

The background of the entire image is a topographic map. It features a grid of latitude and longitude lines. Overlaid on this grid are numerous contour lines, which are solid and wavy, representing elevation. Dashed lines also crisscross the map, likely indicating specific geographical features or boundaries. The color palette is monochromatic, using various shades of brown, tan, and beige to represent different elevations and map features.

SENT

SAVED PEOPLE LIVE SENT

PART 1

Why?

This guide is designed to help you dig deeper into the book of Acts as we study it together as a church. We encourage you to sit down with a Bible, journal, pen, and an open heart each day and allow this to help you in your time with the Lord.

In it, you will find a chapter to read each day, questions to think through and journal on, and a verse to memorize each week. Our hope is that this guide will help you learn to meditate on the God's Word and challenge you to grow deeper in your relationship with God.

Background of Acts:

The news of Jesus cannot be stopped. Beginning with a fledgling band of disciples, the transforming message of hope offered by Jesus would spread from Jerusalem to Rome in less than 35 years. The leaders of Jesus' day assumed his death would forever stamp out his claims. In God-sized irony, Jesus' death only fueled the spread of this message because he did not remain dead but defeated death through his glorious resurrection.

The resurrected Christ forever changed those who witnessed these events. They trusted that he would send them his Spirit to empower them for the mission that lay ahead (2:1-4). At Pentecost, the Spirit came in might and power and established the church that will prevail over the gates of Hades for all time (Matthew 16:18). Peter's sermon following the sending of the Spirit made it clear that this miracle was the fulfillment of God's promises and further validated the claims of Jesus to be God's Messiah and the Savior of the world.

Luke provides Theophilus and all subsequent readers with a glimpse into the culture of this young church. Those who trusted Jesus gathered together in teaching, singing, prayer, fellowship, and shared meals. By the power of God, many placed their faith in Christ and were added to the church (Acts 2:42-47).

The church would never permanently escape the fires of persecution, but through this opposition the church would continue to spread. The stoning of Stephen in Acts 8 scattered believers throughout the known world, and with them went God's Spirit and the message of the gospel. These displaced believers established churches and invited the inhabitants of new cities to place their faith in Christ.

A primary catalyst for the spread of the gospel was the conversion of Saul, a vehement persecutor of the church (9:1-22). God revealed himself in a blinding flash of light and altered Saul's fate forever. Saul began to be called Paul (13:9). Paul's subsequent mission work focused on the Gentiles and is central to the later portion of Luke's writing in the book of Acts. Luke describes Paul's three chief missionary journeys, his labor among the churches and the countless obstacles he faced in his mission. Through it all, however, God continued to show himself faithful to his promise to build his church and use his people in that grand mission.

Week 1: Acts 1

Read Acts 1

Need to Know: Acts begins where the book of Luke leaves off. Luke tracks Jesus' life from his birth to the cross. Acts tracks his ascension and his continued work through the Holy Spirit. As you read this chapter each day, put yourself in the shoes of the early believers. How convincing it would be to physically see the resurrected Jesus? How much anticipation would there be for the gift he insisted you to wait on?

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1 (v. 1-4): Why do you think Jesus presented himself and many convincing proofs that He was alive to the apostles? Do you ever struggle with doubt that Jesus rose from the dead? How does this passage encourage you?
- Day 2 (v. 5-11): What is the promised gift that Jesus is referring to? What does verse 8 teach us about what the result of this gift will be? Would you say that you have received this gift? Explain
- Day 3 (v. 12-26): What did the believers do in the upper room? What did the believers do before Matthias was chosen? Why do you think prayer was a priority for the early believers? How can it become more of a priority in your life?
- Day 4: Why is the Holy Spirit the biggest necessity in the church? How do we connect with Him?
- Day 5: How can you join the mission of the church today? Who can you share the gospel with today? Who can you invite to church?

