



SPREAD THE FLAME
HERITAGE CHURCH

The Book of Acts

2014-2015

Explorers' Bible Study

FALL 2014 SCHEDULE

Date	Lesson	Title	
Sept. 3	1	Introduction to the Book of Acts	1:1-11
10	2	Matthias Chosen	1:12-26
17	3	The Giving of the Holy Spirit	2:1-13
24	4	Peter Speaks to the Crowd	2:14-47
Oct. 1	5	Peter and John at the Temple	3:1-21
8	6	Peter and John Speak to the Sanhedrin	4:1-31
15	7	To Obey God or Men	5:12-42
22	8	Stephen	5:42-6:15
29	9	Stephen's Speech and Death	7:1-60
Nov. 5	10	Philip	8:1-8, 26-40
12	11	Saul Meets Jesus	9:1-31
19		Thanksgiving Community Service	
26		Thanksgiving Break	
Dec. 3	12	Peter and Cornelius	9:32-43
10	13	Peter's Miraculous Escape	11:1-3, 15-18; 12:1-24
17		Christmas Break	
24		Christmas Break	
31		Christmas Break	

SPRING 2015 SCHEDULE

Date	Lesson	Title	
Jan.	7	Christmas Break	
	14	Barnabas and Saul	11:25-26; 13:1-48
	21	First Journey Continued	13:49-52; 14:1-28
	28	Jerusalem Council	15:1-11, 19-35
Feb.	4	Paul's Second Journey	15:36-41; 16:1-34
	11	Second Journey Continued	17:1-34; 18:1-22
	18	Paul's Third Journey	19:23-34; 20:7-12
	25	Paul and the Ephesian Elders	20:17-37; 21:7-14
Mar.	4	Paul Arrives in Jerusalem	21:30-36; 22:1-6, 21-29
	11	Paul Under Roman Protection	23:1-30
	18	On Trial Before Felix	24:1-27
	25	Spring Break	
Apr.	1	On Trial Before Festus	25:1-27
	8	Paul Witnesses to Agrippa	26:1-32
	15	Paul Sets Sail for Rome	27:1-44
	22	Paul Arrives in Rome	28:1-31
	29	Review	

VERSES

All we like sheep have gone astray	Isaiah 53:6
Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved	Acts 16:31
Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right	Ephesians 6:1
Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you	James 4:8
Even a child is known by his actions	Proverbs 20:11
For the wages of sin is death	Romans 6:23
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble	Psalms 46:1
He must increase, but I must decrease	John 3:30
In Him we live and move and have our being	Acts 17:28
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever	Hebrews 13:8
Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies	Psalms 34:13
Look to Me and be saved, all you ends of the earth	Isaiah 45:22
My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow Me	John 10:27
Now is Christ risen from the dead	1 Corinthians 15:20
O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good	Psalms 118:1
Perfect love casts out fear	1 John 4:18
Quench not the Spirit	1 Thessalonians 5:19
Remember your Creator in the days of your youth	Ecclesiastes 12:1
Sing to the Lord, praise His name	Psalms 96:2
Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding	Proverbs 3:5
Unto you who believe, this stone is precious	1 Peter 2:7
Very truly I tell you, whoever believes on Me has everlasting life	John 6:47
We cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard	Acts 4:20
Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God	John 3:3
You will be my witnesses	Acts 1:8
Zeal for your house will consume me	John 2:17

8. They would be baptized with:

9. List several gifts that God the Father has given you:

Read Acts 1:6-8

10. How did Jesus answer His followers' question concerning the restoration of Israel?

11. More importantly, Jesus wanted them to know that when the Holy Spirit came, they would receive:

12. With this new gift of the Holy Spirit, what would they become?

13. Where did Jesus intend for His message to be spread?

14. To be a witness means to testify – to publicly declare a truth. Write down three truths about Jesus that you could say to others.

1.

2.

3.

Lesson #2

Matthias Chosen

Read Acts 1:12-14

1. After watching Jesus ascend back to heaven from the Mount of Olives, His followers returned to:

2. Gathered in an upstairs room were eleven of Jesus' disciples. Which disciple was not listed? (Look at Luke 6:14-16 for help)

3. List the others who joined the disciples:

4. According to verse 14, why did this group constantly meet together?

5. List the names of people God has given you whom you can count on to join you in the same thing:

Read Acts 1:15-19

6. One day, Peter stood up to speak to Jesus' followers. About how many people were there?

7. The Holy Spirit had given a prophecy about Judas to what Old Testament person?

Read Acts 1:20-22

8. Now that Peter understood what the Old Testament said about Judas, Peter also realized what concerning Judas' place of leadership?

9. What were the requirements for Judas' replacement?

Read Acts 1:23-26

10. How many men were suggested as a replacement?

11. In their decision making process, what was the first action the disciples took?

12. The disciples acknowledged that God knows everyone's:

13. To whom were the disciples looking to make the final decision concerning the man who would replace Judas?

After praying, the disciples cast lots. Casting lots was a method of making a decision by throwing down pebbles or bits of wood (similar to dice). Casting lots is mentioned in the Old Testament several times, such as in Leviticus 16:8 and Joshua 18:10.

14. In our day, instead of casting lots, what has God given us to help us make the right decisions? (Read 1 Corinthians 2:12-13)

15. After seeking the Lord's guidance, who was added to the eleven disciples?

Lesson #3

The Giving of the Holy Spirit

At the end of Luke's gospel and again in Acts 1:4, Luke recorded an important command Jesus gave to His disciples – "Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift my Father promised." The time had now come for the giving of that gift....

Read Acts 2:1-4

1. The day for what Jewish holiday had come?

This holiday, held 50 days after Passover, was a day of thanksgiving for the harvested crops. The Israelites would not work on that day but would worship the Lord and thank Him for providing their food. In what ways and how often do you thank God for providing the things you need?

