

THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY

AGTS



KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY FIRST EDITION 2020 VER.26

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Acts

Jesus returns to the Father, the Holy Spirit comes to the church, and the gospel of Jesus spreads throughout the world. The start and early history of the church.

Author: Luke

In Acts – Jesus is the Baptizer in the Spirit

Acts 10:15

".....what God has made clean, call not thou un-clean"

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TEACHER: 28 CHAPTERS. The book of Acts starts with Luke talking about the Gospel of Luke which he previously wrote to Theophilus concerning the life and ministry of Jesus. In verse 3 he talks about how Jesus behaved after His resurrection up to His returning to Heaven including some of His final instructions before parting.

Below is a map of the places discussed in Acts.



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STUDENT:

CH.1

Dear Theophilus:

In my first book I wrote about all the things that Jesus did and taught from the time he began his work ²until the day he was taken up to heaven. Before he was taken up, he gave instructions by the power of the Holy Spirit to the men he had chosen as his apostles. ³For forty days after his death he appeared to them many times in ways that proved beyond doubt that he was alive. They saw him, and he talked with them about the Kingdom of God. ⁴And when they came together, he gave them this order: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift I told you about, the gift my Father promised. ⁵John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Jesus talked about the importance of The Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

STUDENT:

⁶ When the apostles met together with Jesus, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time give the Kingdom back to Israel?"

⁷ Jesus said to them, "The times and occasions are set by my Father's own authority, and it is not for you to know when they will be. ⁸ But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ After saying this, he was taken up to heaven as they watched him, and a cloud hid him from their sight. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Then as they were standing there, they had a visitation from 2 angels.

STUDENT:

¹⁰ They still had their eyes fixed on the sky as he went away, when two men dressed in white suddenly stood beside them ¹¹ and said, "Galileans, why are you standing there looking up at the sky? This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven." (GNT)

TEACHER:

They then go from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem (about ½ mile), to the Upper Room.

STUDENT:

¹³ They entered the city and went up to the room where they were staying: Peter, John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Patriot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They gathered frequently to pray as a group, together with the women and with Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brothers. (GNT)

TEACHER:

They go into the Upper Room, and cast lots to replace the office vacated by Judas Iscariot with Matthias.

The book of Proverbs assures us that "the lot is cast ('goral') into the lap (of the diviner); but the decision ('mishpat') is from the Lord" (16:33).

CH. 2

STUDENT:

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. ² Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak. (GNT)

TEACHER:

The Feast of Weeks/Pentecost celebrates God's provisions for life. This feast is observed during the time of the wheat harvest. The word Pentecost is from the Greek "Pentekoste" meaning fiftieth, signifying the 50th day after the Passover. So at the 1st Passover you have Moses and the Israelites in Egypt eating the Passover lamb ready to leave Egypt, with the blood over the door post, 50 days later, The Feast of Weeks. 7 weeks and 1 day. Now we celebrate Jesus the Passover Lamb on Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter, and 50 days later, Pentecost.

In Leviticus 23:15-16 God told the Jews:

"You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete Sabbaths. You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the Lord." KJV

A new grain offering was to be offered in the Feast of Weeks:

"You shall bring in from your dwelling places two loaves of bread for a wave offering, made of two-tenths of an ephah; they shall be of a fine flour, baked with leaven as firstfruits to the Lord." KJV

Leaven is now introduced to the bread in place of the unleavened bread of the former feasts. But why? Messianic rabbis, (*Jewish Rabbi's who believe Jesus is God*), teach a beautiful response to this question.

While the Passover is referring to God and the purging of sin, the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost refers to God's people who receive the law and the Spirit. We still have sin in our lives until we receive our new glorified bodies at the Rapture.

We read in 1 Corinthians 10:17:

"Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread." KJV

The two loaves mentioned in Leviticus 23:17 picture the Jew and the Gentile, but we are now one body, "one loaf."

The traditional site of the Upper Room. The site of the Last Supper and Pentecost.



STUDENT:

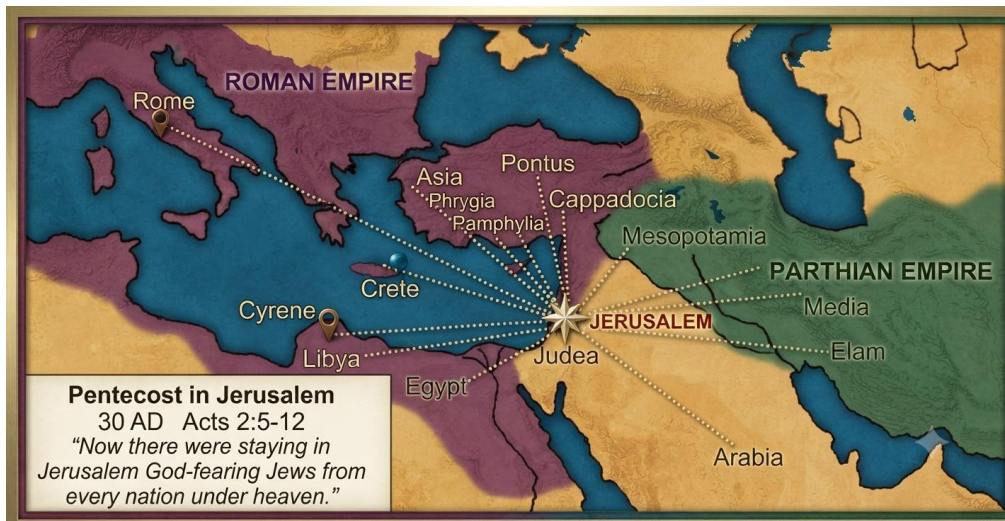
⁵ There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world. ⁶ When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages. ⁷ In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, “These people who are talking like this are Galileans! ⁸ How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages? ⁹ We are from Parthia, Media, and Elam; from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia; from Pontus and Asia, (GNT)

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STUDENT:

¹⁰ from Phrygia and Pamphylia, from Egypt and the regions of Libya near Cyrene. Some of us are from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and Gentiles converted to Judaism, and some of us are from Crete and Arabia—yet all of us hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things that God has done!” ¹² Amazed and confused, they kept asking each other, “What does this mean?”

¹³ But others made fun of the believers, saying, “These people are drunk!” (GNT)



TEACHER:

Can anyone think of another time this happened, where someone was praying and religious people thought they were drunk? Hannah. She was praying for a son (Samuel) and Eli thought she was drunk in 1 Sam. 1.

