
CHRISTIAN WORKER BIBLE STUDY SERIES

PRESENTED BY:

Acts I

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THE CHRISTIAN WORKER BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

The vision of the Christian Worker Program is that all who hunger and thirst for the truth of God's word should be filled. In offering these Bible studies, we hope to meet the need of those who desire to become more acquainted with the Word of God. As you study, we pray that your faith will be strengthened and that your desire for the deeper things of God will be increased.

The Christian Worker Bible Studies Series is basically designed for individual study; however, group study is also encouraged. Many times a deeper search is made into God's word if more than one participate. The only additional text used is the Bible.

Each study contains questions along with blank spaces for your written answer. Comments are added both to clarify and to stimulate interest. The Introductory booklet should be studied first in order to better grasp the full potential of the Christian Worker Program.

A small donation is requested for each study to cover basic costs.

A certificate of award is available upon completion of this study. Please contact your #1 link or Mini-Bible School Director for your certificate.

SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDY:

Only your Bible is needed to complete this study.

(Note: Additional Bible versions often give you greater insight.)

Pray before you begin and ask the Lord to enlighten your spiritual understanding.

Read the question carefully and then read the Bible text at least twice.

(Reading the text aloud is of great value.)

Work on your study regularly. If you lay it aside, you will lose the flow and continuity of the lesson.

As you complete each lesson or chapter, mentally summarize what you have just learned.

Other helps such as commentaries or devotional books can add greater depth to your studies.

A DEFINITE PRINCIPLE IS INVOLVED IN STUDYING GOD'S WORD. THE BENEFITS RECEIVED ARE DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO THE TIME AND EFFORT INVESTED. GOD BLESS YOU IN YOUR STUDIES.

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ACTS I Chapters 1-12

The book of Acts is a book of **ACTION**. The Early Church is portrayed as a moving, flowing body of believers. God's great power and His radiant love and joy pervade the lives of the first saints. However, we must be careful in studying the book of Acts, so that we do not just read it as history, but realize that it is the New Testament revelation of what the Church should be **today**. It is not a story of the past, but we are to read it as a vision for us today. We are not to take the book of Acts and look **back** at it, but rather we should look **forward** to it. As you study this exciting book, yield to the Holy Spirit so that He might implant a vision in your heart for a deeper walk with the Lord and give you a desire for the power of God in your life.

CHAPTER 1 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

The first chapter is introductory, giving a brief glimpse of the circumstances surrounding the dawning of a new age: the birth of the Church. The book of Acts was written by St. Luke, who also wrote one of the four gospels. Luke's gospel account and the book of Acts are both written to Theophilus, apparently a Greek convert. (Read Luke 1:3,4)

The final instructions given by the Lord to His disciples were used as a background to explain why the believers were gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem. These instructions given before His ascension are also recorded in the last chapter of Luke's gospel. (Luke 24:49-53) Chapter one begins with a repetition of these instructions and shows the obedience of the Lord's followers as they go to the upper room and continue in prayer, waiting on the Lord.

1. To whom is the book of Acts addressed? _____
2. Who is the author? _____
3. After His resurrection, how many days did the Lord show Himself before His ascension? _____

4. What were the disciples instructed to do? _____

5. What were they to receive if they waited? _____
6. Write out verse 8. _____

7. John baptized with water, but the baptism that the Lord was going to send was in the _____

8. As Jesus ascended and as the disciples were looking up, what did the two men in white apparel say to them? _____

9. Where did the disciples go when they returned to Jerusalem? _____
10. What did they do in the upper room? v. 14 _____

It is interesting to note that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was also in the upper room waiting to receive the Holy Spirit. As every other person, Mary also needed a Saviour, and should never be thought of as divine. (Luke 1:46,47)

11. How many were gathered in the upper room? _____
12. What essentially was Peter saying about choosing another disciple? vv. 15-26 _____

13. Whose place needed to be filled, and who was the chosen one to fill it? vv. 25,26 _____

This is the last time "casting lots" is used to find God's will. From this point on all believers have the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead them into all truth.