2. Where were Jesus' followers?

3. Suddenly, five things happened in the house. Place the events in order by numbering 1-5:

_____ all were filled with the Holy Spirit

_____ they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire

_____ they began to speak in other tongues (languages)

_____ the sound of a violent wind came from heaven

_____ tongues of fire rested on each person

4. According to verse 4, who were filled with the Holy Spirit?

Throughout the Old Testament, God would send His Spirit to empower certain people (such as Gideon in Judges 6:34) to do something great. Now, God was giving the Holy Spirit to His followers to live inside them every day.

Read Acts 2:5-13

5. Because of the Pentecost holiday, what was different about Jerusalem?

6. What words were used to describe the Jews?

7. What caused those in Jerusalem to gather together in bewilderment?

Just imagine if in an instant you were able to speak German, Russian, or any other language you had never studied before. God performed a miracle, enabling His people to experience unity with no language barriers. He was also showing His people that His name would be spread to every nation.

8. How many different nations were mentioned in verses 9-11:

9. What same message was being declared in all the different languages?

10. Did the people understand what was happening?

11. Some made fun of those filled with the Holy Spirit and accused them of:

12. What is a good reply/response to someone who makes fun of your belief and commitment to Jesus?

Lesson #4

Peter Speaks to the Crowd

Read Acts 2:14-21

1. Peter told the crowd that the men were not drunk because it was what time?

2. Long ago, God had spoken about this day to the prophet:

3. God had said He would pour out His (Holy) Spirit on whom?

4. What are some of the gifts mentioned that accompany the giving of the Spirit?

Joel's prophecy from God not only spoke about this Pentecost Day, but also of future events that would happen before Jesus returned to earth.

5. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be:

Read Acts 2:22-24

6. Peter continued speaking, describing Jesus as a man.....

7. Write out the verse stating it was God's intent for Jesus to die:

8. God resurrected Jesus and showed that what had no hold on Him?

Read Acts 2:25-36

9. God had given King David knowledge of Jesus' death and resurrection long before it happened. Even though David faced wicked enemies, he rejoiced and lived in hope because he knew:

10. David declared that God showed him the path of life and filled him with:

11. Peter knew how important it was to give a detailed explanation and proof of God raising Jesus from the dead. According to I Corinthians 15:14, without Jesus' resurrection, your preaching is useless, and so is your:

12. From verse 36, God has declared Jesus to be:

Read Acts 2:37-41

13. After hearing Peter's message, the people felt God moving their hearts and asked:

14. Have you asked God the same question? Can you think of something He wants you to do to show obedience to Him?

15. In response to the question, and because of all Jesus had done for them, what two specific things did Peter tell them to do?

**The first response is an inward sign that we want God to change us.
The second response is an outward sign that we belong to Jesus.**

16. Peter ended his sermon with a warning about the corrupt and sinful generation (society) around them. Name some of the evidences of sin in our society:

17. About how many accepted the message and were baptized?

Read Acts 2:42-47

18. This Pentecost Day became the birthday of the Christian Church. These last six verses describe the important things that are necessary for it to grow. Find and write several things the new believers were doing:

Which of the things listed in these six verses are you doing?

7. Peter proclaimed the name of Jesus, then did what two things?

Remember that God not only wants you to tell others about Jesus, but wants you to offer help when needed.

8. When did the man's feet and ankles become strong?

9. To whom did the man give credit for his healing?

10. What was the name of the gate where the crippled man received his healthy feet?

11. Name something of beauty in your life that God has given you.

Read Acts 3:11-16

While the man immediately gave God the glory for his healing, all of the people focused their attention on Peter and John.

12. Peter told the crowd that through this miracle, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was giving glory to:

13. Peter reminded them of what actions they had taken against Jesus?

14. Although they had killed the Holy One and Author of Life, what had God done?

15. According to verse 16, what brought healing to the man?

Read Acts 3:17-21

16. Peter explained that at the time, the people did not understand God's purpose in Jesus' death. What did people need to do now?

17. By doing this, what would happen to the people?

18. Jesus will someday return again to earth. He must remain in heaven, though, until the time comes for:

Lesson #6

Peter and John Speak to the Sanhedrin

Read Acts 4:1-7

1. While still speaking to the crowd, Peter and John were interrupted by what three groups of people?

2. Which particular teaching upset the Sadducees? (see Matthew 22:23)

3. What happened to Peter and John?

4. What was the result of the lame man's healing and the message spoken?

After spending a night in jail, Peter and John were brought before the Council of Religious Leaders (the Sanhedrin) and were asked, "By what power or name did you do this miracle?"

Read Acts 4:8-12

5. As he began to answer, verse 8 described Peter as being:

6. What did Peter boldly state concerning the healing of the lame man?

Even though most Jews and religious leaders had rejected Jesus, God made Jesus to be the cornerstone – the foundation – necessary to have a relationship with Him. Having a relationship with God because we have been forgiven and set free of our sins is called salvation.

7. According to verse 12, what other names besides Jesus we can believe in to receive salvation?

Read Acts 4:13-17

8. From verse 13, list several things the Sanhedrin noticed about Peter and John:

9. Although the Sanhedrin had to admit that a great miracle had taken place, what did they warn Peter and John?

Read Acts 4:18-22

10. When faced with the decision of obeying men rather than God, whom did Peter and John know they had to obey first?

11. There is never a problem or sickness too old that God cannot heal. How many years had the man been crippled?

Read Acts 4:23-31

13. Peter and John were released and reported everything to their family and friends. The people's first reaction was to:

The people quoted Psalm 2:1-2, acknowledging that nations and people would rise up against Jesus, God's Anointed One. Herod and Pontius Pilate's treatment of Jesus was not a surprise to God.

14. Knowing they would face opposition in their belief in Jesus, the people asked God to consider the threats and do what?