Memory Verse:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Week 2: Acts 2

Read Acts 2

Need to Know: In Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost, a massive promise was fulfilled. God promised in the Old Testament to pour out his Holy Spirit on all people (Joel 2:28-32). During Jesus' ministry, He taught about the coming Holy Spirit (John 14-16 & Acts 1:8). This chapter brought about a new covenant between God and his people. Jesus has blessed his church by putting His Spirit in every believer. This means we currently live in the age of the Spirit. The Spirit empowers each believer with power and gifts to accomplish His mission.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1 (v. 1-13): What signs at Pentecost most resonate with you? Why do you think the Holy Spirit came with rushing wind, fire, and different languages?
- Day 2 (v. 14-41): What sticks out to you about Peter's sermon to the crowd? What does his message teach you about presenting the gospel?
- Day 3 (v. 14-41): What was their response to Peter's sermon? How do we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit? What is repentance? Why is it important to be baptized?
- Day 4 (v. 42-47): These verses show us what the Spirit-filled church should be like. List the characteristics that describe this church. Has this been your experience with the church? Why or Why not?
- Day 5 (v. 42-47): What does it look like to be devoted to the apostles teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer? How might you be more fully devoted to each of these things?

Memory Verse:

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:38

Week 3: Acts 3

Read Acts 3

Need to Know: This chapter describes how the apostles continued Jesus's ministry in word and deed as the healing of a lame man attracted a crowd to hear Peter's sermon about Jesus.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1 (v. 1-10): What about this miracle most resonates with you? Why? Does God heal people today? Explain.
- Day 2 (v. 1-10): Why should Christians care for people in need? What are you doing to care for the broken? What does this passage teach us about caring for both physical and spiritual needs?
- Day 3 (v. 11-26): What essential facts does Peter tell them about Jesus? What three kinds of evidence does he give for these facts (apart from his citation of Scripture)?
- Day 4 (v. 11-26): What does Peter tell his listeners they must do to receive Christ? What does he say will be the results of receiving Christ?
- Day 5 (v. 11-26): What can we learn about sharing the gospel from Peter? Who do you need to share the gospel with today?

Memory Verse:

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."
Acts 3:19

Week 4: Acts 4

Read Acts 4

Need to Know: This chapter is a heated show-down between the religious establishment and Peter and John concerning their Christ-centered preaching.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1 (v. 1-31): Why did the preaching of Peter and John upset the religious establishment? What is the difference between religion and a relationship with Jesus?
- Day 2 (v. 1-31): What characteristics did the religious establishment observe in Peter and John in v. 13? What does this teach us about the importance of spending time with Jesus?
- Day 3 (v. 1-31): How is the power of the Holy Spirit related to bold proclamation? Why should we pray for boldness? What does boldness look like in evangelism?
- Day 4: In v. 32-35, “no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own,” they shared everything they had,” and there were no needy persons among them.” What obstacles are there to this situation being repeated in our culture today? How can Christians and churches overcome those obstacles?
- Day 5 (v. 32-35): What keeps people from being radically generous? How is the concept of grace tied to generosity?

Memory Verse:

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”

Acts 4:13

Week 5: Acts 5

Read Acts 5

Need to Know: This chapter begins with the powerful story of Ananias and Sapphira that teaches us the importance of listening to the Holy Spirit and doing what He says. These consequences may seem harsh but God takes about hypocrisy and unity in His church very seriously. Next, we see how faithful gospel ministry results in both opposition and blessing in the rest of this chapter.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1 (v. 4:32-5:11): How is Barnabas' attitude towards generosity in chapter 4 different than Ananias and Sapphira's in chapter 5? How does this story challenge you? What does this story teach about hypocrisy?
- Day 2 (v. 1-11): What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira? Why was it so serious and so seriously dealt with? How can we fall into a similar trap? How can we avoid it?
- Day 3 (v. 12-16): Why do you think more and more people were believing in the Lord during this time? Is Christianity as contagious now as it was then? Why or why not?
- Day 4 (v. 17-42): Why should we expect opposition when we do faithful gospel ministry? How do some people try to intimidate Christians today? What does this passage teach us about suffering?
- Day 5 (v. 17-42): How applicable do you think Gamaliel's argument is today to new movements and sects? What criteria can we use to form an opinion when we encounter different or unfamiliar perspectives on our faith?