CHAPTER 2 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. When the day of Pentecost was fully come, were the believers scattered in different places doing different things? _____ How does the Bible describe their position and attitude? _____
2. What word in verse 2 describes whether the Holy Spirit fell on them in a quick or a slow way? _____
3. What were the two physical signs they saw and heard? _____
Where was the wind? _____ Where were the tongues of fire? _____

Wind is quite often used in referring to the Holy Spirit. (See John 3:8.) Notice that the wind **filled** the house, that is to say that the believers were immersed, or covered over with the "wind" of the Spirit.

4. When the believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit, what was the outward manifestation or evidence? _____
5. Where did they get such utterance? _____
6. How many were filled? _____
7. The believers then went into the streets where a multitude had gathered. What did the multitude hear? _____
8. Of what did these onlookers hear the disciples speaking? v. 11 _____
9. What did some of the people believe had happened to the 120 people who were speaking in other tongues? v. 13 _____

Through this outpouring of the Holy Spirit the Church of Jesus Christ was born. The first message of the Church was preached by the apostle Peter. The transforming and powerful experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit was clearly manifested through a man such as Peter. He had actually denied the

Lord Jesus before His crucifixion. (See Luke 22:54-62) He was very weak at times, blundering over and over during the three years that he spent with the Lord. But now we see Peter with power and confidence in his life. The convicting power through his sermon was so strong that 3000 souls were saved at the conclusion of his message. What had happened to this man? Peter, who was previously so unsure, suddenly saw the plan of God with crystal clarity and preached the Word in demonstration and power.

10. What portion of Old Testament scripture did Peter use to explain the believers' actions?
_____ Then write out Acts 2:17. _____

11. According to these scriptures, who can be saved? v. 21 _____

Peter's entire message is about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The validity of our salvation is determined by the resurrection of Christ. (See Romans 10:9.) If Jesus had not risen from the dead, there would be no power in the gospel. Without the resurrection, Christ would have been a wonderful man but not the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. (I Corinthians 15:14-17) Peter proclaims the resurrection in verses 22-24, he gives substantiating prophecy in verses 25-28 and then he sets forth a proven conclusion of the Lord's resurrection in verses 29-36. As you read this powerful sermon, pick out these three divisions.

12. List 3 facts stated in this one-sentence summation of Jesus Christ as given in verses 22-24.
a. _____
b. _____
c. _____

13. How did Peter apply the Old Testament reference in verses 25-28 to the Lord Jesus Christ? Read verses 29-34 _____

14. What was the people's reaction to this powerful sermon? v. 37 _____

15. What did Peter tell them to do? v. 38 _____

16. For whom is the promise of the Holy Spirit? v. 39 _____

17. How many were saved on the first day of the church's existence? _____

After all the excitement of the day of Pentecost, the new believers settled into a daily steadfast life. Let the Holy Spirit make alive to your heart these last few scriptures of chapter 2 in order that you might see the radiant, full and flowing Christian life of the early believers.

18. In what did the believers steadfastly continue? v. 42 _____

19. What came upon **all** the souls of the entire city because of this powerful new community of believers? _____

20. What was done by the apostles? v. 43 _____
21. What did these people do that really showed their perfect unity and willingness to forsake all?
vv.44,45 _____
22. What did the Lord do for the church daily? _____

CHAPTER 3 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

In chapter 3 we find that the believers did not rest or stand still because the Lord had already done so much; but we find a moving church daily walking in the power of God. Signs and wonders were a part of their everyday existence, a natural outflow of the realm in which they were living. Peter and John were early leaders of the church.