15. They also wanted to see God do what with His outstretched hand?

16. How were these two requests of the people answered by God?

Lesson #7

To Obey God or Men

In Acts 3:13, Peter stated that through miraculous signs, God was glorifying Jesus, giving proof that Jesus was everything He claimed to be. As the miracles continued, God was also showing that the power that raised Jesus from the dead was now present in His followers:

Read Acts 5:12-18

1. What was happening to the size of the church (group of believers)?

2. Because of the many miracles, where were people bringing the sick?

3. While God's people were filled with the Spirit, what were the high priest and Sadducees filled with?

What did this cause them to do to the apostles?

Read Acts 5:19-24

4. During the night, the apostles were released by whom, and what instructions were given?

5. Did the stay in jail discourage the apostles?

6. When the elders of Israel arrived at the jail to bring out the apostles, what did they find and how did they react?

Read Acts 5:25-32

7. What did the apostles do once they were out of jail?

8. When brought before the Sanhedrin again, the high priest reminded the apostles:

9. What was Peter's declaration concerning obedience to God or men?

10. According to John 12:42-43, what is typical of the human heart concerning obedience to the things of God?

Peter and the apostles could give their loyalty and obedience to God because they were witnesses to all God had done through Jesus. You, too, can obey God as you get to know Him and trust His promises.

Read Acts 5:33-42

11. By now the hearts of the religious leaders were so hardened, they wanted to kill the apostles. Who stood up to speak?

What three things are said about him?

12. After reminding the Sanhedrin of other groups of troublemakers in the past, what was his advice concerning the apostles?

13. Fighting against Peter and the apostles would be the same as fighting against:

Look back through chapter 5, noticing the different emotions of the religious leaders. They had experienced jealousy (v.17), confusion (v.24), fear (v.26), and anger (v.33).

14. Throughout chapter 5, the apostles experienced rejection, jail, and a severe beating. In v.41, their response was to:

15. Tell about a tough situation you've been through or that you're experiencing right now:

How can you rejoice in Him even in tough times?

Lesson #8

Stephen

Read Acts 5:42

1. Earlier, on Pentecost Day, God had sent His Holy Spirit to fill every believer and to begin His church. How were the apostles responding as members of God's family?
2. The apostles proclaimed the message of Jesus when and where?
3. Do you live in a home where Jesus is talked about each day? If not, what will you do to change that?

Read Acts 6:1-4

4. What was happening to the number of believers?
5. As the body of believers grew, so did the number of those needing ministry. Whom did the Greek Jews feel were being left out?
6. What did the 12 disciples feel was their main ministry?
7. The disciples suggested choosing seven men filled with God's Spirit and:

8. Name something to look for in a person to know if God's Spirit lives in him/her:

Read Acts 6:5-7

9. Was everyone happy with the decision to choose seven men?

10. Who was the first man listed as being full of faith and the Holy Spirit?

Faith is believing in God completely, even when you can't see Him or know what He will do. Combining this kind of faith with a decision to serve Him brings out the power of the Holy Spirit.

11. In verse 6, what three things were done to the seven men?

12. What was the result and what specific group of people were mentioned as becoming obedient to the faith?

Read Acts 6:8-15

13. What is said about Stephen?

14. A group called the Synagogue of the Freedmen – Jews who had previously been slaves of the Romans – did not accept Stephen's message. Not understanding his words, they accused him of speaking blasphemy against:

Lesson #9

Stephen's Speech and Death

The Sanhedrin had just accused Stephen of blasphemy (speaking evil) against Moses and God. Having a solid foundation on God's Word, Stephen boldly spoke from Scripture, giving a history lesson of the nation of Israel and its leaders God had chosen.

Look through Acts 7:1-50 to write down God's chosen leader:

1. God told him to leave his country and promised him land and many descendants:

2. The son of Isaac, he fathered 12 sons who became the patriarchs and 12 tribes of Israel:

3. He was sold as a slave by his brothers, but God was with him as he became a ruler over Egypt:

4. Raised by Pharaoh's daughter in Egypt, God appeared to him in the flames of a burning bush:

5. He enjoyed God's blessings and favor and asked to build a house for the God of Jacob:

6. This man, instead of his father, built God's house:

7. Had the people of Israel immediately accepted Moses as their leader? (see Acts 7:25, 35)

Read Acts 7:37-39

8. What did Moses tell the Israelites that God was going to give them?

9. How did the Israelites respond to God's promise?

In his history review to the Sanhedrin, Stephen reminded them of Israel's rebellion toward God and rejection of His appointed leaders.

Read Acts 7:51-53

10. What strong point did Stephen finally come to?

11. What did Stephen accuse them of resisting?

12. God warns us about the same thing in I Thessalonians 5:19. Name a way you can keep the Holy Spirit's fire burning within you. (For help, read the verses before and after I Thessalonians 5:19)

13. In verse 52, whom was Stephen accusing the Sanhedrin of betraying and killing?

Read Acts 7:54-60

While the Sanhedrin became furious, Stephen knew where to keep his attention focused. He looked up toward heaven and God encouraged him with a wonderful sight.

14. Who was standing at God's right hand, waiting to receive Stephen in heaven?

15. Were the Sanhedrin members able to see what Stephen could?

Lesson #10

Philip

Read Acts 8:1-8

1. What man is named who approved of Stephen's death?
2. After Stephen's death, what did the church experience?
3. How was God's plan in Acts 1:8 coming true?
4. What was the man named Saul doing during this time?
5. Philip, one of the seven chosen in Acts 6:5 to serve tables, began preaching in Samaria. What was the result of Philip's message and how did the crowd respond?
6. How does verse 8 describe the emotion of the city?

Read Acts 8:26-31

7. Philip was guided by the angel of the Lord to what other location?

8. While on his way, he met an Ethiopian eunuch. (Eunuchs are men who do not marry and are usually given high positions in royal service.) While traveling in his chariot, the man was reading the book of the prophet:

9. Who told Philip to go near the Ethiopian's chariot?

10. Did the Ethiopian understand what he was reading?

Read Acts 8:32-35

11. The passage of Scripture the Ethiopian was reading spoke of a man like what animal?

12. When asked who the Scripture was talking about, what did Philip share with the man:

13. Will you be faithful to read God's Word so that you can explain who Jesus is to people who do not understand?

Read Acts 8:36-40

Just imagine Philip and the Ethiopian riding along in the chariot and the excitement of Philip sharing his personal experience of knowing Jesus. Not everyone will have the opportunity to speak to large crowds about Jesus, but we all can share one person at a time.