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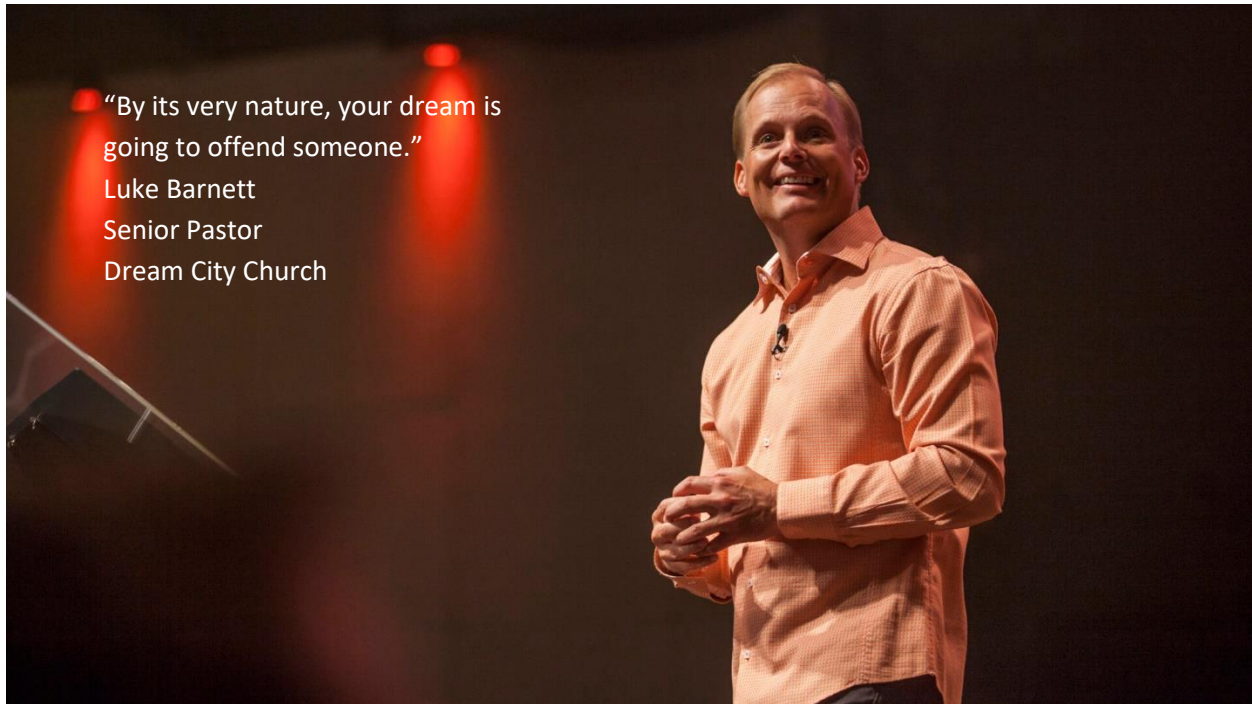
STUDENT:

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the other eleven apostles and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, listen to me and let me tell you what this means. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose; it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ Instead, this is what the prophet Joel spoke about: (GNT)

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STUDENT:

¹⁷ ‘This is what I will do in the last days, God says: I will pour out my Spirit on everyone. Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message; your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams. ¹⁸ Yes, even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will proclaim my message. (GNT)



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STUDENT:

- ¹⁹ I will perform miracles in the sky above and wonders on the earth below.
There will be blood, fire, and thick smoke;
²⁰ the sun will be darkened, and the moon will turn red as blood,
before the great and glorious Day of the Lord comes.
²¹ And then, whoever calls out to the Lord for help will be saved.' (GNT)
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STUDENT:

²² "Listen to these words, fellow Israelites! Jesus of Nazareth was a man whose divine authority was clearly proven to you by all the miracles and wonders which God performed through him. You yourselves know this, for it happened here among you. ²³ In accordance with his own plan God had already decided that Jesus would be handed over to you; and you killed him by letting sinful men crucify him. ²⁴ But God raised him from death, setting him free from its power, because it was impossible that death should hold him prisoner. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Peter then quotes David

³¹ David saw what God was going to do in the future, and so he spoke about the resurrection of the Messiah when he said, (GNT)

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STUDENT:

‘He was not abandoned in the world of the dead;
his body did not rot in the grave.’

³² God has raised this very Jesus from death, and we are all witnesses to this fact.

³³ He has been raised to the right side of God, his Father, and has received from him the Holy Spirit, as he had promised. What you now see and hear is his gift that he has poured out on us. ³⁴ For it was not David who went up into heaven; rather he said,

‘The Lord said to my Lord:
Sit here at my right side

³⁵ until I put your enemies as a footstool under your feet.’ (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Peter continues.

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STUDENT:

³⁶ “All the people of Israel, then, are to know for sure that this Jesus, whom you crucified, is the one that God has made Lord and Messiah!”

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were deeply troubled and said to Peter and the other apostles, “What shall we do, brothers?”

³⁸ Peter said to them, “Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God's gift, the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For God's promise was made to you and your children, and to all who are far away—all whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” (GNT)

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STUDENT:

⁴⁰ Peter made his appeal to them and with many other words he urged them, saying, “Save yourselves from the punishment coming on this wicked people!” ⁴¹ Many of them believed his message and were baptized, and about three thousand people were added to the group that day. ⁴² They spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the fellowship meals and the prayers. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

⁴³ Many miracles and wonders were being done through the apostles, and everyone was filled with awe. ⁴⁴ All the believers continued together in close fellowship and shared their belongings with one another. ⁴⁵ They would sell their property and possessions, and distribute the money among all, according to what each one needed. ⁴⁶ Day after day they met as a group in the Temple, and they had their meals together in their homes, eating with glad and humble hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God, and enjoying the good will of all the people. And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

So now the Church is planted, established and running in Jerusalem. In chapter 3 Peter and John go to the temple and heal a lame man paralyzed from birth and they all walk into the temple together with the lame man dancing and praising God which starts attracting attention. The lame man had spent his entire life at that gate, and everyone knew him and they were amazed. As the people gathered to see Peter has an altar call.

CH. 3

STUDENT:

¹¹ As the man held on to Peter and John in Solomon's Porch, as it was called, the people were amazed and ran to them. ¹² When Peter saw the people, he said to them, "Fellow Israelites, why are you surprised at this, and why do you stare at us? Do you think that it was by means of our own power or godliness that we made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has given divine glory to his Servant Jesus. But you handed him over to the authorities, and you rejected him in Pilate's presence, even after Pilate had decided to set him free. ¹⁴ He was holy and good, but you rejected him, and instead you asked Pilate to do you the favor of turning loose a murderer. ¹⁵ You killed the one who leads to life, but God raised him from death—and we are witnesses to this. ¹⁶ It was the power of his name that gave strength to this lame man. What you see and know was done by faith in his name; it was faith in Jesus that has made him well, as you can all see. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

¹⁷ "And now, my friends, I know that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was due to your ignorance. ¹⁸ God announced long ago through all the prophets that his Messiah had to suffer; and he made it come true in this way. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that he will forgive your sins. If you do, ²⁰ times of spiritual strength will come from the Lord, and he will send Jesus, who is the Messiah he has already chosen for you. ²¹ He must remain in heaven until the time comes for all things to be made new, as God announced through his holy prophets of long ago. ²² For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will send you a prophet, just as he sent me, and he will be one of your own people. You are to obey everything that he tells you to do. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

²³ Anyone who does not obey that prophet shall be separated from God's people and destroyed.' ²⁴ And all the prophets who had a message, including Samuel and those who came after him, also announced what has been happening these days. ²⁵ The promises of God through his prophets are for you, and you share in the covenant which God made with your ancestors. As he said to Abraham, 'Through your descendants I will bless all the people on earth.' ²⁶ And so God chose his Servant and sent him to you first, to bless you by making every one of you turn away from your wicked ways." (GNT)

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CH. 4

TEACHER:

Chapter 4 finds the disciples before the council because they were teaching the after-life. The Sadducees don't believe in life after death, and if Jesus rose from the dead, they would be proven wrong. So the next day the Council questions them.

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STUDENT:

⁵ The next day the Jewish leaders, the elders, and the teachers of the Law gathered in Jerusalem. ⁶ They met with the High Priest Annas and with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and the others who belonged to the High Priest's family. ⁷ They made the apostles stand before them and asked them, "How did you do this? What power do you have or whose name did you use?" (GNT)

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STUDENT:

⁸ Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, answered them, “Leaders of the people and elders: ⁹ if we are being questioned today about the good deed done to the lame man and how he was healed, ¹⁰ then you should all know, and all the people of Israel should know, that this man stands here before you completely well through the power of the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth—whom you crucified and whom God raised from death. ¹¹ Jesus is the one of whom the scripture says,
‘The stone that you the builders despised turned out to be the most important of all.’
¹² Salvation is to be found through him alone; in all the world there is no one else whom God has given who can save us.” (GNT)

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STUDENT:

¹³ The members of the Council were amazed to see how bold Peter and John were and to learn that they were ordinary men of no education. They realized then that they had been companions of Jesus. ¹⁴ But there was nothing that they could say, because they saw the man who had been healed standing there with Peter and John. ¹⁵ So they told them to leave the Council room, and then they started discussing among themselves. ¹⁶ “What shall we do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone in Jerusalem knows that this extraordinary miracle has been performed by them, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But to keep this matter from spreading any further among the people, let us warn these men never again to speak to anyone in the name of Jesus.” (GNT)

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STUDENT:

¹⁸ So they called them back in and told them that under no condition were they to speak or to teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, “You yourselves judge which is right in God's sight—to obey you or to obey God. ²⁰ For we cannot stop speaking of what we ourselves have seen and heard.” ²¹ So the Council warned them even more strongly and then set them free. They saw that it was impossible to punish them, because the people were all praising God for what had happened. ²² The man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed was over forty years old. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Ch. 4 ends with Barnabas selling a field and donating to the cause. On to Chapter 5.

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CH. 5

STUDENT:

But there was a man named Ananias, who with his wife Sapphira sold some property that belonged to them. ² But with his wife's agreement he kept part of the money for himself and turned the rest over to the apostles. ³ Peter said to him, “Ananias, why did you let Satan take control of you and make you lie to the Holy Spirit by keeping part of the money you received for the property? ⁴ Before you sold the property, it belonged to you; and after you sold it, the money was yours. Why, then, did you decide to do such a thing? You have not lied to people—you have lied to God!” ⁵ As soon as Ananias heard this, he fell down dead; and all who heard about it were terrified. ⁶ The young men came in, wrapped up his body, carried him out, and buried him.

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TEACHER:

Did you catch that? The Deity of the Holy Spirit. Lying to the Holy Spirit, is Lying to God.

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STUDENT:

⁷ About three hours later his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. ⁸ Peter asked her, “Tell me, was this the full amount you and your husband received for your property?” “Yes,” she answered, “the full amount.”

⁹ So Peter said to her, “Why did you and your husband decide to put the Lord's Spirit to the test? The men who buried your husband are at the door right now, and they will carry you out too!” ¹⁰ At once she fell down at his feet and died. The young men came in and saw that she was dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ The whole church and all the others who heard of this were terrified. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 5 continues with miracles and wonders to the extent that people were laying the sick in the street by Solomon's Porch so that Peter's shadow might fall on them, and it says in verse 16 “they all were healed.”

Solomon's Porch today
Each pillar is 6 feet thick,
and 27 feet tall.
On top of these pillars stood
Eight foot brass capitals shaped
like lilies.



The elders became very jealous and threw them in jail. That night the angel of the Lord opened the gates and freed them and told them to preach in the Temple, they obeyed, and were again arrested. They told them not to preach in Jesus name and this is what they said.

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STUDENT:

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles answered, “We must obey God, not men. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from death, after you had killed him by nailing him to a cross. ³¹ God raised him to his right side as Leader and Savior, to give the people of Israel the opportunity to repent and have their sins forgiven. ³² We are witnesses to these things—we and the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to those who obey him.” (GNT)

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TEACHER: The Council wanted to put them to death in verse 33. But Gamaliel (a respected member on the Council) counseled them to hold off, reasoning that if it was from man, it wouldn't amount to much, and if it was not from man, they might be fighting God. So the Council had them flogged and released, telling them to stop preaching Jesus.

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STUDENT:

The Council followed Gamaliel's advice. ⁴⁰ They called the apostles in, had them whipped, and ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus; and then they set them free. ⁴¹ As the apostles left the Council, they were happy, because God had considered them worthy to suffer disgrace for the sake of Jesus. ⁴² And every day in the Temple and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News about Jesus the Messiah. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

As the church grew there were some divisions brewing, so the disciples decided to assemble a board of deacons. This solved the problems and the church continued to grow. In chapter 6 we meet one of these great men, Stephen.

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STUDENT:

⁸Stephen, a man richly blessed by God and full of power, performed great miracles and wonders among the people. ⁹But he was opposed by some men who were members of the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), which had Jews from Cyrene and Alexandria. They and other Jews from the provinces of Cilicia and Asia started arguing with Stephen. ¹⁰But the Spirit gave Stephen such wisdom that when he spoke, they could not refute him. ¹¹So they bribed some men to say, "We heard him speaking against Moses and against God!" (GNT)

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STUDENT:

¹²In this way they stirred up the people, the elders, and the teachers of the Law. They seized Stephen and took him before the Council. ¹³Then they brought in some men to tell lies about him. "This man," they said, "is always talking against our sacred Temple and the Law of Moses. ¹⁴We heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will tear down the Temple and change all the customs which have come down to us from Moses!" ¹⁵All those sitting in the Council fixed their eyes on Stephen and saw that his face looked like the face of an angel. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 7 tells the story of Stephens's sermon/defense to the Council, and then his stoning. Stephen should hold a special place in our hearts as he is the 1st martyr of the church. I was wanting to include here the list in order of the 1st century martyrs but the partial list from Wikipedia is 68 pages long.

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CH. 7

STUDENT:

⁵⁴As the members of the Council listened to Stephen, they became furious and ground their teeth at him in anger. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw God's glory and Jesus standing at the right side of God. ⁵⁶"Look!" he said. "I see heaven opened and the Son of Man standing at the right side of God!" ⁵⁷With a loud cry the Council members covered their ears with their hands. Then they all rushed at him at once, ⁵⁸threw him out of the city, and stoned him. The witnesses left their cloaks in the care of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹They kept on stoning Stephen as he called out to the Lord, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" ⁶⁰He knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord! Do not remember this sin against them!" He said this and died. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

In chapter 8 we meet arguably the most important person in the New Testament besides Jesus. Saul of Tarsus. Not making a great 1st impression, Saul was present at the Stoning of Stephen, and approved of the murder. He then began from that day to persecute the Jerusalem church. He literally was going house to house dragging out men and women and throwing them in jail. As a result of this persecution, the believers were scattered in every direction, preaching the Gospel message.

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CH. 8

STUDENT:

⁴The believers who were scattered went everywhere, preaching the message. ⁵Philip went to the principal city in Samaria and preached the Messiah to the people there. ⁶The crowds paid close attention to what Philip said, as they listened to him and saw the miracles that he performed. ⁷Evil spirits came out from many people with a loud cry, and many paralyzed and lame people were healed. ⁸So there was great joy in that city. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

In Samaria, a magician named Simon believed and was baptized. Peter and John came by invitation and they were baptized in the Holy Spirit. When Simon saw that The Holy Spirit was given by the laying on of hands, he offered to pay them so he would have this same ability to give the Holy Spirit as he lay hands on people.

STUDENT:

¹⁸ Simon saw that the Spirit had been given to the believers when the apostles placed their hands on them. So he offered money to Peter and John, ¹⁹ and said, "Give this power to me too, so that anyone I place my hands on will receive the Holy Spirit."

²⁰ But Peter answered him, "May you and your money go to hell, for thinking that you can buy God's gift with money! ²¹ You have no part or share in our work, because your heart is not right in God's sight. ²² Repent, then, of this evil plan of yours, and pray to the Lord that he will forgive you for thinking such a thing as this. ²³ For I see that you are full of bitter envy and are a prisoner of sin." (GNT)

TEACHER:

Another nail in the OSAS doctrine. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit the Bible says Simon is saved and baptized, and 2 minutes later Peter says "Go to Hell." As this was happening in Samaria, an Angel of God calls Philip to go towards Gaza. As he is on the way this happens.

STUDENT:

Now an Ethiopian eunuch, who was an important official in charge of the treasury of the queen of Ethiopia, was on his way home. He had been to Jerusalem to worship God and was going back home in his carriage. As he rode along, he was reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to that carriage and stay close to it." ³⁰ Philip ran over and heard him reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. He asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ The official replied, "How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?" And he invited Philip to climb up and sit in the carriage with him. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Philip witnesses to him, leads him to Christ, baptizes him and vanishes. It went like this.

STUDENT:

"Here is some water. What is to keep me from being baptized?"

³⁸ The official ordered the carriage to stop, and both Philip and the official went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away. The official did not see him again, but continued on his way, full of joy. ⁴⁰ Philip found himself in Azotus; he went on to Caesarea, and on the way he preached the Good News in every town. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Meanwhile Saul kept up his violent threats and persecution of the church. He gets a letter drafted from the High Priest granting authority to arrest believers and return them for trials in Jerusalem. But God had a different plan for him.

CH. 9

STUDENT:

³ As Saul was coming near the city of Damascus, suddenly a light from the sky flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?"

⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" he asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you persecute," the voice said. ⁶ "But get up and go into the city, where you will be told what you must do."

⁷ The men who were traveling with Saul had stopped, not saying a word; they heard the voice but could not see anyone.

⁸ Saul got up from the ground and opened his eyes, but could not see a thing. So they took him by the hand and led him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was not able to see, and during that time he did not eat or drink anything. (GNT)



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TEACHER:

As this was happening God calls to Ananias to witness to Saul but he was afraid because of Saul's reputation for murder and arresting believers. But God assures him and Ananias converts Saul.

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STUDENT:

¹⁷ So Ananias went, entered the house where Saul was, and placed his hands on him. "Brother Saul," he said, "the Lord has sent me—Jesus himself, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here. He sent me so that you might see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ At once something like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he was able to see again. He stood up and was baptized; ¹⁹ and after he had eaten, his strength came back. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Saul immediately starts to preach Jesus, but he flees Damascus to prevent a murder plot against him. In Jerusalem the disciples were afraid of him, but Barnabas interceded for him.

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STUDENT:

²⁷ Then Barnabas came to his help and took him to the apostles. He explained to them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road and that the Lord had spoken to him. He also told them how boldly Saul had preached in the name of Jesus in Damascus. ²⁸ And so Saul stayed with them and went all over Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ He also talked and disputed with the Greek-speaking Jews, but they tried to kill him. ³⁰ When the believers found out about this, they took Saul to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

³¹ And so it was that the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had a time of peace. Through the help of the Holy Spirit it was strengthened and grew in numbers, as it lived in reverence for the Lord. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Peter travelled extensively, doing great miracles, raising the dead and healing the sick, but his ministry was by and large to the Jews. Now in Caesarea there was a Roman captain named Cornelius who loved God and the Jewish people. He did a lot of charity work and talked constantly to God. One day God talked back.

CH. 10

STUDENT:

³ It was about three o'clock one afternoon when he had a vision, in which he clearly saw an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius!"

⁴ He stared at the angel in fear and said, "What is it, sir?"

The angel answered, "God is pleased with your prayers and works of charity, and is ready to answer you. ⁵ And now send some men to Joppa for a certain man whose full name is Simon Peter. ⁶ He is a guest in the home of a tanner of leather named Simon, who lives by the sea." ⁷ Then the angel went away, and Cornelius called two of his house servants and a soldier, a religious man who was one of his personal attendants. ⁸ He told them what had happened and sent them off to Joppa. (GNT)

TEACHER:

As they were traveling, Peter was praying, and had a vision.

STUDENT:

Peter went up on the roof of the house about noon in order to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat; while the food was being prepared, he had a vision. ¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something coming down that looked like a large sheet being lowered by its four corners to the earth. ¹² In it were all kinds of animals, reptiles, and wild birds. ¹³ A voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat!"

¹⁴ But Peter said, "Certainly not, Lord! I have never eaten anything ritually unclean or defiled."

¹⁵ The voice spoke to him again, "Do not consider anything unclean that God has declared clean." ¹⁶ This happened three times, and then the thing was taken back up into heaven. (GNT)

TEACHER:

While Peter was thinking what this vision meant, he hears the call "is Simon Peter here?" God tells him to go with them to Cornelius' house, and he does. As he ministers to Cornelius he realizes what the vision was all about.

STUDENT:

"I now realize that it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. ³⁵ Those who fear him and do what is right are acceptable to him, no matter what race they belong to. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know of the great event that took place throughout the land of Israel, beginning in Galilee after John preached his message of baptism. ³⁸ You know about Jesus of Nazareth and how God poured out on him the Holy Spirit and power. He went everywhere, doing good and healing all who were under the power of the Devil, for God was with him. (GNT)

STUDENT:

³⁹ We are witnesses of everything that he did in the land of Israel and in Jerusalem. Then they put him to death by nailing him to a cross. ⁴⁰ But God raised him from death three days later and caused him to appear, ⁴¹ not to everyone, but only to the witnesses that God had already chosen, that is, to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from death. ⁴² And he commanded us to preach the gospel to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God has appointed judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets spoke about him, saying that all who believe in him will have their sins forgiven through the power of his name." (GNT)

TEACHER:

Then the Gentiles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the evidence being, “they spoke in strange tongues.” Languages that they didn’t learn on their own, or in the natural course of life.