1. After Pentecost, did the disciples cease to visit the temple? _____
2. How did the lame man get to the temple every day? _____
Why did he go to the gate of the temple? _____
What was the name of the gate where he lay? _____
3. What did Peter first say to the lame man? _____
4. Peter didn't have any silver and gold to give the man, but what did he have? _____
Write out verse 6. _____
5. What did the man do after Jesus Christ had made him whole? _____
6. What was the people's reaction to this miracle? _____
This miracle opened up another opportunity for Peter to preach the gospel to the crowds in Jerusalem.
7. What did Peter tell the people that they themselves had done? vv. 13-15 _____
8. What three titles does Peter give to the Lord? vv. 14,15 _____
9. Why did the people do these things to the Lord Jesus? v. 17 _____
10. What is Peter's conclusion? v. 19 _____
11. From where do our times of refreshing come? _____
12. What did Peter declare to the people in verse 24? _____
13. How does the Lord Jesus bless His people? v. 26 _____

CHAPTER 4 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. After Peter's message, which people reacted and were grieved? _____

2. Why were they grieved? _____
3. What did these people do to Peter and John? _____
4. How large was the church at this point? _____
5. The next morning as the rulers brought Peter and John before them, what did they ask them?

- To what were they referring? _____
6. To whom does Peter attribute this miracle? v. 10 _____
7. What did Peter again tell the people that they had done? _____
8. What does verse 11 mean? Read Ephesians 2:20 and I Peter 2:6-8. (Use a commentary or other references if needed.) _____
9. Write out verse 12. _____
10. What quality did the rulers see in Peter and John that made them realize that they had been with Jesus? _____
11. What could the temple rulers say in the face of such boldness and an undeniable miracle?

12. What did the rulers finally decide to do? _____
13. How did Peter and John reply to their commands and threatenings? v. 20 _____
14. When Peter and John returned to the community of believers, they all prayed together. (vv. 24-30) What were they asking the Lord to grant unto them?

15. What happened after they prayed? v. 31 _____
16. What does verse 32 say about the abiding and strong unity among these saints? _____
17. Did any of the believers own or lack anything? _____
18. Do you think this type of Christian life is for us today? _____

CHAPTER 5 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

After portraying such a vivid description of the unity and lack of selfishness among the believers, chapter 5 begins with the word "but". Two people try to enter into the joy and liberty of the church with deceit in their hearts. We learn by this example that one cannot cheat his way into a blessing; the full price must always be paid.

1. Who were the people that kept back part of the price? _____
2. Ananias' sin was not in keeping some money; God did not need his money. What was his sin?

3. What happened to Ananias? _____
4. What happened to Sapphira? _____
5. How many of the sick were healed? v. 16 _____
6. Who put the apostles in prison? _____
7. How did they get out of prison, and where did they go? _____

8. When they were brought before the council again and threatened, what was Peter's answer? v. 29

9. What did Peter tell them they had done? v. 30 _____
10. As Peter preached the truth, what did the conviction of the Holy Spirit make these men want to do? _____
11. What was Gamaliel's advice? _____

12. What did the apostles think about being beaten for the gospel's sake? v. 41 _____

CHAPTER 6 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. What was the problem that arose in verse 1? _____
2. What explanation did the twelve give for not taking proper care of the widows? _____

3. What did they decide to do? _____

4. These were the first deacons of the church; but just because they were to take care of business, did this mean they didn't have power in their lives?

What does verse 8 say about Stephen, one of the deacons? _____

5. What did the elders and scribes do to Stephen? vv. 12,13 _____

6. Did Stephen's close relationship with the Lord show outwardly? v. 15 _____
How? _____

CHAPTER 7 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Chapter 7 relates Stephen's anointed and powerful message to the council. He methodically recounts to them their own Jewish history and proves that they have been hardhearted toward God's plan down through the ages. Be sure to note how violent and even childish their reaction was to Stephen's speech as they came under conviction. They stopped up their ears and yelled and ran at him! These were high Jewish officials!