14. After listening to Philip, the man wanted what?

15. What suddenly happened to Philip?

16. The Ethiopian went on his way rejoicing. What do you think he did once he returned to his country?

17. After more traveling and preaching, where did Philip eventually end up and have a home? (also see Acts 21:8)

Lesson #11

Saul Meets Jesus

Read Acts 9:1-5

1. After Stephen's death, Acts 8:3 says, "Saul began to destroy the church." What is Saul doing as chapter 9 begins?
2. Saul received permission from the high priest to gather believers and put them in prison. Saul set out on a journey to the synagogue in:
3. What stopped Saul along the way?
4. What time of day was it? (see Acts 22:6)
5. Jesus called out Saul's name twice and asked him what?

In Matthew 25:40, Jesus said when we do something kind for another person, it is the same as doing it for Jesus. Likewise, when we mistreat someone, it is the same as mistreating Jesus.

6. Are you persecuting Jesus by hurting another person in any way?

7. When Saul retells his story in Acts 26, what else does he mention that Jesus said to him? (see Acts 26:14)

Goads were long sharpened sticks used to nudge cattle to move in the right direction. The Holy Spirit is like a goad in our life, prompting us to do the right thing. Jesus was telling Saul that he had been resisting (kicking against) the Holy Spirit.

8. Can you think of a time when the Holy Spirit was telling you to do the right thing, but you “kicked against it”?

What was the result of your disobedience?

Read Acts 9:6-16

9. Jesus told Saul to go on to Damascus where he would receive further instruction. The encounter with Jesus had left Saul unable to:

10. Already in Damascus was a believer named:

11. Where did the Lord tell this believer to find Saul?

12. What did God tell Ananias about Saul’s future?

Read Acts 9:17-19

13. Ananias obeyed God and went to see Saul. Number in order the events that took place:

_____ Saul got up and was baptized

_____ Scales fell from Saul's eyes

_____ Ananias called him "Brother Saul"

_____ Ananias placed his hands on Saul

_____ Ananias confirmed it was Jesus who appeared

_____ Saul could see again

Read Acts 9:20-31

14. Saul responded to his conversion (belief in Jesus) and healing by doing what?

15. Verses 22-23 say that as Saul preached, the Jews were baffled, even to the point of plotting to kill him. How did Saul make his escape from Damascus?

16. Upon returning to Jerusalem, the Jews were not quick to believe Saul's conversion. Which believer did trust Saul and introduced him to the apostles?

17. Saul eventually set sail from Caesarea to go to his hometown of:

Lesson #12

Peter and Cornelius

Read Acts 9:32-43

Following Saul's conversion and return to Tarsus, a time of peace came over the church. Luke shifts his writing from Saul, back to Peter, who was still traveling and preaching. Two miracles are recorded in these verses.

1. Give several details of the healing that occurred while Peter was in Lydda:

2. As news spread of Aeneas' healing, Peter was called to Joppa. What miracle took place there involving a disciple named Tabitha (Dorcas)?

Read Acts 10:1-8

3. In Caesarea there lived a Gentile named Cornelius. Because he loved God, what two things did he do regularly?

4. What word of encouragement and instruction did an angel of the Lord give to Cornelius?

5. How did Cornelius respond?

Read Acts 10:9-16

6. The next day, as Cornelius' men were nearing Joppa, the Lord gave Peter a vision. What did Peter see being lowered down from heaven and what did it contain?

7. The Lord commanded Peter to eat. Why did Peter refuse?

Peter, a Jew, lived by strict religious laws which forbid eating certain animals (see Leviticus 11). Peter was shocked and confused by God's command.

8. When the Lord spoke again, what did He say to Peter?

Not only did the Jews view certain foods as unclean or impure, but also Gentiles (non-Jewish people) who did not obey these laws. With this vision, God was breaking down the barriers between the Jews and Gentiles.

Read Acts 10:17-23

9. While still thinking about the vision, Cornelius' three men arrived at the gate where Peter was staying. What did the Holy Spirit tell Peter?

10. After learning the men were sent by Cornelius, a Roman centurion, did Peter allow them into his home?

The next day Peter traveled with the three men to Caesarea and entered Cornelius' house. In verse 28, Peter reminded the people gathered there that it was against religious laws for a Jew (Peter) to visit a Gentile (Cornelius).

Read Acts 10:34-36

11. Peter told everyone at Cornelius' house what God had taught him. Peter knew that God does not show:

12. Peter also now understood that God accepts men from:

13. In verse 36, what declaration did Peter make of Jesus?

Peter explained everything that he had been a witness to – Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection. He assured Cornelius and the others that everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins (v. 43).

Read Acts 10:44-48

14. While Peter was still speaking, what happened to these Gentiles that had also happened to the Jews on Pentecost?

15. Read again Acts 10:34-35. How should knowing that God does not show favoritism affect how you treat others?

Lesson #13

Peter's Miraculous Escape

Read Acts 11:1-3

1. As news spread of Peter's visit to Cornelius' house, how did the Jewish believers react?

Peter retold the experience of seeing God's vision and being led to Caesarea. Peter had no doubt everything was arranged by God when the Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius' home.

Read Acts 11:15-18

2. How did the Jews react after hearing Peter's account?

As chapter 12 begins, it is now at least 10 years since Jesus rose from the dead and returned to heaven. King Herod (grandson of Herod the Great who reigned when Jesus was born) was ruler.

Read Acts 12:1-11

3. How did Herod treat those belonging to the church?

4. What did Herod have done to James?

How did that lead to Peter's arrest?

