

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).
8. What did the believers in the Early Church do about the coming of the Holy Spirit? (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

3. Acts 2:1-40

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).
3. What is the significance of the Ascension to believers today? (Acts 1:9-11; Plain Talk pp. 27-28).
4. What happened in the upper room after the Ascension? (Acts 1:12-26; Plain Talk pp. 29-31).
5. What were the disciples doing when the Holy Spirit came? (Acts 2:1; Plain Talk pp. 32-34).
6. What actually happened on the day of Pentecost? (Acts 2:2-13; Plain Talk pp. 35-36).
7. How did Peter explain what happened at Pentecost? (Acts 2:14-36; Plain Talk pp. 36-40).
8. How was the multitude affected by what was happening at Pentecost? (Acts 2:37-41; Plain Talk p. 41).

9. What did Peter tell the people to do? (Acts 2:38-40; Plain Talk p. 41).

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

III POWER TO WITNESS

4. Acts 2:41-3:23

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).

2. What aspects marked the life of the early disciples? (Acts 2:41-47; Plain Talk pp. 46-47).

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).

8. In Peter's address what gave offense to the Sadducees? (Acts 4:1-2; Plain Talk pp. 55-56).

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

10. How was hypocrisy handled in the Early Church? (Acts 5:1-42; Plain Talk pp. 63-70).

IV. POWER TO OVERCOME IGNORANCE AND PREJUDICE

6. Acts 6:1-8:4

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).
8. What part did Ananias have in Saul's experience? (Acts 9:10-18; Plain Talk pp. 92-93).
9. What part did Barnabas have in Saul's experience? (Acts 9:27; Plain Talk p. 94).
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

8. Acts 9:38-11:18

9. Acts 11:19-12:25

1. How did the miracles performed by Peter affect his witness? (Acts 9:32-42; Plain Talk pp. 97-99).
2. What kind of a man was Cornelius? (Acts 10:1-2; Plain Talk pp. 99-100).

3. What sort of vision did Peter have? (Acts 10:9-16; Plain Talk pp. 100-101).
4. How was Peter led to go to the house of Cornelius? (Acts 10:19-23; Plain Talk p. 101).
5. What did Peter tell Cornelius? (Acts 10:24-43; Plain Talk p, 102).
6. What happened in the house of Cornelius after Peter gave his message? (Acts 10:44-48; Plain Talk pp. 103-104).
7. What did Peter report at home about this incident? (Acts 11:1-17; Plain Talk pp. 104-106).
8. How did the Gospel spread to Antioch? (Acts 11:19-26; Plain Talk pp. 107-110).
9. Why did Herod put Peter in prison? (Acts 12:1-5; Plain Talk pp. 111-112).
10. How was Peter delivered from prison? (Acts 12:6-17; Plain Talk pp. 112-116).

VI. PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

10. Acts 13:1-14:28

1. How were the first foreign missionaries chosen? (Acts 13:1-4; Plain Talk pp. 117-118).
2. How did Paul deal with the sorcerer who opposed him? (Acts 13:5-12; Plain Talk p. 119).
3. What did Paul say to the Jews in the synagogue at Antioch? (Acts 13:13-41; Plain Talk pp. 120-123).
4. When the Jews would not receive the message what did Paul and Bamabas do? (Acts 13:42-49; Plain Talk pp. 123-124).
5. What was the reaction of the Jews to the apostles' ministry to the Gentiles? (Acts 13:45-52; Plain Talk p. 124).

6. What caused the apostles to leave Iconium? (Acts 14:1-6; Plain Talk pp. 125-126).
7. How did the people at Lystra treat Barnabas and Paul? (Acts 14:7-18; Plain Talk pp. 127-128).
8. What caused the people at Lystra to turn against Paul? (Acts 14:2-19; Plain Talk p. 128).
9. On their way home what did Paul and Barnabas do? (Acts 14:21-26; Plain Talk p. 129).
10. How did Paul and Barnabas finish their first missionary journey? (Acts 14:26-28; Plain Talk p. 130).

VII. POWER TO OVERCOME CONTROVERSY

11. Acts 15:1-35

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).
7. What was the contribution of James? (Acts 15:13-21; Plain Talk pp. 134-135).
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

13. Acts 17:1-18:18

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).

7. What caused the riot against Paul in Philippi? (Acts 16:16-22; Plain Talk pp. 145-146).

8. What impressed the Philippian jailer? (Acts 16:25-34; Plain Talk pp. 147-150).

9. What inspired continuous opposition to Paul? (Acts 17:1-14; Plain Talk pp. 152-154).

10. How did Paul present his message in Athens? (Acts 17:16-34; Plain Talk pp. 155-159).

IX. PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

14. Acts 18:19-20:38

1. Who were Aquila and Priscilla? (Acts 18:2-3, 18, 26; Plain Talk pp. 160-167).
2. Why did Paul shave his head according to Jewish custom? (Acts 18:18; 21:20-26; Plain Talk pp. 168, 185-186).
3. Who was Apollos? (Acts 18:24-28; Plain Talk pp. 166-168).
4. What did Paul ask the believers at Ephesus? (Acts 19:1-6; Plain Talk pp. 169-170).
5. What inspired the opposition to Paul at Ephesus? (Acts 19:11-29; Plain Talk pp. 172-175).
6. What happened at Troas when Paul preached until midnight? (Acts 20:7-10; Plain Talk pp. 176-177).
7. Why did Paul not want to stop over in Ephesus? (Acts 20:16; Plain Talk p. 177).
8. How did Paul describe his ministry at Ephesus? (Acts 20:18-21; Plain Talk p. 178).
9. How did Paul feel about his ministry at Ephesus? (Acts 20:20-26; Plain Talk p. 179).
10. What warning did Paul give to the elders from Ephesus? (Acts 20:28-30; Plain Talk pp. 180-182).

X. PAUL BEFORE THE COURTS

15. Acts 21:1-23: 11

16. Acts 23.12-26:32

17. Acts 27:1-28:31

1. How did Paul respond to the warning that he would encounter trouble in Jerusalem? (Acts 21:11-14; Plain Talk p. 184).

2. What accusation did the mob bring against Paul? (Acts 21:27-31; Plain Talk pp. 186-187).
3. At what point in Paul's address did the mob become violent? (Acts 22:21-22; Plain Talk pp. 190-191).
4. How did Paul avoid being condemned by the Council of the Jews? (Acts 23:6-8; Plain Talk p. 193).
5. How did Paul defend himself before Felix (Acts 24:12-16; Plain Talk pp. 198-200).
6. How did Paul evade the plan of the Jews to ambush and to kill him? (Acts 25:10-11; Plain Talk pp. 202, 204).
7. How was Agrippa affected by Paul's defense? (Acts 26:28; Plain Talk p.209).
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).