

INTRODUCTION:

1) TODAY WE WILL BE LOOKING AT *THE BOOK OF ACTS*

THINGS WE WILL LOOK AT IN THIS LESSON:

- 1) UNDERSTANDING THE BOOK OF ACTS
- 2) OUTLINING THE BOOK OF ACTS
- 3) WITNESSING ABOUT JESUS

PART 1 – UNDERSTANDING THE BOOK OF ACTS:

Q 1) WHAT TITLE DID BELIEVERS BEGIN TO CALL "ACTS" BY?

Q 2) WHAT TITLE DO MANY AGREE IS BEST FOR "ACTS"?

Q 3) LIST FOUR REASONS WHY MOST CONSERVATIVE BIBLE TEACHERS AGREE LUKE IS THE AUTHOR OF ACTS...

FIGURE 1)

Various Dates Related to Acts			
Date (AD)	Event	Acts	Letters Paul Wrote
30	The ascension of Christ	1:9	—
31–32	The conversion of Paul	9:1–19	—
35	Paul's first visit to Jerusalem	9:26	—
44	Paul's second visit to Jerusalem	11:30	—
46–47	Paul's first missionary trip	13:4–14:28	Galatians (after first trip)
49	The first great Church Council	15:1–29	—
49–53	Paul's second missionary trip	15:36–18:22	1 and 2 Thessalonians
53–57	Paul's third missionary trip	18:23–21:17	1 and 2 Corinthians, Romans
58	Paul's arrest in Jerusalem	21:17–23:35	—
58–60	Paul's prison term in Caesarea	24–26	—
60	Paul's trip to Rome	27:1–28:15	—
60–62	Paul's first prison term in Rome	28:16–31	Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon
63	The writing of Acts by Luke	—	—
64	Rome burns	—	—
63–65	Paul's ministry between prison terms in Rome	(After Acts)	1 Timothy, Titus
65–67	Paul's second prison term and death in Rome	(After Acts)	2 Timothy
70	Destruction of Jerusalem	(After Acts)	—

Q 4) WHEN DO MOST BIBLE TEACHERS BELIEVE THAT LUKE WROTE ACTS?

Q 5) FOR WHAT PURPOSES WAS ACTS WRITTEN?

FIGURE 2)

The Spirit's Ministry According to Luke, John, and Paul		
Writer	Ministry of the Holy Spirit	Selected Scriptures
Luke	Service (The Spirit enables us to witness to the lost and help believers.)	Luke 1:15–17, 39–56, 67–80; 2:25–38; 3:21–22; 4:18–19; 11:5–13; 24:45–49; all references to the Spirit in Acts
John	Service Salvation (The Spirit draws us to Christ and then helps us journey to heaven.)	John 1:32; 7:37–39; 14:12–31; 15:26; 20:21–22 John 3:5–8; 16:8–11; 1 John 2:20
Paul	Service Salvation Sanctification (The Spirit enables us to live a holy life that pleases God.)	Rom. 15:19 Rom. 8:23; 1 Cor. 6:11; 12:13; 2 Cor. 1:22; Titus 3:5 Rom. 8:1–17; Gal. 5:22–23; 2 Thess. 2:13

PART 2 – OUTLINING THE BOOK OF ACTS:

FIGURE 3)

People in Acts who were not apostles but were used by the Holy Spirit		
Person(s)	Ministry	Acts
108 of the 120	Prayed and witnessed for Christ	1–2
Barnabas	Was generous; became a friend to Paul; ministered to and with Paul	4, 9, 11–15
The seven deacons	Collected money and gave it to widows	6
Stephen	Served as a deacon; prayed for the sick; witnessed and taught for Jesus	6–7
Philip	Served as a deacon; took the gospel to Samaria	8, 21
Ananias	Prayed for and baptized Paul	9
Tabitha	Sewed clothes for widows	9
Simon the tanner	Provided housing for Peter	10
Cornelius	Gave alms; invited others to his home	10
Scattered believers	Told the gospel to Jews and Greeks	11
Mary, Mark's mother	Had a prayer meeting in her home	12
Unnamed believers	Prayed for Peter's release from prison	12
John Mark	Traveled with and helped Paul and Barnabas	12–13, 15
Simeon, Lucius, Manaen	Prophesied and taught	13
Silas	Traveled and ministered with Paul	15–18
Lydia	Provided housing for preachers	16
Philippian jailer	Fed Paul and Silas and washed their wounds	16
Timothy	Traveled with Paul and helped him	16–21
Jason	Provided housing for ministers	17
Unnamed believers	Escorted Paul to Athens	17
Priscilla and Aquila	Gave housing and support to Paul	18
Apollos	Testified for Jesus at Ephesus and Corinth	18–19
Unnamed brothers	Encouraged and recommended Apollos	18
Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Tychicus, Trophimus	Traveled with Paul; sometimes carried messages for him or other believers	20–21
Unnamed disciples	Gave seven days' lodging to ministers	21