=====

STUDENT:

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who were listening to his message. ⁴⁵ The Jewish believers who had come from Joppa with Peter were amazed that God had poured out his gift of the Holy Spirit on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in strange tongues and praising God's greatness. Peter spoke up: ⁴⁷ “These people have received the Holy Spirit, just as we also did. Can anyone, then, stop them from being baptized with water?” ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay with them for a few days. (GNT)

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CH. 11

TEACHER:

This passage is the strongest argument for “speaking in tongues” as being the initial physical evidence for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. In Chapter 11 Peter shares what happened with the Gentiles back in Jerusalem and God is praised. The Gospel spreads to the Gentiles as a result, and Barnabas calls Saul to help with the work. It was here in Antioch with Saul and Barnabas that we were 1st called Christians. In chapter 12 Herod joins in the persecution of the church by killing James by the sword, and arresting Peter and holding him for a public trial that he planned to hold after the Passover.

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CH. 12

STUDENT:

⁶ The night before Herod was going to bring him out to the people, Peter was sleeping between two guards. He was tied with two chains, and there were guards on duty at the prison gate. ⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord stood there, and a light shone in the cell. The angel shook Peter by the shoulder, woke him up, and said, “Hurry! Get up!” At once the chains fell off Peter's hands. ⁸ Then the angel said, “Tighten your belt and put on your sandals.” Peter did so, and the angel said, “Put your cloak around you and come with me.” ⁹ Peter followed him out of the prison, not knowing, however, if what the angel was doing was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ They passed by the first guard station and then the second, and came at last to the iron gate that opens into the city. The gate opened for them by itself, and they went out. They walked down a street, and suddenly the angel left Peter. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

He went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. ¹³ Peter knocked at the outside door, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer it. ¹⁴ She recognized Peter's voice and was so happy that she ran back in without opening the door, and announced that Peter was standing outside. ¹⁵ “You are crazy!” they told her. But she insisted that it was true. So they answered, “It is his angel.”

¹⁶ Meanwhile Peter kept on knocking. At last they opened the door, and when they saw him, they were amazed. ¹⁷ He motioned with his hand for them to be quiet, and he explained to them how the Lord had brought him out of prison. “Tell this to James and the rest of the believers,” he said; then he left and went somewhere else.

¹⁸ When morning came, there was a tremendous confusion among the guards—what had happened to Peter? ¹⁹ Herod gave orders to search for him, but they could not find him. So he had the guards questioned and ordered them put to death. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Not long after, in the end of chapter 12, the angel of the Lord strikes Herod down for not giving honor to God. In chapter 13 Saul and Barnabas are separated and called for the Gentile church. This is also the time Saul is also called Paul. Early on in his ministry Paul and a magician face off.

STUDENT:

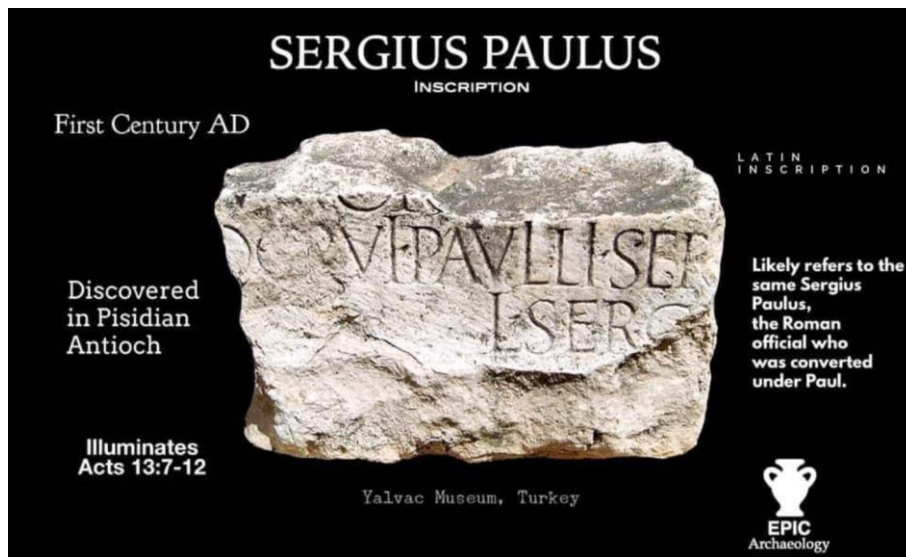
CH. 13

⁶They went all the way across the island to Paphos, where they met a certain magician named Bar-Jesus, a Jew who claimed to be a prophet. ⁷He was a friend of the governor of the island, Sergius Paulus, who was an intelligent man. The governor called Barnabas and Saul before him because he wanted to hear the word of God. ⁸But they were opposed by the magician Elymas (that is his name in Greek), who tried to turn the governor away from the faith. ⁹Then Saul—also known as Paul—was filled with the Holy Spirit; he looked straight at the magician ¹⁰and said, “You son of the Devil! You are the enemy of everything that is good. You are full of all kinds of evil tricks, and you always keep trying to turn the Lord’s truths into lies! ¹¹The Lord’s hand will come down on you now; you will be blind and will not see the light of day for a time.”

At once Elymas felt a dark mist cover his eyes, and he walked around trying to find someone to lead him by the hand. ¹²When the governor saw what had happened, he believed; for he was greatly amazed at the teaching about the Lord. (GNT)

TEACHER:

SERGIVS PAVLVS INSCRIPTION: Discovered in Pisidian Antioch in western Turkey, this Latin inscription bearing the fragmentary name “Sergivs Paullus,” likely refers to the same Sergivs Paulus, a Roman proconsul who was converted by Paul’s preaching in Acts 13:7-12. Other inscriptions discovered from that time indicate the reason why S. Paulus may have held such a high office. One inscription names “Sergivs Paulus” as the official who oversaw the reinforcements along the Tiber in Rome during the reign of Claudius (AD 41-54). In 1912, British archaeologist, Sir William Ramsay discovered another inscription at Antioch mentioning his son, and another inscription bears the name “Sergivs Paulla,” his daughter. This amazing inscriptional evidence, along with additional mention by Roman historian Pliny the Elder of Sergivs Paulus strongly displays that Luke-Acts is a document of the highest historical caliber and trustworthiness.



TEACHER:

Chapter 13 continues with Paul traveling and teaching. In chapter 14, as Paul is teaching, he is stoned, and dragged out of town. Let's read.

STUDENT:

¹⁹ Some Jews came from Antioch in Pisidia and from Iconium; they won the crowds over to their side, stoned Paul and dragged him out of the town, thinking that he was dead. ²⁰ But when the believers gathered around him, he got up and went back into the town. The next day he and Barnabas went to Derbe. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Chapter 14 ends with much traveling missionary work, resting in Antioch again. When you study this at home, refer to the maps included at the end of your hand-outs.