5. What was the church doing while Peter was in jail?

6. Do you have a friend or family member that you need to do the same for?

7. Peter was heavily guarded and bound in chains. Why do you think he was able to sleep?

8. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared. Write down at least four specific miracles that occurred during Peter's escape:

9. What declaration did Peter make concerning his escape?

10. Think of a time when God rescued you from a dangerous or a difficult situation:

Read Acts 12:12-19

11. The first place Peter went was to the home of:

12. When Rhoda heard Peter's voice at the door, she was so excited that she:

Those in Mary's house first thought Rhoda was crazy, then figured Peter had been killed and his spirit (angel) was talking. God said yes to their prayers and yet they didn't believe it!

13. While confusion took place inside the house, what did Peter continue to do?

14. In the morning, after learning that Peter was gone, what did King Herod do?

Read Acts 12:20-24

15. Why did the angel of the Lord strike Herod?

16. After King Herod was dead, what grew and spread?

Lesson #14

Barnabas and Saul

In lesson 12, you studied the miracle of Saul's conversion. Saul, who had tried to destroy the church, was now filled with the Holy Spirit. Acts 9:15 says that the Lord chose Saul to carry His name to the Gentiles and their kings, and to the Israelites. Lesson 12 ended with Saul heading for his hometown of Tarsus.

Read Acts 11:25-26

1. Who went looking for Saul in Tarsus?

2. Together they both went to Antioch to spend a year of teaching. What were disciples of Jesus called for the first time in Antioch.

Read Acts 13:1-3

3. What did the Holy Spirit reveal to the church in Antioch concerning Barnabas and Saul?

4. What did the believers do before placing their hands on Barnabas and Saul to send them off?

In the book of Acts, Luke recorded three missionary trips of Saul and also his trip to Rome. Barnabas and Saul, with the Holy Spirit as their guide, set off on their first journey.

Read Acts 13:4-8

5. Barnabas and Saul set sail for Salamis, which was on the island of :

6. John went along as their helper. By what other name do we know this John? (see Acts 12:12)

7. While still on the island of Cyprus, they came to the city of Paphos. Who gave them trouble there?

Read Acts 13:9-12

8. How did Saul respond to the troublemaker?

The Holy Spirit led Saul (who from this point in Scripture is called Paul) to recognize Satan working through the sorcerer. As you grow in your faith and knowledge of scripture, the Holy Spirit will help you discern (know) what comes from God and what doesn't.

9. Can you think of a time when you confronted someone who was sinning against God?

How about a time when the Holy Spirit showed you when you were sinning?

Read Acts 13:13-33

10. After leaving Paphos on the island of Cyprus, they sailed to Perga. While in Perga, What happened to John Mark?

11. From Perga, Paul and Barnabas went to:

12. Where did they go on the Sabbath?

13. In verses 32-33, what did Paul share about God's promise?

Read Acts 13:38-39

14. Because of what God did through His Son, what is available to everyone who believes in Jesus?

Read Acts 13:44-48

15. When Paul and Barnabas returned the next Sabbath to speak, the Jews were filled with:

16. Because of the Jew's rejection of the gospel, what did Paul and Barnabas do?

Lesson #15

First Journey Continued

Read Acts 13:49-52

1. As chapter 13 ended, Paul and Barnabas were in Pisidian Antioch experiencing jealousy and hatred from the Jews. As Paul and Barnabas were thrown out of the region, what did they do as a warning to the people?

2. The next city on Paul and Barnabas' journey was:

Read Acts 14:1-13

3. As usual, when entering a new city, Paul and Barnabas went to:

4. Even as the Jews stirred up trouble, what did God do to show approval of Paul and Barnabas' preaching?

5. Why did Paul and Barnabas leave Iconium and go to Lystra?

6. In Lystra, a crippled man was listening to Paul. What did Paul see as he looked at the man?

7. As the miracle took place in front of the crowd, what did the people of Lystra exclaim about Paul and Barnabas:

Read Acts 14:14-20

Lystra, and the entire Roman world, worshipped many false gods (much like the Egyptians during Moses' day). Paul and Barnabas were horrified that they were being treated like gods. The reason Paul and Barnabas were in Lystra was to introduce the people to the One True Living God.

8. Paul said to turn away from the false gods by using what word in verse 15 to describe them?

9. Is there anything in your life that you give a lot of attention but is without worth or value?

Even though the people of Lystra did not acknowledge the Living God, Paul said that God has given them proof that He exists.

10. From verses 17-18, list the four things that Paul stated that God, because of His kindness, had provided:

As if Paul and Barnabas didn't have enough trouble, Jews came from Pisidian Antioch and Iconium to turn the people against them.

11. Describe what happened to Paul beginning in verse 19:

12. How do you think Paul was able to get up and go back into the city?

Read Acts 14:21-23

13. Now in the city of Derbe, what kind of response was there to Paul and Barnabas' preaching?

After leaving Derbe, Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Pisidian Antioch.

14. What truth did Paul and Barnabas speak concerning hardships?

15. Besides preaching, what did Paul and Barnabas do for each church while in these towns?

Read Acts 14:24-28

16. Arriving back in Antioch (where they had started out), Paul and Barnabas gathered the church together and:

Lesson #16

The Jerusalem Council

Read Acts 15:1-4

Having completed their first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch for a long visit and a time of rest.

1. During this time, some men came to Antioch from Judea. They were teaching that Gentile (non-Jewish) men could not really be saved unless they were:

2. How did Paul and Barnabas react to those words?

3. Paul, Barnabas, and some fellow believers were sent where to discuss this important issue?

Read Acts 15:5-11

As the church leaders gathered, some believing Pharisees again argued that in order to be saved, a Gentile must first follow Jewish laws and rituals.

4. After much discussion, who was the first to stand up and speak?

This issue about Gentiles was especially important to this apostle because of his experience at Cornelius' house (lesson 13).

