

## Study Guide on the Book of Acts of the Apostles

### 1. Background & Overview

#### Title

- Acts of the Apostles (often called Acts of the Holy Spirit because of His central role)

#### Author

- Luke (also author of the Gospel of Luke)

#### Date Written

- Approximately AD 60–62

#### Audience

- Theophilus and a broader Gentile-Christian audience

#### Purpose

- To record the birth and expansion of the early Church
- To show how the gospel moved from Jerusalem → Judea → Samaria → the ends of the earth
- To demonstrate the work of the Holy Spirit through the apostles

#### Key Verse

- Acts 1:8 – “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.”

### 2. Major Themes in Acts

- The Holy Spirit
  - Empowerment for witness
  - Guidance, boldness, miracles
- The Growth of the Church
  - From a small Jewish group to a global, multicultural movement
- Witness & Mission
  - Proclamation of Jesus’ death, resurrection, and lordship
- Persecution & Suffering
  - Opposition advances rather than stops the gospel
- Salvation for All People
  - Jews, Samaritans, Gentiles, men, women, rich, poor
- Leadership & Community
  - Apostles, elders, deacons
  - Unity, generosity, prayer

### 3. Outline of the Book of Acts

#### I. The Church in Jerusalem (Acts 1–7)

- Ascension of Jesus (1)
- Pentecost & the coming of the Holy Spirit (2)
- Early church life (2:42–47)
- Healing, preaching, persecution (3–5)
- First martyr: Stephen (6–7)

#### II. The Church Expands to Judea & Samaria (Acts 8–12)

- Philip in Samaria (8)
- Conversion of Saul (Paul) (9)
- Peter & Cornelius (Gentiles receive the gospel) (10–11)
- Persecution under Herod (12)

#### III. The Church to the Ends of the Earth (Acts 13–28)

- Paul's missionary journeys (13–21)
- Jerusalem Council (15)
- Paul's arrest and trials (21–26)
- Journey to Rome (27–28)

### 4. Key People in Acts

- Peter – Leader of the early Jewish-Christian mission
- John – Apostle and partner with Peter
- Stephen – First Christian martyr
- Philip – Evangelist to Samaria and Ethiopia
- Paul (Saul) – Apostle to the Gentiles
- Barnabas – Encourager and missionary partner
- Timothy, Silas, Luke – Co-labourers with Paul

### 5. Key Events to Study Closely

- Pentecost (Acts 2)
- Healing of the lame man (Acts 3)
- Conversion of Saul (Acts 9)
- Cornelius' conversion (Acts 10)

- Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)
- Paul's speech at Athens (Acts 17)
- Paul before Agrippa (Acts 26)

#### 6. Theology & Teaching in Acts

- Jesus is Lord and Messiah
- Resurrection is central
- Salvation is by grace through faith
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers
- The Church is God's mission strategy

#### 7. Practical Applications

- Depend on the Holy Spirit daily
- Be bold in sharing faith
- Expect opposition but trust God's sovereignty
- Value Christian community
- Participate in God's global mission

#### 8. Study Plan (3 Weeks – 2 Chapters / Day) (5 Days / Week)

- Week 1: Acts 1 – 8
- Week 2: Acts 9 – 18
- Week 3: Acts 19 - 28

#### 9. Discussion & Reflection Questions

- How does Acts 1:8 shape the structure of the book?
- What role does prayer play in the early church?
- How does persecution advance God's mission?
- What can modern churches learn from Acts 2:42–47?
- How does Paul's conversion challenge your view of God's grace?
- What does Acts teach about cultural diversity in the Church?