Memory Verse:

"The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead – whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." Acts 5:30-32

Week 6: Acts 6

Read Acts 6

Need to Know: This chapter gives us an inside look into the early church and the blessings and challenges faced by the rapidly growing body of Christ. Next, we are introduced to the first Christian martyr named Stephen.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1 (v. 1-7): What does this passage teach us about church growth? How should we view it
- Day 2 (v. 1-7): What does this passage teach us about appointing leaders in the local church? What were the characteristics they were looking for? Would you say these characteristics describe you? Why or why not?
- Day 3 (v. 1-7): Why did the apostles consider caring for widows important? Why was the unity of the church threatened? Why must prayer and proclamation of God's Word be central in pastoral ministry?
- Day 4 (v. 8-15): What does this passage teach us about Stephen? From where did Stephen receive power? How are the Spirit and wisdom related?
- Day 5 (v. 8-15): What does this passage tell us about why Stephen's ministry was so effective? Which of his characteristics do you lack? What can you do to grow in that area(s)?

Memory Verse:

"So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith."

Acts 6:7

Week 7: Acts 7

Read Acts 7

Need to Know: This chapter describes the remarkable Christ-like life and ministry of Stephen, whose martyrdom advanced God's mission.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1 (v. 1-50): How does Stephen's very long speech answer the original question (v1)? How does each section about Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and Solomon advance his basic argument? How does he adapt his argument to the premises and nature of his audience?
- Day 2: What impresses you the most about Stephen's sermon? Why?
- Day 3: Could you narrate the Old Testament story that culminates in Christ if someone asked you to do so? Why is it important to see Christ through the Old Testament?
- Day 4: What is Stephen's main point in verses 51-53? What does it mean to be stiff-necked and resist the Holy Spirit? How do you guard against this?
- Day 5: How does Stephen's story inspire you? What similarities do you see between Jesus and Stephen's death?

Memory Verse:

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look, he said, I see heaven open and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God."

Acts 7:55-56

Week 8: Acts 8

Read Acts 8

Need to Know: This passage describes some of the remarkable events that happened when the gospel advanced into Samaria through the faithful witness of Philip, Peter, and John.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1 (v. 1-4): What are the results of the execution of Stephen and the persecution that it brought? (Have you seen God work good things through a disaster?) How does this result fit in with Stephen's message?
- Day 2: How is Acts 8:4-25 related to Acts 1:8? Why is this significant? Why did God delay pouring out His Spirit on the Samaritan believers until Peter and John laid hands on them?
- Day 3 (v. 26-40): What do we learn about sharing our faith from the story of the Ethiopian conversion? What does this passage teach us about being led by the Holy Spirit?
- Day 4: What disappoints you about the character of Simon? Why? Do you think Simon had genuine faith in Christ? Why or why not?
- Day 5: Why is Acts 8:26-40 a good illustration of Matthew 28:18-20? What is baptism and why is it important?

Memory Verse:

Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart."

Acts 8:20-22

Week 9: Acts 9

Read Acts 9

Need to Know: In a dramatic display of God's saving grace, Luke records the most famous conversion in church history: Saul of Tarsus. We know Him now as the Apostle Paul, arguably the greatest missionary of all time.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: What sticks out to you about Saul's conversion? How is it similar or different from your salvation experience?
- Day 2: Read some of the other passages related to Saul's conversion and note the similarities and differences: Acts 22:1-21; Acts 26:12-23; Romans 1:1-5; 1 Corinthians 15:8-10; Galatians 1:11-24; Philippians 3:4-11; and 1 Timothy 1:12-17.
- Day 3: What does this passage teach us about God's grace in salvation? What does this passage teach us about Jesus?
- Day 4: What practical lessons might be learned from Ananias's inclusion in the story?
- Day 5: What about Jesus' commission of Paul most resonates with you?

Memory Verse:

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.
Acts 9:17-19

Week 10: Acts 10

Read Acts 10

Need to Know: In this chapter, we read an incredible story about Peter and Cornelius. This passage is monumental. God is teaching them that the gospel has broken down the wall between Jewish people and the rest of the world. His plan is to save people from every tribe and every nation and create a church that displays the diversity of heaven. In God's kingdom there is no room for racism or favoritism.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: How does God speak to Cornelius? What is Peter doing when God speaks to him? What does this teach you about how and when God speaks? What is your next step when it comes to hearing from God?
- Day 3: What was the meaning of the vision? How does v. 34-35 show that Peter understands now the meaning of the vision?
- Day 2: What does v. 28-35 teach us about racism and prejudice? What does this passage teach us about God's heart to reach all people? What walls of favoritism and racism need to be torn down in your heart?
- Day 4: Why is the story of Cornelius's conversion so important? If Cornelius was so religious, then why did he need the gospel?
- Day 5: How does this passage highlight the nature and importance of gospel hospitality? Why are relationships so important in the Bible?

Memory Verse:

*Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right."
Acts 10:34-35*

Week 11: Acts 11

Read Acts 11

Need to Know: This chapter starts with Peter re-explaining his vision and testimony from the last chapter. Then, we see some of the reasons the church in Antioch – a model missionary church – changed the world.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: What questions and criticisms do the Jewish believers have for Peter when he got to Jerusalem? Why do you think the believers had no objections after hearing what Peter had to say in v. 4-18?
- Day 2: Why is the voice of God so essential when it comes to unity within God's church? Why do you think that Christians weren't called "Christians" until Antioch?
- Day 3: How does v. 22-24 describe Barnabas? Would you say this is an accurate description of you? Why or Why not? How can you specifically grow in these areas?
- Day 4: Read v. 20- 21. What was the secret to the church in Antioch's success? How do we know when God is with us and God is not?
- Day 5: Why do you think the Antioch church was so successful in showing the power of the gospel? What can we learn from them as God's church today?

Memory Verse:

"The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord."

Acts 11:21

Week 12: Acts 12

Read Acts 12

Need to Know: King Herod launches a public assault on the leaders of the church in Jerusalem, killing James and imprisoning Peter, but he ultimately cannot stop the advancement of Christ's kingdom.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: What sticks out to you in this chapter? How does this story prove the point of v. 24?
- Day 2: What does this chapter teach us about the power of prayer? How does this passage encourage us to bring large requests to God?
- Day 3: Why should Christians expect opposition when seeking to advance the gospel? What opposition have you experienced seeking to advance the gospel?
- Day 4: What does this passage teach us about God's peace? Would you say you are experiencing the peace of God? Why or Why not?
- Day 5: How does this passage provide believers with hope? Would you say you are living in the hope of Christ? Why or why not?

Memory Verse:

"So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for Him."
Acts 12:5

Week 13: Acts 13

Read Acts 13

Need to Know: In these initial stops on the Paul and Barnabas's first missionary journey, we find several important applications for word-driven, Spirit-empowered missionaries.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: What do verses 1-3 teach us about worship and prayer? What do we learn about how the Holy Spirit speaks? Are you seeking to hear from God the same way these believers were?
- Day 2: Why was Paul so forceful with Elymas in v. 6-12? Why was the miraculous judgment on Elymas appropriate? What can we learn from this encounter?
- Day 3: Read Paul's gospel presentation in v. 13-41. What about Paul's sermon most resonates with you? What do verses 38-39 teach us is the result of the gospel? What does it mean to be set free from sin through Jesus?
- Day 4: What do you learn from the people's reaction to Paul's sermon? Why do the ones that reject the gospel do so? Why do the ones who accept the gospel do so?
- Day 5: What do v. 49-52 teach us about opposition? What does it look like to be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit?

Memory Verse:

"Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through Him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses."

Acts 13:38-39

Week 14: Acts 14

Read Acts 14

Need to Know: The completion of the first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas provides us with an instructive and inspiring model of Christian perseverance.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: What do we learn from Paul and Barnabas's experience in Iconium in v. 1-7? What does this teach us about living out the mission of God?
- Day 2: What do we learn from Paul and Barnabas's experience in Lystra in v. 8-20? What does this teach us about living out the mission of God?
- Day 3: What does Paul's brief message in Lystra teach about communicating the gospel to different types of people?
- Day 4: What do Paul's return visits teach about discipleship and church planting?
- Day 5: Thinking about this whole missionary journey, what can you take away from this personally? How does living out the mission encourage you? How does living out the mission keep you dependent on God?

Memory Verse:

"Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the seas and everything in them."

Acts 14:15

The background of the entire image is a topographic map. It features brown and tan colors with black contour lines of varying thicknesses. Some lines are solid, while others are dashed. A vertical line runs down the center of the image, and a horizontal line runs across the middle. The overall texture is grainy and aged.

SENT

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PART 2

Why?

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Luke provides Theophilus and all subsequent readers with a glimpse into the culture of this young church. Those who trusted Jesus gathered together in teaching, singing, prayer, fellowship, and shared meals. By the power of God, many placed their faith in Christ and were added to the church (Acts 2:42-47).

The church would never permanently escape the fires of persecution, but through this opposition the church would continue to spread. The stoning of Stephen in Acts 8 scattered believers throughout the known world, and with them went God's Spirit and the message of the gospel. These displaced believers established churches and invited the inhabitants of new cities to place their faith in Christ.

A primary catalyst for the spread of the gospel was the conversion of Saul, a vehement persecutor of the church (9:1-22). God revealed himself in a blinding flash of light and altered Saul's fate forever. Saul began to be called Paul (13:9). Paul's subsequent mission work focused on the Gentiles and is central to the later portion of Luke's writing in the book of Acts. Luke describes Paul's three chief missionary journeys, his labor among the churches and the countless obstacles he faced in his mission. Through it all, however, God continued to show himself faithful to his promise to build his church and use his people in that grand mission.



Week 15: Acts 15

Read Acts 15

Need to Know: In this chapter, we see an important meeting referred to as "The Jerusalem Council" held to discuss the conditions for Gentile membership in the church. The gospel of grace is affirmed unanimously and the unity of the body is maintained.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: In this chapter, what was the disagreement about? In verses 7-11, what three facts does Peter remind the council of? What conclusions does he draw from them?
- Day 2: Why do people have a difficult time embracing the message of salvation by grace alone through faith alone?
- Day 3: Read through the book of Galatians and list some of the issues there that are also found here in Acts 15.
- Day 4: What does this entire debate and event teach us about what to when Christians differ? What do we learn from the letter in verses 22-35?
- Day 5: In verse 36-41, why is it important for Paul and Barnabas to go back and visit the towns where people had been saved and help strengthen their faith? What does this teach us about how we should disciple new believers?

Memory Verse:

God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

Acts 15:8-9



Week 16: Acts 16

Read Acts 16

Need to Know: In the first part of Paul's second missionary journey, the gospel advances to Philippi, and a new church is established as Jesus' power is displayed in various ways.

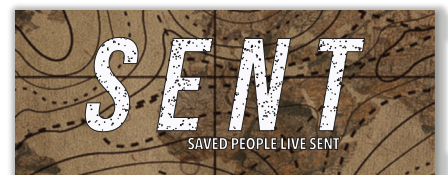
Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: In verses 6-10, what does this teach you about being led by the Holy Spirit? How can you grow in being led by the Spirit?
- Day 2: What are we told about Lydia? How did she come to faith? What signs are we given that Lydia was truly converted? How does this challenge you?
- Day 3: What are we told about the slave girl? How did she come to faith? Contrast the ministry of Paul to Lydia and to the slave girl. What is Luke trying to show us?
- Day 4: What did the Lord use to convert the Philippians jailer? What were some of the signs of the jailer's transformation? How does this challenge you?
- Day 5: This chapter is the beginning of the church in Philippi. Read through the book of Philippians and list some ways that Paul encouraged them a few years later.

Memory Verse:

He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household."