1. With whom does Stephen begin his story? v. 2 _____

2. What is the basic covenant that God established between Himself and the Jews? v. 8 _____
3. Who is the father of the twelve patriarchs of the nation of Israel? _____
4. The greater part of Stephen's message describes God's great servant, Moses. Which verses contain this story? _____

5. After relating the entire Jewish history of how God dealt with their stubborn hearts, what is Stephen's concluding line? v. 51

6. How did the men of the council respond to Stephen's message? vv. 54,57

7. What did Stephen see in heaven? _____

8. What did they finally do to Stephen? _____
9. What was Stephen's dying prayer? _____
Also read Luke 23:33,34.

CHAPTER 8 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. What happened to the believers as a result of the outbreak of persecution? v. 1 _____

2. What did this man Saul do? _____

3. Where did Philip go, and what were the results? vv. 5,6 _____

4. Who was Simon, and what did his followers say about him? _____

5. What happened to Simon? v. 13 _____
6. Philip was only baptizing in water. With what baptism did Peter and John come? _____

7. Simon still held on to his lust for power that had led him to be a sorcerer before he believed. What did he try to do? vv. 18,19 _____

8. What did Peter tell Simon to do? v. 22 _____
9. In the midst of his work in Samaria, what was Philip told to do? v. 26 _____
10. What indicates that this Ethiopian was a seeker of truth? vv. 27,28 _____

11. What was the eunuch reading? _____
About whom were these scriptures? _____
12. After Philip preached Jesus to him, what did the eunuch suggest? _____
13. What confession did the eunuch make? _____
14. How did Philip depart from the scene of the baptism? _____
15. What did Philip continue doing no matter where he was? v. 40 _____

This story of Philip and the Ethiopian should illustrate to us that God will go to any length and use any means to answer the need of a true hungry heart.

CHAPTER 9 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

In chapter 9 we see how the most ardent persecutor of the Christians came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. This man's name was Saul who later became the great apostle Paul, writer of much of the New Testament. God's greatest miracle is the transformation of lives. Before you read of his salvation experience, look into the following scriptures to see how severely Saul had persecuted the early church. Acts 22:4,5 and Acts 26:9-11. In both of these accounts Paul is giving his own testimony. He tells of putting men and women to death, casting many into prison, and worst of all, compelling them to blaspheme the name of the Lord.

1. What was Saul on his way to do in Damascus? _____

2. When the light shone and Saul fell to the earth, what did the Lord ask him? _____
3. When Saul was led to Damascus, what was his condition for 3 days? _____
4. When the Lord spoke to Ananias to minister to Saul, why was Ananias doubtful about Saul? vv. 13,14 _____

5. What did the Lord call Saul in verse 15? _____

6. What happened when Ananias prayed for Saul? _____

7. What did Saul do right away? v. 20 _____
8. What was the reaction of the Jews to his preaching? v. 23 _____

9. How did Saul escape? _____
10. What was the reaction of the disciples when Saul arrived in Jerusalem? _____
11. What did Peter do in Lydda? _____
12. Who made this man whole? _____
13. How many turned to the Lord when they saw Aeneas? v. 35 _____
14. For whom did the disciples send when a disciple named Tabitha died in Joppa ? _____
15. What happened to her when Peter prayed? _____
16. Should these things be happening today? _____

CHAPTER 10 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Chapter 10 marks a very definite point in the history of the church. Until this time, the ministry of salvation had only been preached to the Jews. The disciples never considered that salvation should also be extended to the Gentiles (all other people except Jews), because the Old Testament had called them unclean and God had dealt only with His chosen people, the Jews. Yet it was God's promise, even in Genesis, to redeem **all** mankind. The prophets of Israel spoke about the coming in of the Gentiles, yet to the Jews this was still inconceivable. Generation upon generation had taught them that they alone were God's people. But God granted a special revelation to Peter and to a gentile named Cornelius. It was time to start making cracks in the wall of partition between Jew and Gentile. (Read Ephesians 2:11-19)