CH. 14

STUDENT:

²⁷ When they arrived in Antioch, they gathered the people of the church together and told them about all that God had done with them and how he had opened the way for the Gentiles to believe. ²⁸ And they stayed a long time there with the believers. (GNT)

TEACHER:

As the Gospel spreads throughout the world, some men came to Antioch and started preaching circumcision to the Gentile converts. Paul and Barnabas argued fiercely with them, and it was decided they should go to Jerusalem.

CH. 15

STUDENT:

⁴ When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church, the apostles, and the elders, to whom they told all that God had done through them. ⁵ But some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and told to obey the Law of Moses."

⁶ The apostles and the elders met together to consider this question. ⁷ After a long debate Peter stood up and said, "My friends, you know that a long time ago God chose me from among you to preach the Good News to the Gentiles, so that they could hear and believe. (GNT)

STUDENT:

⁸ And God, who knows the thoughts of everyone, showed his approval of the Gentiles by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he had to us. ⁹ He made no difference between us and them; he forgave their sins because they believed. ¹⁰ So then, why do you now want to put God to the test by laying a load on the backs of the believers which neither our ancestors nor we ourselves were able to carry? ¹¹ No! We believe and are saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are." (GNT)

TEACHERS:

The end result was a letter from Jerusalem telling them to refrain from adultery, eating ritually unclean food and drinking blood etc. Paul and Barnabas disagreed over taking John Mark with them so they went their separate ways, both serving God and serving the churches. In chapter 16 Timothy joins Paul and Silas as they travel. Paul casts a demon out of a young girl who was used for profit by her owners. As a result they were whipped and beaten by Roman officials, and thrown in jail. Then around midnight.

CH. 16

STUDENT:

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was a violent earthquake, which shook the prison to its foundations. At once all the doors opened, and the chains fell off all the prisoners. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he thought that the prisoners had escaped; so he pulled out his sword and was about to kill himself. ²⁸ But Paul shouted at the top of his voice, "Don't harm yourself We are all here!"

²⁹ The jailer called for a light, rushed in, and fell trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he led them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (GNT)

STUDENT:

³¹ They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your family."

³² Then they preached the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in the house.

³³ At that very hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; and he and all his family were baptized at once. ³⁴ Then he took Paul and Silas up into his house and gave them some food to eat. He and his family were filled with joy, because they now believed in God.

³⁵ The next morning the Roman authorities sent police officers with the order, "Let those men go." (GNT)

TEACHER:

End of story? Not quite.

STUDENT:

³⁶ So the jailer told Paul, "The officials have sent an order for you and Silas to be released. You may leave, then, and go in peace." ³⁷ But Paul said to the police officers, "We were not found guilty of any crime, yet they whipped us in public—and we are Roman citizens! Then they threw us in prison. And now they want to send us away secretly? Not at all! The Roman officials themselves must come here and let us out."

³⁸ The police officers reported these words to the Roman officials; and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were afraid. ³⁹ So they went and apologized to them; then they led them out of the prison and asked them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ Paul and Silas left the prison and went to Lydia's house. There they met the believers, spoke words of encouragement to them, and left. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 17 Paul's entourage travels through Thessalonica, Apollonia, and Berea. Paul has a great outreach in Berea.

CH. 17

STUDENT:

¹⁰ As soon as night came, the believers sent Paul and Silas to Berea. When they arrived, they went to the synagogue. ¹¹ The people there were more open-minded than the people in Thessalonica. They listened to the message with great eagerness, and every day they studied the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was really true. ¹² Many of them believed; and many Greek women of high social standing and many Greek men also believed. ¹³ But when the Jews in Thessalonica heard that Paul had preached the word of God in Berea also, they came there and started exciting and stirring up the mobs. ¹⁴ At once the believers sent Paul away to the coast; but both Silas and Timothy stayed in Berea. ¹⁵ The men who were taking Paul went with him as far as Athens and then returned to Berea with instructions from Paul that Silas and Timothy should join him as soon as possible. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Paul then goes to Athens and stands up in the city council and shares the Gospel. In chapter 18 we see Paul's next stop is in Corinth. While there, Paul has a beautiful vision from God encouraging him.

STUDENT:

CH. 18

⁹ One night Paul had a vision in which the Lord said to him, "Do not be afraid, but keep on speaking and do not give up, ¹⁰ for I am with you. No one will be able to harm you, for many in this city are my people." ¹¹ So Paul stayed there for a year and a half, teaching the people the word of God. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Paul returns to Jerusalem, Antioch, Galatia, and Phrygia, strengthening the churches there. Paul then goes to Ephesus and finds some disciples preaching the baptism of John in chapter 19.

CH. 19

STUDENT:

There he found some disciples ² and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" "We have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit," they answered. ³ "Well, then, what kind of baptism did you receive?" Paul asked. "The baptism of John," they answered. ⁴ Paul said, "The baptism of John was for those who turned from their sins; and he told the people of Israel to believe in the one who was coming after him—that is, in Jesus." ⁵ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ Paul placed his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon them; they spoke in strange tongues and also proclaimed God's message. ⁷ They were about twelve men in all. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In Asia Paul has an interesting endorsement. Let's read.

STUDENT:

¹¹ God was performing unusual miracles through Paul. ¹² Even handkerchiefs and aprons he had used were taken to the sick, and their diseases were driven away, and the evil spirits would go out of them. ¹³ Some Jews who traveled around and drove out evil spirits also tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus to do this. They said to the evil spirits, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches." ¹⁴ Seven brothers, who were the sons of a Jewish High Priest named Sceva, were doing this. ¹⁵ But the evil spirit said to them, "I know Jesus, and I know about Paul; but you—who are you?" ¹⁶ The man who had the evil spirit in him attacked them with such violence that he overpowered them all. They ran away from his house, wounded and with their clothes torn off. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In Ephesus, a riot ensues over Paul saying god's made from hands (idols) are not god's at all. He survives the legal battle but moves along none-the-less. He continues traveling, staying a few days, or a few years on occasion. He was leaving Troas for the last time, and on the last day he was speaking until late.

STUDENT:

CH. 20

⁷ On Saturday evening we gathered together for the fellowship meal. Paul spoke to the people and kept on speaking until midnight, since he was going to leave the next day. ⁸ Many lamps were burning in the upstairs room where we were meeting. ⁹ A young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, and as Paul kept on talking, Eutychus got sleepier and sleepier, until he finally went sound asleep and fell from the third story to the ground. When they picked him up, he was dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down and threw himself on him and hugged him. "Don't worry," he said, "he is still alive!"

¹¹ Then he went back upstairs, broke bread, and ate. After talking with them for a long time, even until sunrise, Paul left. ¹² They took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted. (GNT)

TEACHER:

CH. 21
CH. 22

In chapter 21 Paul has his heart set on going to Jerusalem, but no one wants him to go due to the danger. But he answered, "What are you doing, crying like this and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be tied up in Jerusalem but even to die there for the sake of the Lord Jesus." (GNT). Paul does go, and as predicted, is arrested in the Temple. Chapter 22 starts with Paul's testimony including his conversion and his call to preach to the gentiles. When Paul tells them that God is calling gentiles to repentance, they go crazy with hate.