Acts 16:30-31



Week 17: Acts 17

Read Acts 17

Need to Know: Luke briefly records Paul's stops in Thessalonica and Berea, and both stories give us some important lessons about how to receive and teach the Scriptures. Also, we find some important lessons about engaging unbelievers by observing how Paul evangelized in Athens.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: Why was it necessary for Jesus to suffer and rise from the dead to be the Messiah? Why is there no other way for salvation other than this?
- Day 2: Take some time to read 1 Thessalonians 1. What strikes you most about what Paul says regarding the Thessalonians' heart for the Word? What about Paul's attitude toward the Thessalonians resonates with you?
- Day 3: How did the Bereans study the Scriptures? What challenges you the most about the Bereans approach to God's Word? What might happen if churches today developed the same habits?
- Day 4: Describe what Paul felt when he saw the idolatry in Athens. Why is this important? What are some of the idols worshiped in your city?
- Day 5: What about Paul's speech at the Areopagus most resonates with you? Why would Paul start with creation before moving to the resurrection and judgment? Do you think Paul was successful in Athens? Why or Why not?

Memory Verse:

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of Heaven and Earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

Acts 17:24-25



Week 18: Acts 18

Read Acts 18

Need to Know: Tired saints can draw much hope from the account of Paul's visit to the influential and immoral city of Corinth. There, the Apostle was absorbed in work, weakened by trials, and then rejuvenated by the sovereign Lord. Also, this section in Acts reinforces the importance of Word-driven disciple making and gives illustrations of what it looks like to teach and receive gospel-centered instruction.

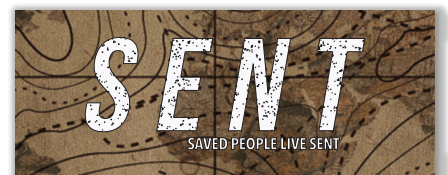
Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: What kind of trials had Paul experienced before arriving in Corinth? What additional trials did he encounter there?
- Day 2: What can we learn about evangelism from Paul in verses 7-8? Who is someone in your life that you can share Jesus with?
- Day 3: How did the Lord rejuvenate Paul in verses 9-10? What is surprising about the emotional condition of Paul in verse 9 in light of verse 8? What should Christians do when experiencing weakness and fear?
- Day 4: What about the ministry of Apollos most resonates with you? What can we learn about how to receive instruction from the example of Apollos? What can we learn about instructing leaders from the example of Priscilla and Aquila?
- Day 5: What do Paul's follow up visits teach about the importance of follow-up discipleship and the value of the local church?

Memory Verse:

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."

Acts 18:9-10



Week 19: Acts 19

Read Acts 19

Need to Know: In Paul's extended Word-driven ministry in Ephesus, many Ephesians turned from idols to the living Christ; Luke records some significant events surrounding this spiritual awakening.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: Why do you think Paul thought it necessary to ask these spiritual questions of the disciples of John the Baptist? What is the difference in John's baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- Day 2: What does Paul's encounter with the "Sons of Sceva" teach about the Holy Spirit? What does it teach about the evil one?
- Day 3: How have you experienced or witnessed a change in affections through conversion? What does the story about believers burning books teach?
- Day 4: What caused the riot? Why were the craftsmen in Ephesus upset? What lessons can we draw from it?
- Day 5: How might the preaching of the gospel impact your city's social norms?

Memory Verse:

So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

Acts 19:9b-10



Week 20: Acts 20

Read Acts 20

Need to Know: This chapter illustrates some of the ways believers can give and receive Christ-exalting, Spirit-empowered encouragement. We see Paul's farewell address to the Ephesian elders highlights the nature and importance of the church and the role of its overseers.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: How can we encourage other Christians based on this passage? Why do we often fail to encourage other saints?
- Day 2: What about the way Paul served the church most resonates with you?
- Day 3: What can we learn from his priorities and approach in v24? What specifically would change in your life if you approached life this way?
- Day 4: What is a spiritual wolf? What is their goal? What does this passage teach us about spiritual wolves?
- Day 5: How would your life change if you embraced a "it is more blessed to give than receive" lifestyle?

