

A Walk in the Word

A Bible Study with Pastor Wayne

Wednesdays at 12 noon

April 17 - May 22, 2024

Classroom 102

“The Acts of the Apostles”



WALK IN THE WORD

April 17, 2024

Acts 1-7 Jerusalem

Overview: Chapters 1 and 2 take us from the ascension of Jesus (rising to heaven) to the Holy Spirit coming to rest and to fill the hearts of the believers. In the wake of this outpouring of the Holy Spirit the early church is formed (Acts 2:42-47). The healing of the man who was lame from birth both wins approval from the crowds and opposition from the religious leaders (Chapters 3 and 4). The church continues to grow as well as face challenges in chapters 5 and 6. The generous and selfless gift from Barnabas is followed by the the not so selfless gift from Ananias and Sapphira. When complaints arise in chapter six about the distribution of food, Stephen and others are appointed to overlook the distribution of food, allowing the Twelve to devote themselves to the ministry of the word. Stephen then becomes the focal point as he takes his place among those who are “Witnesses”.

As you read the following sections make some notes about how God is calling, equipping, and sending the church to be witnesses in Jerusalem.

Acts 1 Waiting for the Holy Spirit

Acts 2 The Day of Pentecost and the forming of the early church community

Acts 3 The healing of the man who was lame from birth and Peter’s sermon to the amazed onlookers

Acts 4 Peter and John before the Jewish rulers

Note: Chapter four ends with the introduction of Barnabas and his generous gift

Acts 5 The church faces a major challenge with the deception of Ananias and Sapphira. Following the arrest, this time of “the apostles”, Peter makes another defense of the gospel.

Acts 6 and 7 The choosing of the Seven and the ministry of Stephen

REFLECTION: How do we see the disciples fulfilling their call to be witnesses? How does their experience shape our understanding and call to be witnesses?

A WALK IN THE WORD

April 24, 2024

Acts 8-12 Judea and Samaria

Overview: The death of Stephen leads to a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem. In response many disciples scatter throughout Judea and Samaria. Read the promise of Jesus in Acts 1:8, of the disciples being witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. In chapter 8-12 we see the gospel spread to Judea and Samaria.

As you read the following sections make some notes about how God is calling, equipping, and sending the church to be witnesses in Judea and Samaria.

Acts 8 Philip witnesses in Samaria and with an Ethiopian eunuch

Acts 9 The conversion of Saul (take a moment to review Acts 7:57-8:1, where we are initially introduced to Saul). Following the conversion and early ministry of Saul, we reconnect with Peter through the encounters he has with Aeneas and Dorcas in the later part of Acts 9.

Acts 10 Peter and Cornelius

Acts 11 Peter and Cornelius continued, and the church in Antioch

Acts 12 Challenges and struggles in Jerusalem

REFLECTION: As the gospel spreads from Jerusalem out to Judea and Samaria, how do we see the disciples fulfilling their call to be witnesses? How does their experience shape our understanding and call to be witnesses?

A WALK IN THE WORD

May 1, 2024

Acts 13-15 Paul's first Missionary Journey

Overview: With chapter 13 in the Book of Acts, we see the church entering a new phase. The Holy Spirit instructed the church in Antioch, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Thus begins what is known as Paul's first missionary journey.

As you read the following sections make some notes about how God uses Barnabas and Saul to help the gospel begin its spread to the "ends of the earth."

Acts 13 The sending from the church in Antioch and the ministry in Cyprus and Pisidian Antioch

Acts 14 Iconium, Lystra and Derbe

Acts 15 The Council at Jerusalem

REFLECTION: The gospel is spreading beyond Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and is now beginning the path toward "the ends of the earth." How do we see the disciples, in particular Barnabas and Saul, fulfilling their call to be witnesses? How does their experience shape our understanding and call to be witnesses?

A WALK IN THE WORD

May 15, 2024

Acts 16-20 Paul's second Missionary Journey

Overview: Following the Council at Jerusalem, Paul and his companions undertake a second missionary journey, a journey that will take them deep into the heart of the Greek world and mindset.

As you read the following sections make some notes about how God uses Paul and his companions to help the gospel expand its spread to the “ends of the earth.”

Acts 15:36-41 The disagreement between Paul and Barnabas

Acts 16 Timothy, Macedonia, and Philippi

Acts 17 Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens

Acts 18 Corinth

Acts 19 Ephesus

Acts 20 The return journey to Jerusalem begins

REFLECTION: When Paul travels to Macedonia the spread of the gospel takes a major step forward, moving from Asia Minor into Europe. How do we see Paul and his companions fulfilling their call to be witnesses? How does their experience shape our understanding and call to be witnesses?

A WALK IN THE WORD

May 22, 2024

Acts 21-28 To Rome and the ends of the earth

Overview: Paul returns to Jerusalem, suffers arrest, and when he appeals to Caesar he begins the long journey to Rome, which in some ways allows the Book of Acts to see the gospel achieving the goal of reaching to the ends of the earth (in this case, the center of the world's power in that time, Rome and the Roman Empire) As you read the following sections make some notes about how God is working through Paul's arrest, imprisonment, and journey to Rome.

Acts 21 Paul returns to Jerusalem and is arrested

Acts 22 Paul's first defense

Acts 23 Paul makes his defense before the Sanhedrin and is transferred to Caesarea

Acts 24 Paul makes his defense before Felix

Acts 25 and 26 Paul before Festus and Agrippa

Acts 27 and 28 Paul's journey and arrival in Rome

REFLECTION: With his arrest in Jerusalem, defense before the various leaders, and the journey to and arrival in Rome, the Book of Acts comes to a close. Taking into account the whole scope of Acts, what stands out to you about what it meant to be a witness in the early days of the church? What stands out to you about what it means to be a witness now, in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth?