

# ACTS

*RISEN. REIGNING. REACHING.*

## **Connect Women Study Guide Acts 1:1-6:7**



# Study One

## Acts 1:1-26

### Read Acts 1:1-11

1. Look at: Acts 1:1-3 and Luke 1:1-4, what is Luke's objective in writing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. In verse 1 Luke says about his Gospel: "*I wrote about all that Jesus **began** to do and teach*", what is the implication for what this second volume is about?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does Luke teach about the resurrection (v.3)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What are the disciples hoping for in v.6, and what would their expectations have been for this? (e.g. *Ezekiel 37:19-28, Zechariah 9:9-17*)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How does Jesus respond, and what does this tell us about Jesus' kingdom (v. 7-8)?

7. Verse 8 sets the trajectory for the whole book of Acts as well as for the rest of Christianity, what is the role that Jesus gives to his followers?

8. How is our witness similar to and different from the witness of the apostles? (v.8)

9. What is the significance of what Jesus says in this passage for the disciples, and how does this shape their lives? What is the significance for us? How might it shape our lives?

10. How does the hope of Jesus' return encourage or motivate you?

## Read Acts 1:12-26

⚠ Trigger warning v.17-19 (Judas' death) ⚠

11. What are the disciples doing together as they wait for the Holy Spirit?  
(Compare with Luke 22:45-46)

12. How is their understanding of Judas' role shaped by the Scriptures and Jesus' teaching in Luke 22:14-22?

13. What do the disciples prioritise in the choosing of a replacement for Judas?

14. What do we learn from the disciples about waiting in obedience?

15. What does being devoted to prayer look like for us?

***Spend time praising God for the people who shared the gospel with you.***

# Study Two

## Acts 2:1-41

### Read Acts 2:1-13

1. Think about the arrival of the Holy Spirit in wind and fire. Considering passages where we see these things described, why might it be important that it described this way?

*(Wind: Genesis 1:1, 8:1, Exodus 14:21/15:10, Ezekiel 1:1-14, 37:9;*

*Fire: Exodus 3:2-5, 14:24, 19:18, 24:17, 40:38;*

*Wind and fire: Psalm 18:7-12)*

2. Often wind and fire are also symbols of God's Judgement. *(eg. Isaiah 66:15-16, Nahum 1:3,6, Jeremiah 4:11-13)* When the wind and fire come upon the gathered group of disciples what happens to them? What does this mean? *(See Ezekiel 36:23-29, 37-38; 37:27-28, Hebrews 12:18-24)*

3. What does the Holy Spirit enable the believers to do? *(See v. 4, 8 & 11)*

4. Why would Luke emphasise that there are people from "every nation under heaven" in Jerusalem at this time? *(See Isaiah 66:18-20)*

5. How do the people from the nations respond to what they hear?

6. How does the Holy Spirit empower the witness of the apostles (and others gathered with them), and how does this relate to the expectation that Jesus raised in Acts 1:8?

7. How does the Holy Spirit equip us to tell the *mighty works of God* to those around us?

### **Read Acts 2:14-41**

8. Read Joel 2:28-32, how does the passage from Joel make sense of what they are seeing?

9. What is Peter saying about the times they/we are living in?

10. In v.24-32 Peter defends the resurrection of Jesus. What are his arguments/ evidences?

11. What is Peter saying about Jesus in v.33-36?

12. How does the crowd respond in v.37?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. What is Peter's final exhortation to his hearers in v.38-40?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. Who is the message of salvation through Jesus for?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. What can we learn from the way Peter speaks to the people and what he includes in his message for our own instruction and for the way we should speak about Jesus?

***Spend time praying for Bible translation***

***<https://wycliffe.org.au/pray/>***

***<https://www.biblesociety.org.au/blog/pray-with-us/>***

# **Study Three**

## **Acts 2:42-4:4**

### **Read Acts 2:42-47**

1. What is the response of people to the message of salvation in Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What things now characterise the life of the new believers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why is the *apostle's teaching* so important? (*Acts 1:8, 21-22*)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What do the actions and priorities of the new believers show us about the work of the Spirit?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What does living in this way show about Jesus? (*See John 13:34-35*)

6. What things do you value about church community?

7. What does it look like for us to be *devoted to the apostle's teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer*?

### **Read Acts 3:1-4:4**

8. In the light of Isaiah 35:3-6 and Luke 7:20-23, what is Luke conveying through the event in v.1-11 about Jesus and the time of salvation history they are in?

9. What does this sign, done in the name of Jesus show about the apostles?

10. How does Peter respond to the astonishment of the people?

11. Look at all the titles that Peter uses for Jesus. What is he teaching about Jesus through the use of these titles?

Christ (v.6) / Messiah (v.18, 20) (Anointed) *Psalm 18:50, 20:6, 89:19-29, Isaiah 61:1*

Servant (v.13, 26) *Isaiah 42:1, 52:13, 53:11, Ezekiel 34:23-24*

Holy and Righteous One (v.14) *Psalm 97:12, Isaiah 5:16*

Author of life (v.15) *Genesis 2:7, Job 33:4, Psalm 119:25*

Prophet like Moses (v.22) *Deuteronomy 18:15-18*

12. What does Peter urge his listeners to do in response to Jesus, and what is promised for those who do as he urges?

13. In 4:1 the temple guard, and the priests are noted, and in v.5 the elders are mentioned. What have these people been doing in Matthew 27:62-66 & 28:11-15? What is their biggest concern? Why are Peter and John arrested?

