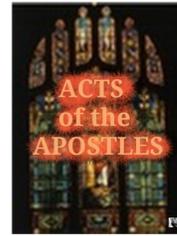


Ways to do the church-wide Acts Bible Study

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 9-1 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 #1 Jesus goes to Heaven and the Holy Spirit comes to the disciples

Luke, a companion of the apostle Paul, wrote Acts as the sequel to his Gospel of Luke. It picks up where the Gospel left off — with the Ascension of Jesus after he commissioned the apostles to spread his message abroad.

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of how the Twelve and Paul were clothed with the Holy Spirit and empowered to carry out what Jesus had asked of them.

- We hear how thousands came to faith through the apostles' preaching and were baptized with water and the Holy Spirit to share a new life in Christ.
- Acts tells the story of the church as the Gospel spread from place to place and the church expanded in numbers and ministry.
- We hear how God's purpose to include Gentiles as well as Jews in his plan of salvation comes to be fulfilled as Paul goes into Gentile nations and even as far as Rome to speak for faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.
- The Acts of the Apostles helps us to see how following Jesus claims the whole life of the believer and turns the status quo on its ear. Faith stakes a claim on our time, our wallets, our social standing, our priorities. We learn how difficult that was even in the beginning (and continues to be).

Above all, Acts shows us how the Holy Spirit works in the church among believers, pushing and pulling, prodding and permitting, empowering and guiding.

**Week 1
STUDY GUIDE**

Read: Acts chapters 1 and 2

For Reflection:

1. What did the risen Jesus give to his chosen apostles before he was taken up to the Father?
2. What were the apostles supposed to do? By what authority? Look up Luke 24:46-49 and Acts 1:8 to find out the specifics.
3. What were the qualifications to be among the Twelve?
4. Acts 2 begins where chapter 1 left off. Where were the apostles and who was with them? (Acts 1:12-14)
5. What do we call the day described in Acts 2?
6. The Holy Spirit came upon the church with signs that used all the senses. One of the signs was speaking in tongues. What did the apostles say? How does that related to their commission?
7. What did Peter say that spurred some to be baptized? (Acts 2:32-36)
8. How did the first Christians spend their time? (Acts 2:42-47)

Go Deeper:

1. How do you see the Holy Spirit working in the church today?
2. How does our congregation fulfill the Lord's commission to us to be witnesses to the mighty acts of God in raising Jesus from the dead?
3. How do you respond to the Good News that Jesus is risen?
4. What are some ways our church can spread the Good News of Jesus beyond our building?
5. 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 1 & 2

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?