5. God had poured out His Holy Spirit on Cornelius, not because he was circumcised, but because he was: (see Acts 10:1-2)

6. According to verse 8, God has knowledge of what before accepting someone and giving His Holy Spirit?

7. What are we doing to God when we try to come to Him through rules and laws?

8. Write out Peter's strong statement concerning how we are saved:

9. Take a few moments to thank God for His generous gift of salvation—a favor given to us that He did not have to give.

After Paul and Barnabas told of all the great things God had done among the Gentiles, James (the half brother of Jesus) spoke. James reminded everyone that through the prophet Amos, God had promised that Gentiles could seek God and be saved.

Read Acts 15:19-29

10. What was James' judgment concerning the matter:

11. Although James stressed that Gentiles were not required to obey Jewish laws, what four things did he suggest that Gentiles should avoid?

12. Name at least two things that you should avoid in order to be a good example to your friends and a good witness for Jesus:

13. To help confirm the decision made by the council, which two men were chosen to return to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas?

14. What did the church leaders send with the four men?

15. In verse 28, to whom was credit given for guiding the council to their decision?

16. Whom do you turn to when you have a difficult decision to make?

Read Acts 15:30-35

17. What was the church's reaction in Antioch when they read about the council's decision?

Lesson #17

Paul's Second Journey

Read Acts 15:36-41

1. What did Paul suggest to Barnabas that they do?

2. What was the disagreement concerning John Mark?

3. What resulted from the disagreement?

4. How could this have actually been a good thing?

Read Acts 16:1-15

5. Give some details about the believer in Lystra whom Paul wanted to take along on the journey:

6. Thinking back to the decision made at the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15, why then did Paul have this believer circumcised?

7. As Paul and his companions traveled from town to town, who guided them where to go and where not to go?

8. Through a vision, God told Paul to travel to:

9. In Philippi was a woman named Lydia. List at least four specific things said of her:

10. Through the conversion and friendship of this woman, what did God provide for Paul and his companions?

Read Acts 16:16-24

While still in Philippi, a slave girl began following Paul. A spirit within the girl enabled her to tell fortunes (divination).

11. Paul finally became annoyed. How did he know that the spirit was evil and not of God? (See Deuteronomy 18:10)

12. What happened when Paul commanded it in Jesus' name?

13. After helping the slave girl, what happened to Paul and Silas?

Read Acts 16:25-34

14. What were Paul and Silas doing at midnight?

15. How did God provide this time for Paul and Silas?

Seeing the prison doors opened, the jailer feared the prisoners had run away and that he would be punished by death.

16. What were the jailer's first words to Paul and Silas?

17. Write down and memorize Paul and Silas' words to the jailer:

Through the Holy Spirit, Paul and Silas were living out Jesus' command to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8) in every situation – even while in jail. The result was that a man and his whole family believed and were saved.

Will you remember to be Jesus' witness all week – praising Him instead of complaining? You never know who might be watching or listening!!

Lesson #18

Second Journey Continued

After leaving Philippi, Paul and Silas stopped in five cities, experiencing adventure and God's power at each place.

Skim through Acts 17:1-34 and 18:1-22

1. Name the city where each of these events happened:

On three Sabbath days, Paul preached in the Jewish synagogue that Jesus is the Christ.

Jealous Jews formed a mob and started a riot.

Christian brothers sent Paul and Silas to this city by cover of night.

Paul was distressed to find this city so full of idols.

Paul preached that it is God who made the world and does not live in temples made by human hands.

Paul met Aquila and his wife Priscilla.

Paul shook his clothes in protest of the unbelieving Jews.

Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla sailed to this city.

In Acts 9:16 God said that Paul would suffer much for His name. Studying Paul's ministry so far, there have been beatings, imprisonment, hatred, and false accusation. Through all the hardships, though, God was faithful to encourage Paul along the way. Follow Paul again through the five cities to see the goodness of God in Paul's life . . .

Read Acts 17:5-6

Thessalonica

In Thessalonica, the Jews were jealous and wanted the crowd to hurt Paul and Silas.

2. Were the Jews successful in finding Paul and Silas?

3. Whom did God provide for Paul who not only shared his home, but took the mistreatment intended for Paul?

Read Acts 17:11-12

Berea

4. How were the people of Berea different from the Thessalonians?

5. How did they respond to Paul's preaching and to the Scriptures?

6. What was the result in Berea?

Read Acts 17:17 & 34

Athens

Athens was a city known for its great "thinkers" and educated men who would spend their days just talking about the latest ideas. (Acts 17:21)

8. Paul had a listening audience in what two places (where and when):

9. Paul was even given opportunity to speak with the Greek Council (called the Areopagus). As Paul spoke of the One True God, what member of the council believed?

Read Acts 18:1-3, 9-11 **Corinth**

10. God provided a special encouragement through the people Paul met in Corinth.

What is said of Aquila and Priscilla and what did they have in common with Paul?

11. What words of encouragement did God personally speak to Paul in a vision?

Read Acts 18:19-22 **Ephesus**

12. Nearing the end of his second missionary journey, Paul stopped at Ephesus. The Jews there wanted Paul to:

Learn to recognize the encouragements God gives you each day and thank Him.

Lesson #19

Paul's Third Journey

After completing his second journey, Paul and his companions traveled back to their “home church” in Antioch Syria. There, Paul rested and received encouragement before setting off again. Paul's third journey began much like his second one – he traveled and preached throughout Galatia and Phrygia then stopped at Ephesus

Read Acts 19:23-27

1. In Ephesus, who was the silversmith and what did he make?

2. Which of God's Ten Commandments was he violating? (see Exodus 20:3-17)

3. What do you think was Demetrius' primary concern about Paul's influence?

4. What words of Paul about man-made gods did Demetrius quote?

We often think of idolatry as bowing to a man-made statue, but Paul expanded the meaning in Colossians 3:5 when he mentioned greed. Idolatry actually begins with an attitude in our heart. Anything can become an idol if we let it, rather than God, control us.