Memory Verse:

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

Acts 20:24



Week 21: Acts 21

Read Acts 21

Need to Know: Paul's trip to Jerusalem illustrates the gift of Christian friendship and powerfully portrays the cost of Christian discipleship. Paul gets attacked by a Jewish mob while participating in a vow, and then he gives a defense speech before the crowd.

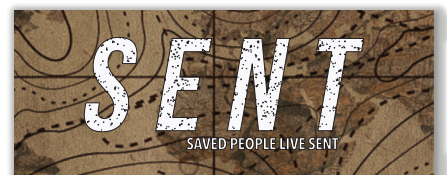
Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: How does this chapter highlight the need for Christian friendship? How are Christian friendships established and experienced?
- Day 2: How do we see the gift of hospitality in this chapter? In what ways can you show hospitality to new people?
- Day 3: What were Paul's friends telling him about going to Jerusalem? Why do you think Paul chose to go anyway?
- Day 4: How does Paul display a supreme love for the Lord Jesus? How does this challenge personally? What do the experiences of Paul and other missionaries teach about the cost of following Jesus?
- Day 5: Compare Acts 21:20b-26 with 1 Corinthians 9:15-23. Are Paul's actions and his missionary policy consistent? Explain your answer.

Memory Verse:

Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Acts 21:13



Week 22: Acts 22

Read Acts 22

Need to Know: Paul gives a defense speech before an angry crowd. They don't take to kindly to his speech and his Roman citizenship saves him and gets him sent to the Sanhedrin.

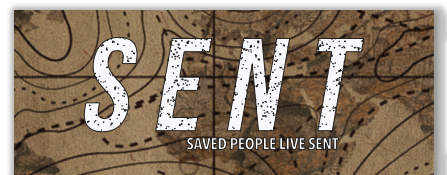
Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: What does it mean to defend the faith? How did Paul do it? Generally speaking, what does Paul try to accomplish in His defense speech?
- Day 2: Do you think Paul's speech was effective? Explain. Why must we emphasize the resurrection when sharing the gospel?
- Day 3: Why were the Jewish people enraged at Paul? In what modern contexts might Christians face hostility and false accusations? How should we respond to them?
- Day 4: Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. What is your reaction to this text? How did Paul live out this passage?
- Day 5: Read Luke 22:63-71 and John 18:19-23. Compare Jesus' reactions with Paul's reaction to Ananias. Do you think Paul responded appropriately? Why or why not?

Memory Verse:

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.

Acts 22:16



Week 23: Acts 23

Read Acts 23

Need to Know: Jesus was with Paul when he testified before the authorities, and Jesus is with us when we speak the gospel before unbelieving and unfriendly audiences.

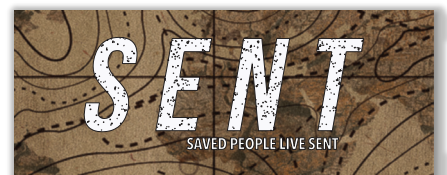
Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: Have you ever shared the gospel before an unfriendly and unbelieving audience? If so, what were your biggest challenges? What can you learn from Paul's defenses that may prepare you to do this task more faithfully and effectively?
- Day 2: How does verse 11 encourage you? Explain. How can we experience the reassuring presence of Jesus on a daily basis?
- Day 3: Why do you think the Jews plotted to kill Paul? How do we see God's sovereign protection of Paul in this chapter?
- Day 4: What does Acts 23:12-30 teach about the way God works to accomplish his purposes?
- Day 5: Take a few minutes to pray for God to grant you confidence in his sovereignty and courage in your witness.

Memory Verse:

The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."

Acts 23:11



Week 24: Acts 24

Read Acts 24

Need to Know: This chapter follows Paul's trial before Governor Felix.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: What about Paul's defense before Felix most resonates with you?
- Day 2: Do you find it difficult to transition general conversations into gospel conversations? If so, why? What does this passage teach you about how to do that more effectively?
- Day 3: Why does Paul constantly bring up the resurrection? What does this teach you about our gospel conversations?
- Day 4: What do you find most striking about Paul's message to Felix when he speaks to him privately in verses 24-26? Why do you think Felix was afraid?
- Day 5: What can we learn about what not to do with the Word by considering Felix's example?