STUDENT:

²¹ 'Go,' the Lord said to me, 'for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'" ²² The people listened to Paul until he said this; but then they started shouting at the top of their voices, "Away with him! Kill him! He's not fit to live!" ²³ They were screaming, waving their clothes, and throwing dust up in the air. ²⁴ The Roman commander ordered his men to take Paul into the fort, and he told them to whip him in order to find out why the Jews were screaming like this against him. ²⁵ But when they had tied him up to be whipped, Paul said to the officer standing there, "Is it lawful for you to whip a Roman citizen who hasn't even been tried for any crime?" (GNT)

STUDENT:

²⁶ When the officer heard this, he went to the commander and asked him, "What are you doing? That man is a Roman citizen!" ²⁷ So the commander went to Paul and asked him, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes," answered Paul. ²⁸ The commander said, "I became one by paying a large amount of money." "But I am one by birth," Paul answered. ²⁹ At once the men who were going to question Paul drew back from him; and the commander was frightened when he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had put him in chains. (GNT)

TEACHER:

FYI how is Paul born in the Greek city of Tarsus, a Roman citizen by birth? His Jewish parents were Roman born. In chapter 23 Paul testifies for himself, and tangles the court in a drama over the resurrection of the dead.

CH. 23
CH. 24

¹⁰ The argument became so violent that the commander was afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces. So he ordered his soldiers to go down into the group, get Paul away from them, and take him into the fort. ¹¹ That night the Lord stood by Paul and said, "Don't be afraid! You have given your witness for me here in Jerusalem, and you must also do the same in Rome." (GNT)

TEACHER:

5 days later Paul is finally before Governor Felix. Felix liked his testimony, but was not converted, and Paul was left in prison for over 2 years. When Felix is replaced by Festus, the Jews try again to get Paul tried in Jerusalem.

CH. 25

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STUDENT:

⁷ When Paul arrived, the Jews who had come from Jerusalem stood around him and started making many serious charges against him, which they were not able to prove. ⁸ But Paul defended himself: "I have done nothing wrong against the Law of the Jews or against the Temple or against the Roman Emperor."

⁹ But Festus wanted to gain favor with the Jews, so he asked Paul, "Would you be willing to go to Jerusalem and be tried on these charges before me there?"

¹⁰ Paul said, "I am standing before the Emperor's own judgment court, where I should be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you yourself well know. (GNT)

=====

STUDENT:

¹¹ If I have broken the law and done something for which I deserve the death penalty, I do not ask to escape it. But if there is no truth in the charges they bring against me, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to the Emperor."

¹² Then Festus, after conferring with his advisers, answered, "You have appealed to the Emperor, so to the Emperor you will go." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

In chapter 26 Paul defends himself before King Agrippa. Paul includes his life and conversion. His testimony is so pure, read what Agrippa says.

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CH. 26

STUDENT:

²⁸ Agrippa said to Paul, "In this short time do you think you will make me a Christian?"

²⁹ "Whether a short time or a long time," Paul answered, "my prayer to God is that you and all the rest of you who are listening to me today might become what I am—except, of course, for these chains!"

³⁰ Then the king, the governor, Bernice, and all the others got up, ³¹ and after leaving they said to each other, "This man has not done anything for which he should die or be put in prison." ³² And Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been released if he had not appealed to the Emperor." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

As Paul has appealed to Caesar, he is put on a ship for Rome. While traveling they come into some bad weather and the ship is in grave danger. Having ignored Paul's earlier advice to stay in Crete, their lives are now in jeopardy.

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CH. 27

STUDENT:

²⁰ For many days we could not see the sun or the stars, and the wind kept on blowing very hard. We finally gave up all hope of being saved.

²¹ After everyone had gone a long time without food, Paul stood before them and said, "You should have listened to me and not have sailed from Crete; then we would have avoided all this damage and loss. ²² But now I beg you, take courage! Not one of you will lose your life; only the ship will be lost. ²³ For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship came to me ²⁴ and said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul! You must stand before the Emperor. And God in his goodness to you has spared the lives of all those who are sailing with you.' ²⁵ So take courage, men! For I trust in God that it will be just as I was told. ²⁶ But we will be driven ashore on some island." (GNT)

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STUDENT:

²⁷ It was the fourteenth night, and we were being driven in the Mediterranean by the storm. About midnight the sailors suspected that we were getting close to land. ²⁸ So they dropped a line with a weight tied to it and found that the water was one hundred and twenty feet deep; a little later they did the same and found that it was ninety feet deep. ²⁹ They were afraid that the ship would go on the rocks, so they lowered four anchors from the back of the ship and prayed for daylight. ³⁰ Then the sailors tried to escape from the ship; they lowered the boat into the water and pretended that they were going to put out some anchors from the front of the ship. ³¹ But Paul said to the army officer and soldiers, "If the sailors don't stay on board, you have no hope of being saved." ³² So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the boat and let it go. (GNT)

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STUDENT:

³⁹ When day came, the sailors did not recognize the coast, but they noticed a bay with a beach and decided that, if possible, they would run the ship aground there. ⁴⁰ So they cut off the anchors and let them sink in the sea, and at the same time they untied the ropes that held the steering oars. Then they raised the sail at the front of the ship so that the wind would blow the ship forward, and we headed for shore. ⁴¹ But the ship hit a sandbank and went aground; the front part of the ship got stuck and could not move, while the back part was being broken to pieces by the violence of the waves.

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STUDENT:

⁴² The soldiers made a plan to kill all the prisoners, in order to keep them from swimming ashore and escaping. ⁴³ But the army officer wanted to save Paul, so he stopped them from doing this. Instead, he ordered everyone who could swim to jump overboard first and swim ashore; ⁴⁴ the rest were to follow, holding on to the planks or to some broken pieces of the ship. And this was how we all got safely ashore.

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TEACHER:

Shipwrecked on Malta, Paul is mistaken for a god.

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CH. 28

STUDENT:

When we were safely ashore, we learned that the island was called Malta. ² The natives there were very friendly to us. It had started to rain and was cold, so they built a fire and made us all welcome. ³ Paul gathered up a bundle of sticks and was putting them on the fire when a snake came out on account of the heat and fastened itself to his hand. ⁴ The natives saw the snake hanging on Paul's hand and said to one another, "This man must be a murderer, but Fate will not let him live, even though he escaped from the sea." ⁵ But Paul shook the snake off into the fire without being harmed at all. ⁶ They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after waiting for a long time and not seeing anything unusual happening to him, they changed their minds and said, "He is a god!" (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Paul prays for some sick people on the island and they are healed. Then after 3 months they sail for Rome. When he arrives many local Christians come to see him and he is greatly encouraged. He makes a final plea with the Jews in Rome to win some to the Lord. Acts closes with Paul's words.....