5. Name some things in our society that have become idols:

6. Where was the goddess of Artemis worshipped?

Today, around the world, there are many countries where false gods are worshipped. Just like Paul was sent to Ephesus, God still sends His people out to proclaim Himself as the Only True God – in far away countries and in our own hometowns.

7. In what ways do you fulfill God's call for you to spread His name in your school and hometown?

Read Acts 19:28-34

8. Knowing he would lose a lot of money if Paul continued to spread his message and turn the people away from idol-worship, what did Demetrius and his workmen do?

9. As two of Paul's friends were seized, what was Paul trying to do?

Was Paul successful? Why or why not?

10. Who was finally able to quiet down the crowd and convince them to leave?

Read Acts 20:7-12

11. Now in Troas, Paul and the believers gathered together on what day of the week?

12. What was Paul doing as midnight came?

13. What happened to the young man Eutychus?

14. What action did Paul take and what miracle did God perform through Paul?

15. As Eutychus was taken home alive, how does verse 12 describe the people?

7. From your study of Acts so far, name a time when Paul experienced God's grace (His generosity and goodness):

8. Think of a time when you have experienced God's goodness:

Do you think God has called you to the same work as Paul----to share that goodness with others?

Read Acts 20:25-31

9. What sad word did Paul have for the Ephesian elders?

10. Paul warned that wolves (enemies) would come, and that even men from their own people would:

God wants you to study His Word, the Bible, so you will know the truth and not be "blown here or there" by false teaching. (Ephesians 4:14)

Read Acts 20:32-37

11. After warning his friends to be on guard, Paul committed them to God's care. He reminded them that the Word of God's grace would:

12. In everything Paul did, what words of Jesus did he live by?

13. In what way can you give something to someone this week without expecting anything in return?

After a very emotional good-bye, Paul and Luke set sail toward Jerusalem, stopping at several cities along the way.

Read Acts 21:7-14

14. Eventually, Paul and Luke arrived in Caesarea and visited the home of Philip (whom you studied in lesson 11). Philip was known as the:

15. What did Agabus prophesy concerning Paul?

16. What did Paul's friends plead with Paul?

17. What was Paul's state of heart and mind?

Read Acts 22:1-6

6. Paul was given permission to speak. What caused the crowd to become very quiet? :

7. Speaking in their own language, Paul began by introducing himself. Complete each statement of Paul's personal history.

Paul's nationality:

Paul's birth place:

City where Paul was raised:

Teacher who trained Paul:

People whom Paul mistreated:

City Paul was near when a bright light from heaven flashed:

Paul went on to describe in detail his encounter with Jesus (which you studied in lesson 12). Paul explained how Jesus would turn Paul's actions in another direction.

Read Acts 22:21-29

8. The crowd had been carefully listening until Paul said the Lord would:

9. What were the crowd's words against Paul?

10. Seeing the crowd in an uproar again, what three things did the commander order?

11. How was Paul able to change his punishment?

12. How could Paul claim he was a Roman citizen?

Not only did Paul have privileges that came with being a Roman citizen, Paul had even more privileges by belonging to another kingdom – God’s.

13. Have you placed your faith in Jesus and become a citizen of God’s kingdom?

If so, name a privilege of belonging to His Kingdom:

Lesson #22

Paul Under Roman Protection

The Roman commander did not understand why the Jews were so upset at Paul. Hoping to get some answers, he ordered the chief priests and religious council to gather and brought Paul before them.

Read Acts 23:1-11

1. How did Paul address the council, and what did he say that offended the high priest?

2. Would Paul have spoken so strongly (v. 3) had he known it was the high priest? Why?

3. What did Paul reveal about himself to the council?

Soon an argument broke out between the Pharisees and Sadducees over the issue of resurrection. The Roman commander saw that once again, Paul was in the middle of a big uproar, and used his troops to get Paul to safety.

4. That night, the Lord stood near Paul. Where would Paul be sent next to testify?

Read Acts 23:12-22

5. In this passage, what do you learn about Paul's family?

The young man warned Paul that the Jews were plotting to kill him. Paul sent him to share the news with the Roman commander.

6. How did the commander respond to Paul's nephew?

7. More than 40 men were hiding, ready to kill Paul. What had they vowed not to do until Paul was dead?

8. What did the commander warn the young nephew of Paul?

Read Acts 23:23-30

9. After dismissing the young man, what action did the commander take?

10. Under Roman protection, Paul was being sent to Caesarea to see Governor:

The Roman commander (Claudius Lysias) sent a letter along with Paul and the soldiers, explaining the situation.

11. In his letter, what do you learn about the character of the commander?

12. What do you find similar in the words of Pontius Pilot concerning Jesus? (see Luke 23:13-15)

13. Also in his letter, what was the commander's order to Paul's accusers?

14. The two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen escorted Paul to Caesarea. Until Paul's accusers arrived, where did Felix keep Paul under guard?

15. Looking back over this chapter, write down something you think Paul would have thanked God for:

16. Whom or what has God provided this week to keep you protected?

7. Paul said his accusers had not found him doing what?

8. What did Paul admit to in verse 14?

9. As a follower of the Way (of Jesus), Paul believed everything in accordance with:

Paul placed his hope in God that there would be a resurrection (a rising of the dead) of both godly and ungodly people. Because of that hope, Paul tried to keep a clear conscience.

10. You, like Paul, can keep a clear conscience before God and people by:
(see 1 John 1:9)

Read Acts 24:17-21

11. Paul continued to defend himself with facts against the charges. Paul said he had come to Jerusalem to:

- a) bring gifts for the poor and present offerings
- b) change the rituals of worship
- c) debate the Jews over the Law of Moses

12. Paul admitted to shouting out what?

Read Acts 24:22-27

13. Did Felix know much about “The Way?”

14. After hearing both sides, Felix ended the trial for the time being. When would Felix make a decision on the case?

15. During the time that followed, as Paul was still being held, how did Felix treat Paul?

16. What did Paul speak of that caused Felix to become afraid?

17. Did Felix become a true believer?

18. According to 2 Corinthians 6:2, when does God want us to receive His favor and salvation?

Paul knew there was no proof against him and that he was not getting a fair trial. Paul wanted to appear before a higher court (like our Supreme Court today). He requested to see Caesar, the ruler of the Roman Empire, who lived in Rome.

