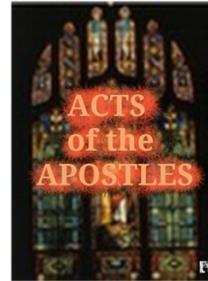


Ways to do the church-wide Acts Bible Study

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 #2

The power and impact of the Gospel

As the apostles begin to do the mission Jesus had given them in the power of the Holy Spirit, things heat up and start popping.

The healing of a lame beggar sets off a chain of events that both furthers the spread of the Gospel and puts the apostles in conflict with the religious establishment.

The church's life begins to be defined as counter-cultural to the status quo. The community of faith in Jesus solidifies according to what he taught, most visibly in the daily prayer and Eucharist and in that members of the Christian community had all things in common and cared for those in need from the resources they shared.

The expansion of the Good News of Jesus takes shape as Luke portrayed it:

- First to the Jews in Jerusalem
- Second to the Gentiles in Jerusalem
- Then to the ends of the earth

The work of the Holy Spirit in preaching and signs gives hearers three things:

1. Reason to believe in God
2. Knowledge of the deadly situation they are currently in, and
3. The pathway to share in the eternal life of Jesus

Week 2
STUDY GUIDE

Read: Acts chapters 3 and 4

For Reflection:

1. By what power did Peter and John heal the lame beggar?
2. How did the man's life change as a result?

3. What did he wind up doing in Acts 4:14?
4. How did the healing help to spread the Gospel?
5. How did Peter motivate the Jews to believe in Jesus? Was the preaching effective?
6. Why did the religious leaders arrest the apostles?
7. Why weren't the apostles intimidated by them?
8. How did the apostles respond to their release?
9. How does Acts describe the church at the end of chapter 4?

Go Deeper:

1. How do you see the Holy Spirit empowering believers to speak truth to power in our day?
2. What signs and wonders can we see in our world that we could proclaim as the work of God who is worthy of trust?
3. What could God accomplish because the church was "of one heart and soul" and no one insisted on his or her own way?
4. What are the benefits of the community of faith having all things in common?
5. How does putting God's Word into action have an impact on our world today?
6. 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 3 & 4

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?