14. What things from this passage encourage you, and how have you been challenged?

***Spend time praying for unreached people groups***  
***<https://joshuaproject.net/global/countries>***

# **Study Four**

## **Acts 4:5-31**

1. The scene in v.5 is not unlike Matthew 26:57, yet Jesus' disciples, and Peter in particular (See *Matt 26:69-74*) behave very differently. How has Jesus prepared the disciples for this moment (and others to come)? (*Matthew 10:16-20, Mark 13:9-11, Luke 21:12-19, Acts 1:8*)
  
2. What does Peter emphasise about Jesus when he is questioned?
  
3. Read Psalm 118:19-26, What does this Psalm tell us about salvation?
  
4. How has Jesus himself already used this Psalm to teach the Pharisees and leaders of Israel about himself? (*Matthew 21:33-44, Mark 12:10-12 and Luke 20:9-18*)

5. Jesus' name (*Yeshua*) literally means "salvation" (*Matthew 1:21*). Briefly describe how Jesus has achieved salvation for his people. Why is the resurrection so important for salvation?
6. Why might Peter's decisive statement in v.12 have been challenging for the elders, teachers of the law and the high priest?
7. How is this same message received today?
8. How do the leaders respond to the disciples and the sign they have done in Jesus name?
9. In v.19-20 Peter and John openly declare that they will not do as the leaders are telling them. What do we learn about obedience to human authority and obedience to God's authority?

10. What is the immediate response of the wider group of believers to Peter and John's imprisonment and release?

11. What stands out about their prayer?

12. Look briefly at Psalm 2, how do the believers understand this Psalm? How might it have encouraged them? How does it encourage you?

13. What challenges do you face in speaking boldly?

***Spend time praying for persecuted Christians***

**<https://www.opendoors.org.au>**

**<https://vom.com.au>**

# Study Five

## **Acts 4:32-5:16**

⚠ Trigger warning 5:5,10 (sudden death) ⚠

1. Verses 32-37 are very similar to Acts 2:42-47. What does this way of living show about the fellowship of believers? What is empowering this way of life? (v.33)

2. What does it mean to be “of one heart and of one mind”? (See: *Ephesians 4:11-16, Philippians 2:1-8, 1 Peter 3:8, 4:8-11*)

3. What might this look like in our church?

4. What we see in 4:34-37 sets up what we will see in 5:1-11. How does Barnabas’ attitude compare with Ananias and Sapphira?

5. What is the problem with what Ananias and Sapphira have done?

6. What do we learn about God's holiness and justice?

7. In our eyes, it may seem that God's response is very severe. Are Ananias and Sapphira offered a chance to repent? Why do you think God responds this way in this particular time and place?

8. The judgement for sin hasn't changed, but it is counterbalanced by God's radically merciful grace. Where can we see this reflected in Scripture?

8. In Chapter 4 we saw external threats to the message of salvation, in this chapter we see internal threats. How might the behaviour of people within the fellowship of believers sabotage gospel witness?

9. How might we struggle with similar temptation?

10. How can we encourage one another in the fight against sin and temptation?

11. How are the Apostles carrying on the ministry of Jesus in v.12-16?

12. Luke frequently tells us that believers were “added” or “believed” (2:41,47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7), what does this tell us about the spread of the gospel?

***Spend time praying for our link BCA & CMS missionaries.  
[https://lowermountains.elvanto.com.au/posts/  
imap\\_mission\\_links\\_prayer\\_updates/](https://lowermountains.elvanto.com.au/posts/imap_mission_links_prayer_updates/)***

# **Study Six**

## **Acts 5:17-6:7**

### **Read Acts 5:17-42**

1. What motivates the high priest to arrest the apostles? (v.17, 28; see also 2:23,36; 3:13-15; 4:10)
  
2. There are a number of verses that talk about the Apostles “teaching” (v.21, 25, 28, 42), why would their teaching put them in opposition with the temple leaders? What does this show about Jesus’ authority compared to the authority of the temple leaders?
  
3. How does what happens in v.18-26 and also in v.34-39 give us hope in the light of opposition to the gospel?
  
4. In the interaction between Peter and the apostles and the High Priest and the council in v. 27-33 what things stand out to you? (*In light of the High Priest’s comment in v.28, see Matthew 27:25, and remember John 11:47-53, 18:12-14; also note Acts 1:8 with relation to v.32*)

5. How do we make a distinction between antagonising/provoking and being faithful to the truth? How might this affect the way we speak to people about Jesus?

6. In v.29 Peter and the apostles say “We must obey God rather than human beings” (*see also 4:19*). Have you had to make this choice? Why do we find this so hard to do? What helps us to choose to obey God? (*Luke 12:4-5*)

7. The apostles are flogged and ordered not to speak in the name of Jesus, and yet “*They left... rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name*” (v.41). What enables the disciples to respond so confidently to what has been done to them and to do what they have been prohibited from doing?

8. How is it possible to rejoice while suffering disgrace? (*See Romans 8:31-39; 1Peter 3:13-18*)

## **Read Acts 6:1-7**

9. As we have seen in our reading of Acts so far, Luke chronicles both external threats to the church and internal ones, what is the danger in this passage?

10. How do the apostles deal with this challenge?
11. What criteria for leadership do the believers emphasise?
12. What might be indications that someone is “filled with the Spirit”?
13. What things do the apostles prioritise for their own ministry?
14. What things might distract us from what is *important*? How can we keep our true focus?
15. How can we encourage one another to serve each other in love, and be dedicated to God’s word and to prayer?

***Spend time praying for your family, friends and neighbours who have not yet responded in faith to the good news about Jesus.***