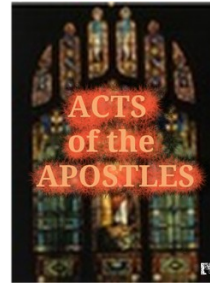


Ways to do the church-wide Acts Bible Study

1. Use this insert by yourself or with a partner.
 - Commit to spending 1 hour each week
 - Consider partnering with someone to whom you are not related
2. Form a small group to discuss the questions together
3. Come to the retreat on Saturday, January 30 from 9-3 and watch the Bible on video and talk about it with others. Lunch included.
4. Use the online Bible Study at www.StPetersSaints.com
 - Find the Practicing our Faith page and then click on Reading the Bible

Pathways for Faith
www.StPetersSaints.com



DISCOVERING OUR MISSION CHURCH-WIDE STUDY OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES Insert #6 Jerusalem accepts the Gentile mission and Herod's plans are thwarted

The experience of Pentecost happened to Gentile believers in Caesarea and Peter baptized them in the name of Jesus. The witnesses to this event included Jewish believers from Jerusalem. But when Peter returned to Jerusalem, the church headquarters, to report on this marvelous development in the Gospel, those who still believed that only Jews could be saved criticized him and he had to tell the story of the Holy Spirit's confirmation to them as well, and they accepted his word.

Meanwhile, the Jews driven out of Jerusalem had moved northward up the coast, preaching the Good News of Jesus to Jews and baptizing new believers at the same time as believers from the island of Cyprus and Cyrene in North Africa had come to Antioch in Syria to preach to the Greek-speaking Gentiles. The apostles in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to confirm them and he sought out Saul (Paul) in Tarsus and brought him to Antioch to preach with him. When a need arose among the church in Jerusalem, the church in Antioch took up a collection for them.

Herod was angry about the growth of the church and killed one of the apostles and imprisoned Peter. But the Holy Spirit freed him and the witness of the church continued to bring many to faith in Jesus. Herod went up to Caesarea to discipline people coming to faith along the northern coast, but was struck dead.

- When the Holy Spirit is at work, there is no stopping it!
- Keep telling the story to whomever will listen. God creates faith in those who hear the story of Jesus
- Those who believe keep learning and growing in faith

Week 6
STUDY GUIDE

Read: Acts chapters 11-12

For Reflection:

1. Why did Peter go against the tradition that only Jews could be saved?
2. How did he know that his actions were of God?
3. On what basis could the believers in Jerusalem trust his story?
4. Who besides the apostles were involved in growing the church?
5. Why did the church in Jerusalem send Barnabas up to Antioch??
6. How was Saul pulled back into Gospel ministry after being sent away from Jerusalem?
7. How was the special offering in Antioch connected to the Gospel?
8. How might it be said that Herod's actions toward James and Peter are a bit of déjà vu?
9. What does the story of Peter's arrest and jailhouse rescue imply about what Herod's intentions were for him?
10. What did God have in store for Herod?

Go Deeper:

1. How do we respond to the people God calls into his church?
2. How do we determine if a course of action is of God or of human design?
3. How do we know the Holy Spirit is at work in people's lives?
4. How is financial giving a response to the Gospel?
5. What encouragement do we get from Peter's jail experience?
6. What warning is given to us through Herod's fate?
7. What does this Word suggest for the life of St. Peter's

For Further Study go to www.StPetersSaints.com

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Acts Chapters 11-12

Write your responses to the following questions and tear off this page and leave it in the Response Box at church, OR leave them on the feedback page of the Pathways for Faith website, OR e-mail them to Chris Kann qcic5131@comcast.net.

1. What is God doing in these two chapters?
2. What are people doing in these two chapters? (sometimes at odds with God)
3. What lessons are here for the church in that day?
4. What lessons are here for the church today?
5. What is this telling us about a possible vision purpose for our ministry?