Memory Verse:

So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and all people.

Acts 24:16



Week 25: Acts 25

Read Acts 25

Need to Know: Paul's speech before Festus sets the stage for Paul's final defense before Agrippa.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: What do you notice about Paul's defense in v8-12? What does Paul's life teach about living as a law abiding citizen?
- Day 2: Theologian AW Tozer said, "Not death but sin should be our great fear." What do we learn about Paul's view of death from verse 11? Read Philippians 1:20-26. How does Paul's view of life and death challenge you?
- Day 3: What does Festus say to Agrippa about Paul in 25:13-22? What do you find most interesting about his statements?
- Day 4: What are the similarities between Jesus' trial in Luke 23:1-25 and Paul's trial in Acts 24-25?
- Day 5: Why is getting to Rome so significant to Paul and for the mission of God? (Hint: Remember Rome at this point controlled most of the world.)

Memory Verse:

When his accusers got up to speak, they did not charge him with any of the crimes I had expected. Instead they had some points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed was alive.

Acts 25:18-19



Week 26: Acts 26

Read Acts 26

Need to Know: Paul's final defense before Agrippa shows us how to live as faithful witness.

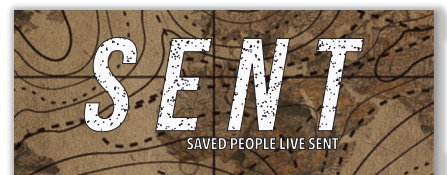
Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: How does Paul's speech in Acts 26 magnify the resurrection?
- Day 2: How does Paul's speech in Acts 26 show Christ as the fulfillment of Jewish hope?
- Day 3: How does Paul speak both respectfully and boldly to Agrippa?
- Day 4: What does it mean to do works worthy of repentance in verse 20?
- Day 5: How might remembering Festus' response to Paul in 26:24 help prepare us to share Christ with others?

Memory Verse:

Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?" Paul replied, "Short time or long – I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains."

Acts 26:28-29



Week 27: Acts 27

Read Acts 27

Need to Know: God keeps his promises, so we should trust him and give thanks to him.

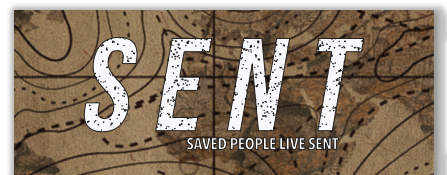
Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: Have you ever been in a life-threatening situation? If so, how did you react to it? How might this passage encourage someone facing a great trial?
- Day 2: How does this chapter highlight the truth that God keeps his word?
- Day 3: What sticks out to you about what the angel of the Lord spoke to Paul in v23-26? How can this encourage you in your life right now?
- Day 4: Explain some ways Paul displays great spiritual and practical leadership in this story.
- Day 5: How do we see God's sovereign protection over Paul in this chapter? How does this give us hope no matter what we are facing?

Memory Verse:

Last night an angel of the Lord to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me and said, "Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you."

Acts 27:23-24



Week 28: Acts 28

Read Acts 28

Need to Know: The book of Acts concludes with Paul's ministry in Rome but the mission continues today through God's people.

Journaling Questions:

- Day 1: If Rome was where God wanted Paul to be, why was the journey so tough? What can we learn from everything that Paul went through on his journey to Rome?
- Day 2: How did Paul respond to Publius' hospitality? What would you do if invited to spend time with unbelievers? How should Christians view such invitations, and how should we respond to them?
- Day 3: How did Paul make the most of his house arrest in Rome? What does his example teach about making the most of every ministry opportunity the Lord gives us?
- Day 4: Why is the last verse in Acts 28 a good summary of the whole book of Acts? What does it teach us about the ultimate triumph of the gospel? Why do you think we are often tempted to doubt the power of the gospel?
- Day 5: What are your top 3 takeaways from having read the book of Acts? What lessons have been most meaningful?

Memory Verse:

He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ – with all boldness and without hindrance!

Acts 28:31



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



