Study Guide On Acts

by Dr. Manford G. Gutzke

This study guide is designed to lead into a better grasp and a deeper understanding of the Acts of the Apostles.

Because the text itself is part of the Holy Scriptures, which are taken to be the only authority, and the student is the one to whom the Word of God is sent, the questions are arranged to lead into the study of what Luke has written, and to challenge the student to reflect on the obvious meaning. Thus this guide is deliberately designed for personal use with the Scripture alone, and for personal reflection upon what has been written.

This study guide would be suitable for use in group study. You are encouraged to have a neighborhood Bible study group in your home. It can also serve as a useful aid in a Church Bible Class.

Other Aids

"Plain Talk On Acts" has been prepared for the student. This study guide shows page numbers in parenthesis with some of the questions. These references are to pages in "Plain Talk On Acts."

Some Suggestions

- Pray expectantly before you begin study, whether alone or in a group.

- Read the passage to be studied more than once. Ask yourself --
  What does this passage say? What does it mean to believers? What does it mean to me, personally?

- Try to let God speak to you through His Word. Use commentaries only after you have studied the passage in the text, and have noted what it seems to say to you. Do not read out of the commentaries to the group -- read the Bible.

- In group study start on time, and stick to the passage being studied. Ask for and expect God's Blessing.

- End on time. Announce time of next meeting. Close with prayer.
STUDY GUIDE ON ACTS

I. The Early Church

II. Preparation For Witnessing

III. Power To Witness

IV. Power To Overcome Ignorance And Prejudice

V. Power To Overcome Tradition And Persecution

VI. Paul's First Missionary Journey

VII. Power To Overcome Controversy

VIII. Paul's Second Missionary Journey

IX. Paul's Third Missionary Journey

X. Paul Before The Courts

I. THE EARLY CHURCH
  1. Introduction

1. What is so impressive about Christianity? (Plain Talk p.13).

2. What is the essence of the Christian Church? (Plain Talk p.14).

3. How did "Pentecost" make such a difference in the Early Church? (Plain Talk p.15).

4. What did the members of the Early Church believe? (Plain Talk p.16)

5. How could these believers in the Early Church be so sure in what they believed about Jesus Christ? (Plain Talk pp.17-18).
6. How were these disciples able to believe in the reality of the Resurrection? (Plain Talk p.19)