7. Was Paul following God's plan for him? (see Acts 23:11)

8. What did Festus declare to Paul?

Read Acts 25:13-22

9. After a few days, Festus was visited by whom?

10. What did Festus want to discuss with the king?

11. Festus said that the Jews' main argument with Paul was his claim that:

12. Was King Agrippa interested in hearing Paul's defense?

Read Acts 25:23-27

The Bible describes Agrippa and Bernice entering the room with great pomp. It was a magnificent display, with great pride and vanity.

13. Try to imagine the scene as Agrippa was clothed as a great king, while Paul was brought in clothed as a prisoner. According to Galatians 3:27, what was Paul really clothed with?

14. Are you “dressed” the same as Paul?

Chapter 25 ends with Festus announcing the purpose of the gathering. Festus could not find Paul guilty of any crime. He hoped Agrippa could help him write an explanation to Caesar as to why Paul was being sent to Rome

Lesson #25

Paul Witnesses to Agrippa

Read Acts 26:1-11

1. How was Paul feeling as he stood before King Agrippa?

2. Why did Paul beg Agrippa to listen to him patiently?

3. Paul had lived according to the strict rules of the Pharisees since he was:

4. For what reason was Paul on trial?

Paul was referring to the promise throughout the Old Testament that a Messiah would come to save God's people.

5. In verse 8, Paul wondered why the Jews had a hard time believing that God:

6. Paul admitted that he, too, used to be convinced of believing what?

7. What were some of the previous activities Paul was engaged in?

Read Acts 26:12-18

8. What made Paul change his mind about Jesus and His followers?

9. According to verse 18, God had personally chosen Paul to do what for the people?

Read Acts 26:19-23

10. What was Paul's response to the vision from heaven?

11. Name at least two ways you are being obedient to Jesus' plan for your life:

12. Paul told King Agrippa that the Jews had tried to kill him. Whom did Paul credit for helping him?

13. How did Paul regard the writings of Moses and the prophets?

Read Acts 26:24-32

14. Festus interrupted Paul, accusing him of:

Paul could speak boldly before Festus and Agrippa because he knew his message about Jesus was “true and reasonable.”

15. What is your statement of faith concerning the Word of God?

16. What was King Agrippa’s response to Paul?

Ultimately, to whom was King Agrippa responding?

17. What was Paul’s prayer in verse 29?

Lesson #26

Paul Sets Sail for Rome

Read Acts 27:1-12

1. As Paul began the journey to Rome, Italy, notice the pronoun “we” was used. What does this imply?

2. What were the sailing conditions like in verses 4-8?

With winter approaching, Paul warned it would be disastrous to continue the trip.

3. Whose advice did the centurion commander choose to follow?

Leaving Fair Havens, on the island of Crete, the ship set sail again. The majority on board wanted to reach Phoenix, on the west end of Crete, and spend the winter there.

Read Acts 27:13-20

4. What happened not long after setting sail?

5. Number in order the events that took place over the next many days:
 - _____ ropes were passed and tied under the ship to hold it together
 - _____ the ship’s cargo was thrown overboard
 - _____ those on board gave up all hope of being saved
 - _____ the wind drove the ship past the island of Cauda
 - _____ the anchor was lowered to avoid hitting the sandbars of Syrtis

Read Acts 27:21-26

6. The men felt despair and were weak from not eating. What “reprimand” and also urging did Paul have for them?

7. What message of encouragement had an angel of God given to Paul the night before?

Read Acts 27:27-38

8. After two weeks, the soldiers felt they were getting close to land. Afraid the ship might hit the rocks, what two things did they do?

9. During this raging storm and all the other difficult things Paul had gone through, what “anchor” did Paul have to keep from “crashing against the rocks”? (see Hebrews 6:17-19 NIV)

10. Name a promise of God in which you can place your hope.

11. What words from Paul halted the attempted escape?

12. What did Paul do that encouraged the men and convinced them to eat?

13. How many were on board?

Read Acts 27:39-44

The soldiers cut away the anchors and lifted the sail, allowing the ship to head for the land.

14. Did Paul's word concerning the ship come true? (look back to verse 22)

15. How does chapter 27 end?

8. On they sailed from Syracuse, to Rhegium, then to Puteoli. Whom did they find there and how long did they stay?

9. Upon arriving in Rome, whom did Paul see that caused him to thank God?

10. What was Paul's living situation in Rome?

11. During his journey from Caesarea to Rome, name one of the many favors God had given Paul. (Remember that Paul was traveling as a prisoner.)

Read Acts 28:17-22

12. Three days after arriving in Rome, Paul met and explained his situation with:

13. Had the Jews in Rome heard of Paul?

14. What interest did the Jewish brothers have in Paul?

Read Acts 28:23-31

15. Then God provided an even bigger audience for Paul to convince them about Jesus. For how long did Paul speak?

16. Paul saw their mixed reactions – some believed, others did not. Quoting the prophet Isaiah, Paul knew some would not believe because their hearts had become:

17. How does Luke end the Book of Acts?

Lesson 28

Book of Acts Review

1. The Book of Acts is filled with miracles that God did through the apostles. Name one of your favorite miracles and describe what you learned about God from it.

2. Many of the apostles experienced difficult times as they shared the truth about Jesus. Even in these difficult times they rejoiced because they knew the attributes of God. Name an attribute of God that has been especially meaningful to you this year and describe why it has been so meaningful.

3. The Book of Acts is the history of the very first churches (groups of Christian believers). What are some differences between the very first churches and our church today? What are some things our church could do to be more like the very first churches?

4. Acts 1:8 says, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses...” Has God given you any opportunities this year to be His witness – to tell someone else about Him? If so, describe that experience.

