## ACTS

Acts 4:5-31

Sunday, November 8, 2015

The book of Acts is immensely valuable and instructive as it completes the historical narrative of the New Testament and gives rise to all the letters that follow. Acts records WHAT happens and HOW it happens after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus as His followers obey His Great Commission.

3 ways the book of Acts can encourage & challenge our souls:

- Acts reminds us that God's sovereign, saving \_\_\_\_\_ in the spread of the Gospel will \_\_\_\_\_.
- Acts illustrates God's \_\_\_\_\_ to accomplish His saving purpose through \_\_\_\_\_ just like us.
- Acts demonstrates how the \_\_\_\_\_ spreads, how \_\_\_\_\_ are multiplied and how the \_\_\_\_\_ grows.

The means God uses, then and always . . .

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.



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### CONNECTING TOGETHER (20 - 30 min.)

Take time to share your joys and sorrows with one another.

### GRAPPLING WITH THE WORD TOGETHER (20 - 30 min.)

1. How did you come under God's Word in this message? How was your soul encouraged and challenged?
2. Read Acts 1:1-11. What book does Acts attach to? What is happening in this passage?
3. Acts 1:8 says that the first Apostles are "witnesses", but as the book of Acts unfolds, we see clearly that all disciples are witnesses. In other words, their challenge is OUR challenge & their mission is OUR mission. Do you see and think of yourself as a "witness" of Jesus with a mission? What does that mean?
4. Without looking at the chart, pair up with someone in your group and see if one of you can explain the movement and structure of the book of Acts. The other person can add missed details. Be sure to include where the book begins, where the book ends, the main characters and the conflict of the book.

5. Which of the three points from the message and the book of Acts ENCOURAGED you the most? Which CHALLENGED you the most?
6. Of the six MEANS that God uses to spread the Gospel, multiply disciples and grow the church, which most resonated with you?
7. God has called us to His grand saving purpose/mission in Jesus and it's His pleasure to use us, but most of the time our lives are focused on trivial pursuit and distractions. Why is this so? What are we missing out on? How can we connect and get more committed to our true mission as Jesus' disciples?
8. The world trains us to do all we can to seek comfort/ease and avoid suffering, yet Acts very clearly shows that the Gospel spreads through suffering. How can we begin to face and embrace this?

### FAMILY FOCUS THIS WEEK

*A way to apply God's Word in our households together (roommates, housemates, families, couples).*

Sometime this week, make an opportunity to share/discuss how you and others in your household pursue your own comfort/ease and avoid suffering. What is one way you might risk or suffer for the spread of the Gospel?

**PRAYING TOGETHER (20 - 30 min.)** This one week, completely set aside your own personal requests and pray instead for the spread of the Gospel, the multiplication of disciples and the growth of Christ's church here on the Central Coast. Pray for your connectedness to this mission and our willingness to suffer for the sake of the Gospel.