7. What was "the promise of the Father?" (Plain Talk p. 20).


9. What commission was given to the members of the Early Church? (Plain Talk p. 21).

10. What can a believer in Christ expect from God today? (Plain Talk pp. 21-22).

II. PREPARATION FOR WITNESSING

2. Acts 1:1-26

1. How did the disciples become convinced that Jesus was really alive? (Acts 1:1-3; Plain Talk pp. 23-25).

2. How would the coming of the Holy Spirit prepare the disciples to witness? (Acts 1:4-8; Plain Talk p. 26).


5. What were the disciples doing when the Holy Spirit came? (Acts 2:1; Plain Talk pp. 32-34).


8. How was the multitude affected by what was happening at Pentecost? (Acts 2:37-41; Plain Talk p. 41).

10. What does the word "Pentecost" mean? (Acts 2:1; Plain Talk p.34).

**III  POWER TO WITNESS**

5. Acts 3:24-5:42

1. What is the danger in keeping one's testimony in one's own heart? (Acts 2:42; 44, 46; Plain Talk pp. 43-45).


3. What were Peter and John doing when they met the lame man? (Acts 3:1; Plain Talk pp. 48-49).

4. Why was the lame man by the gate called Beautiful? (Acts 3:2-5; Plain Talk p. 49).

5. How was Peter's faith manifested in this incident? (Acts 3:4-7; Plain Talk p. 50).

6. How were the multitude impressed by this incident? (Acts 3:9-11; Plain Talk p. 51).

7. How did Peter use the attention which the people gave to him? (Acts 3:12-26; Plain Talk pp. 52-64).


9. How did Pater answer the court? (Acts 4:8-37; Plain Talk pp. 52-62)

IV. POWER TO OVERCOME IGNORANCE AND PREJUDICE
7. Acts 8:5-9:31

1. What was the cause of discontent in the congregation? (Acts 6:1-7; Plain Talk pp. 71-75).

2. How did the apostles handle the problem? (Acts 6:2-7; Plain Talk pp. 72-76).

3. What was Stephen accused of doing? (Acts 6:8-14; Plain Talk pp. 76-77).

4. What did Stephen say that enraged the mob? (Acts 7:55-60; Plain Talk pp. 77-80).

5. What was the result of the persecution that followed the death of Stephen? (Acts 8:1-4; Plain Talk pp. 81-82).

6. Trace the hand of God in Philip's dealing with the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-40; Plain Talk pp. 86-88).

7. What happened to Saul the Pharisee on the road to Damascus? (Acts 9:3-31; Plain Talk pp. 89-91).


10. What would be the marks of blessing in any group of believers? (Acts 9:31; Plain Talk pp. 95-96).

V. POWER TO OVERCOME TRADITION AND PERSECUTION


2. What kind of a man was Cornelius? (Acts 10:1-2; Plain Talk pp. 99-100).

4. How was Peter led to go to the house of Cornelius? (Acts 10:19-23; Plain Talk p. 101).


10. How was Peter delivered from prison? (Acts 12:6-17; Plain Talk pp. 112-116).

VI. PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY


1. How were the first foreign missionaries chosen? (Acts 13:1-4; Plain Talk pp. 117-118).


5. What was the reaction of the Jews to the apostles' ministry to the Gentiles? (Acts 13:45-52; Plain Talk p. 124).


8. What caused the people at Lystra to turn against Paul? (Acts 14:2-19; Plain Talk p. 128).


VII. POWER TO OVERCOME CONTROVERSY

1. What disturbing doctrine did some believers from Jerusalem bring to the believers at Antioch? (Acts 15:1; Plain Talk p. 131).

2. How did the believers at Antioch move to solve the confusion? (Acts 15:2; Plain Talk p. 132).

3. What was the relationship between the other believers when they met on their way and Barnabas and Paul (Acts 15:3; Plain Talk p. 132).

4. How was the problem presented to the believers at Jerusalem? (Acts 15:4-5; Plain Talk pp. 132-133).

5. What was Peter's contribution to the discussion? (Acts 15:7-11; Plain Talk p. 133).

6. What was the contribution of Barnabas and Saul? (Acts 15:12; Plain Talk p. 133).


8. What was the decision of the Early Church? (Acts 15:22-29; Plain Talk p. 135).
9. How was the decision received by the Early Church? (Acts 15:30-35; Plain Talk pp. 136-137).

10. How did this solution of the controversy affect the future program of the Early Church? (Galatians 2:7-8).

VIII. PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY
12. Acts 15:36-16:40

1. What caused the dissension between Paul and Barnabas? (Acts 15:36-41; Plain Talk p. 138).

2. Who was Timothy? (Acts 16:1-13; Plain Talk p. 139).

3. How were the early churches established in the faith? (Acts 16:4-5; Plain Talk pp. 140-141).

4. Why were Paul and his companions in uncertainty as to where to go? (Acts 16:6-7; Plain Talk pp. 141-142).

5. How were the apostles led to go to Macedonia? (Acts 16:8-10; Plain Talk pp. 142-143).

6. Who was Lydia? (Acts 16:11-15; Plain Talk pp. 143-144).


IX. PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

1. Who were Aquila and Priscilla? (Acts 18:2-3, 18, 26; Plain Talk pp. 160-167).


X. PAUL BEFORE THE COURTS


8. Why did the captain decide to try to cross the Mediterranean even if it was too late in the season? (Acts 27:9-13; Plain Talk p. 212).

9. What was Paul's word of encouragement to the endangered crew? (Acts 27:21-26; Plain Talk p. 214).

10. How did God accomplish His purpose that Paul should witness before emperors and kings (Acts 28:16-31; Plain Talk pp. 219-221).