FIGURE 4)

People in Acts who were not apostles but were used by the Holy Spirit (continued)		
Person(s)	Ministry	Acts
Unnamed disciples	Prophesied of trouble in Jerusalem	21
Philip's four daughters	Had the gift of prophecy	21
Agabus	Prophesied of trouble in Jerusalem	21
Mnason	Provided housing for ministers	21
Paul's nephew	Warned Paul of a plot to kill him	23
Aristarchus	Sailed with Paul from Caesarea toward Rome	27
Luke	Wrote Acts and traveled with Paul	1, 20, 21, 27–28
Some brothers	Invited Paul and others to stay a week	28
The brothers	Walked out to meet Paul near Rome	28

OUTLINE ONE OF ACTS...

- I. Witnessing in Jerusalem (1–7)
- II. Witnessing in Judea and Samaria (8–12)
- III. Witnessing to the ends of the earth (13–28)

OUTLINE TWO OF ACTS...

- I. Witnessing in Jerusalem, 1–7
 - A. Peter's ministry begins (1:12–5:42)
 - B. Stephen's ministry (6:1–8:3)
- II. Witnessing in Judea and Samaria, 8–12
 - A. Philip's ministry (8:4–40)
 - B. Paul's conversion (9:1–31)
 - C. Peter's ministry continues (9:32–12:19)
 - D. Barnabas' ministry (11:19–12:25)
- III. Witnessing to the Ends of the Earth, 13–28
 - A. Paul's three missionary trips (13:1–21:14)
 - 1. The first missionary journey (13:1–14:28)
 - 2. The Jerusalem Council (15:1–35)
 - 3. The second missionary journey (15:36–18:22)
 - 4. The third missionary journey (18:23–21:14)
 - B. Paul's imprisonments and trip to Rome (21:15–28:31)
 - 1. Paul taken prisoner in Jerusalem (21:15–23:10)
 - 2. Paul as a prisoner in Caesarea (23:11–26:32)
 - 3. Paul as a prisoner in Rome (27:1–28:31)

PART 3 – WITNESSING ABOUT JESUS:

FIGURE 5)



FIGURE 6)



FIGURE 7)

Highlights of Paul's Three Missionary Journeys (Adapted from Gundry 1994, 313–314)		
Acts	Place	First Missionary Journey
13:4–12	Cyprus	Elymas was blinded; Sergius Paulus, the proconsul, believed in Jesus.
13:13	Perga in Pamphylia	John (also called Mark) left.
13:14–52	Antioch of Pisidia	Paul preached to the Jews in the synagogue.
14:8–20	Lystra	Paul healed a cripple; Barnabas and Paul were worshipped; Paul was stoned.
Second Missionary Journey		
16:8–10	Troas	Paul saw the man of Macedonia in a vision.
16:11–40	Philippi	Lydia and a jailer were saved. Paul and Silas delivered a demon-possessed girl and were imprisoned; an earthquake occurred at midnight.
17:1–9	Thessalonica	A mob assaulted the house of Jason, where Paul was staying.

FIGURE 8)

Highlights of Paul's Three Missionary Journeys (Adapted from Gundry 1994, 313–314) (continued)		
17:16–34	Athens	Paul preached on Mars' Hill. Timothy and Silas rejoined Paul. Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica and Silas elsewhere.
18:1–18	Corinth	Paul made tents with Priscilla and Aquila. Paul moved from the synagogue. Crispus, the synagogue ruler, was converted. In a vision Jesus told Paul to stay. Gallio refused to condemn Paul. Paul spent eighteen months in Corinth.
18:18	Cenchrea	Paul shaved his head because of a vow.
18:19–21	Ephesus	Priscilla and Aquila accompanied Paul to Ephesus and stayed there.
19:1–41	Ephesus	Twelve men received the Spirit. Paul preached in the hall of Tyrannus. Seven sons of Sceva tried to cast out demons. Converts burned their magic books; Demetrius led a riot. Paul spent two years and three months in Ephesus.
20:1–6	Greece/Achaia	Jews plotted to kill Paul.
20:7–12	Troas	Eutychus fell out of a window during Paul's sermon.
20:13–38	Miletus	Paul said goodbye to the Ephesian elders.
21:3–6	Tyre	Paul was warned not to go to Jerusalem.
21:8–14	Caesarea	Paul stayed with Philip; Agabus warned Paul about going to Jerusalem.
21:17–23:30	Jerusalem	Paul reported to the church; took a Jewish vow; was rescued by Roman soldiers; spoke to the Jews and the Sanhedrin; was escorted to Caesarea.
23:33–26:32	Caesarea	Paul stood trial before Felix, Festus, and Agrippa and appealed to Caesar.

HOMEWORK FOR THE WEEK:

Read the book of Acts, use either of the two outlines provided.