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STUDENT:

²⁵ He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner *or not* I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

²⁷ He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear *it* again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" (NKJV)

STUDENT:

²⁸ And Paul concluded: "You are to know, then, that God's message of salvation has been sent to the Gentiles. They will listen!" ^{29 - 30} For two years Paul lived in a place he rented for himself, and there he welcomed all who came to see him. ³¹ He preached about the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ, speaking with all boldness and freedom. (GNT)

NEXT LESSON ROMANS

"Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God's gift, the Holy Spirit. For God's promise was made to you and your children, and to all who are far away—all whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Acts 2:38-39

Site of the riot in Ephesus from Acts 19



Ruins from Paul's days in Corinth



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

U P N G O F V B Z L I C N U O C J X V F
L W Q N D Z T P A H H N E C X A O K W R
H N T O N M E E P R U B W J V L Y W L J
B W R I D T I R I P S Y L O H S N U M H
G E O S E M H S P N C A S A A B R N D G
H O R R K X T E S A S A B A N R A B W B
F U K E B I R C O I P N P B N E N J H H
H A M V A R F U Y P O O F P A N G A I D
D V S N O L Y T H O H N S M I S A L E S
P H S O E D I I T I K I A T Z R C S W D
D H M C G H R O O H C R L R L F G X W H
A R G I A A P N M T K D V U Y E H A U H
N F V F M T S E I E P E A T S S Y R A G
P N M M A L T A T A A H T M E T J F E N
Y S C S L A F E D S N N I P A U C I B I
V I S U I L E N R O C A O L B S R A F F
Q L K B E L I E V E R S N N I W C H F M
M E H A L U A A I P D H B I X P A U L A
U I T G A I U S A C R O D E A C O N S K
Z Y Q A U V V G N H R B I E C S R X R J

ACTS
AENEAS
AGABUS
AGRIPPA
ANANIAS
ANNAS
APOSTLE
BARNABAS
BARSABBAS
BELIEVERS
BEREA
CHRISTIANS
CONVERSION
CORNELIUS
COUNCIL
DAMASCUS

DEACONS
DORCAS
ETHIOPIAN
FESTUS
GAIUS
GAMALIEL
HEROD
HOLY SPIRIT
LUKE
MALTA
MARK
MISSIONARY
PAUL
PERSECUTION
PETER
PHILIP

SALVATION
SANHEDRIN
SAPPHIRA
SCATTERED
SILAS
STEPHEN
THEOPHILUS
TIMOTHY
UPPER ROOM

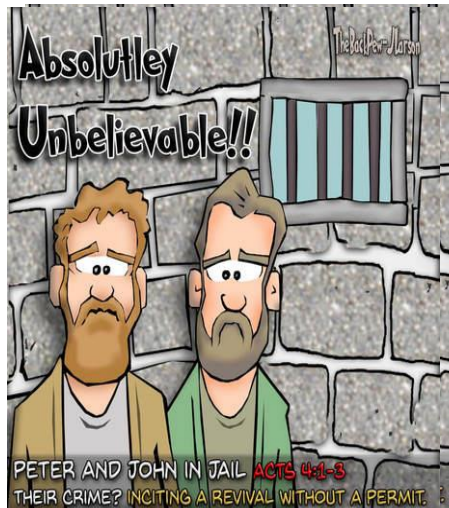




The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

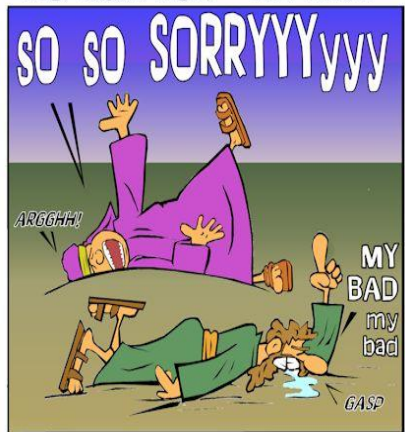


Before Matthias is chosen as the new disciple there were several elimination rounds using a new sophisticated high tech selection technique. **Acts 1:12-26**



PETER AND JOHN IN JAIL **ACTS 4:1-5**
THEIR CRIME? INCITING A REVIVAL WITHOUT A PERMIT.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Ananias and Sapphira
Death by Real Estate **Acts 5:1-11**

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



If it is NOT of God.. it will fail.. BUT if it is of God .. YOU CANNOT STOP IT. -Gamaliel **Acts 5:38-40**

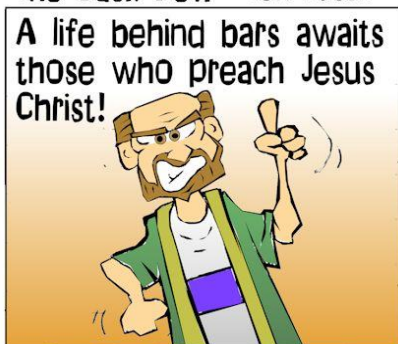


STEPHEN.. IS FAITHFUL, EVEN UNTO DEATH. **ACTS 6:8-7:60**

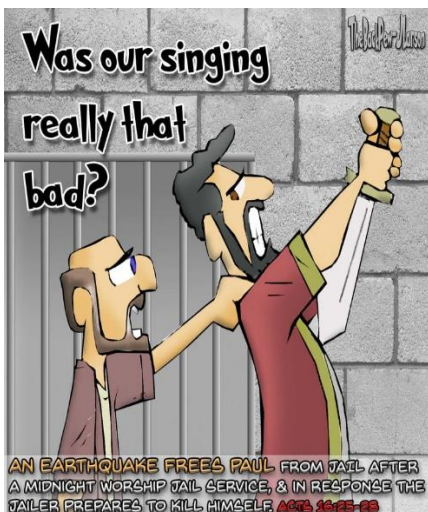


AFTER THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH WAS BAPTIZED .. PHILIP JUST HAD TO ASK. **ACTS 8:26-39**

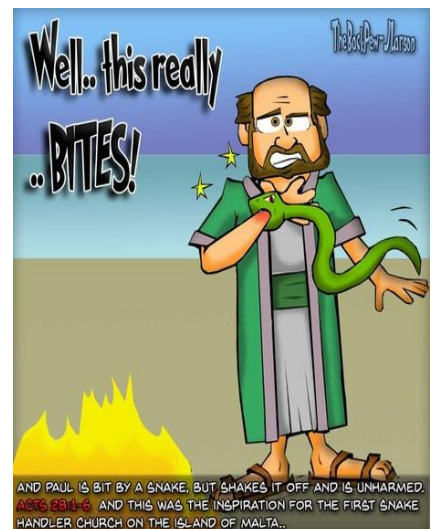
The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



It's called IRONY when Saul the great persecutor of the church finds Jesus on the Damascus Road, then becomes Paul the missionary of the same church and spends most of his remaining years in jail. **Acts 8.. GOD'S IRONY**



AN EARTHQUAKE FREES PAUL FROM JAIL AFTER A MIDNIGHT WORSHIP JAIL SERVICE, & IN RESPONSE THE JAILER PREPARES TO KILL HIMSELF. **ACTS 16:25-35**



AND PAUL IS BIT BY A SNAKE, BUT SHAKES IT OFF AND IS UNHARMED. **ACTS 28:1-6** AND THIS WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR THE FIRST SNAKE HANDLER CHURCH ON THE ISLAND OF MALTA.