1. What kind of man was Cornelius? _____
2. Who told Cornelius to send for Peter? _____
3. How many men were sent to get Peter, and where were they sent? _____
4. Where was Peter praying as this group drew near the city? _____
5. What was God telling Peter through the vision? v. 15 _____
6. How did Peter know that Cornelius' men were looking for him? v. 19 _____
7. When Peter and the others arrived at the house of Cornelius, what people were waiting for him? _____
8. What was Peter's explanation of how he knew he could keep company with a Gentile? v. 28 _____
9. What Bible truth did Peter understand for the first time? v. 34 _____
10. Who had the Lord Jesus healed? v. 38 _____

11. To what period in the Lord's life do verses 40 and 41 refer? _____

12. Who can have the remission of sins? v. 43 _____
13. As Peter was yet speaking, what suddenly fell upon the Gentiles? _____
14. How did the doubting Jews know for sure that the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit? v. 46

CHAPTER 11 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Chapter 11 continues with the description of the new ministry to the Gentiles. Peter returned from his experience at the house of Cornelius, and the Jewish brethren in Jerusalem began to accuse him of mingling with the heathen. As Peter told the story of what took place, God graciously granted these Jews the revelation that "God hath also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."

1. To whom do "they of the circumcision" refer? v. 2 _____
2. What accusation did the Jews make against Peter? v. 3 _____

3. How did Peter respond to those who contended with him? v. 4 _____

4. What did Peter see in his vision? _____

- What new truth was God teaching Peter? v. 9 _____

5. What did the angel tell Cornelius that Peter would tell him? v. 14 _____

6. What was the gift that had been received only by the Jews but now was also given to the Gentiles? v. 15 _____
7. After hearing Peter's testimony, what did the Jewish brethren discover for the first time? v. 18

8. What were the believers doing as they were scattered abroad? v. 19 _____

9. Who else were they preaching to besides the Jews? v. 20 _____
How many believed? v. 21 _____
10. What was Barnabas' exhortation to the new converts in Antioch? v. 23 _____

11. List 3 characteristics of this man Barnabas. v. 24 _____

12. Who did Barnabas go and find to help him minister in Antioch? _____
How long did they stay? _____
13. In Antioch, what were the disciples called for the first time? _____
14. Who was the prophet from Jerusalem? _____
What did the disciples do in response to his message? _____

CHAPTER 12 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Chapter 12 shows us that persecution of the believers was still widespread. The wicked and proud King Herod began to vex the church and killed the apostle James in his attacks. James was one of the three men who formed the inner circle of disciples who were very close to the Lord Jesus during His three-year ministry upon the earth.

1. How did the death of James affect the unbelieving Jewish rulers? v. 3 _____

2. What did Herod later do to Peter? _____
3. What provisions were made to keep him in prison? v. 4 _____

4. But what greater force was in operation? v. 5 _____

5. What was Peter doing while bound in chains and destined to be killed? v. 6 _____
How could Peter sleep during those adverse circumstances? Psalm 34:19; Proverbs 3:5; Hebrews 13:5b _____
6. Who awakened Peter and led him out? _____
7. For how long did God give Peter this supernatural assistance? v. 10 _____
8. What did Rhoda forget to do when she heard Peter's voice? _____
9. What did the wicked Herod do when he discovered Peter's escape? v. 19 _____

The Bible record follows this man Herod to another city where his wicked heart is further revealed. Herod, in his ruthless killings and persecutions, had become boastful and proud. Finally, Herod was stricken by God because his wickedness had led him to such depravity.

10. How did Herod present himself to the people? v. 21 _____

11. What did the people say about Herod? v. 22 _____

12. How did the Lord finally deal with the wicked King Herod? _____

13. What always seemed to happen as a result of persecution? v. 24 _____

The study of the book of Acts has been divided into two parts. Part I deals with the activities of all the Lord's disciples in establishing the Church of Jesus Christ. In Part II you will discover that the Holy Spirit focuses upon the apostle Paul and his missionary journeys. You are encouraged to continue your study in the book of Acts in order that the entire ministry of the church will be made real to your own heart. We are all called to fulfill the Great Commission: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

I have answered all questions to the best of my ability.

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____