

Mission Alive

The Gospel in the Book of Acts



We will study major themes from the Book of Acts and discuss their relevance for MX. Who were these people who changed the face of society? How did they do it? What was their message? How can we learn to be “missional” followers from them?

Requests:

- Read the entire book of Acts during this quarter.
- Make an effort to put the gospel into your own words, supported by careful thought and Scripture.
- Be able to describe the primary “missional” qualities of the apostles and the early church.

Principles:

- There is a continuity and continuation of the deeds and words of Jesus in the Gospels through the book of Acts.
- The book of Acts, like the Gospels, is concentrated on the coming of God’s kingdom through the person of Jesus, now in his church.
- The presence of the Holy Spirit takes up where the presence of the physical Jesus departs.
- While the core message was fixed, the manner and methods were very flexible and adaptable.
- While we should not for one moment believe we can jump from the pages of the Acts of Apostles to 2014, overlooking 2000 years of Christian history, we can learn, however, with great profit for our mission. If they acted the way they did, what are the implications for followers today, given all the distance of culture, time, and space?

I. Preparing Your Life for The Gospel

1. March 9 – How Do the Acts of the Apostles Continue The Story of Good News? (Acts 1:1-8, 2:17-21)
The Church is to be led by the Spirit of God, Proclaiming the Good News. The church is to embody the Word: by Sharing what we have, being Itinerant, always in Prayer, with Servant Leadership. We are to enact that message and bear witness in face of opposition.
2. March 16 – What Are Key “Preconditions for an Outreach of Good News”? (Acts 1:1-2:1)
As disciples, others must see Jesus in in our lives, an energy for witnessing, humbly approaching non-believers, boldly teaching, and knowledge of the scriptures. We must be willing to listen and learn and find strength in prayer. We must be willing to share the good news with everyone, regardless of who the person is. We must act; we must teach.

II. Presenting The Gospel

3. March 23 – What is The Message of Good News? (Acts 2:22-41; 3:11-26; 4:8-12; 5:29-32)
The message of the Good News is about Jesus, his life, his death, and his Resurrection. It is about the Kingdoms of God, Repentance, Forgiveness and Encouragement.
4. March 30 – What is The Response to the Good News? (Acts 2:38; 3:19-21; Ch. 8, 9, 16, 22)
The actions of Jesus’ saves us. Our actions in response to what he has done for us change our lives. This makes the world better and puts us in connection with the Kingdom of God.
5. April 6 – What Does a Church Centered on Good News Look Like? (Acts 2:42-47; 4:31-37)
Jesus through the Holy Spirit is alive in his church. They focus on 4 areas: 1. Apostles teaching, 2. Breaking bread, 3. Fellowship, 4. Prayer.
6. April 13 – How does Peter Present the Gospel? (Act 3:11-26; Acts 4:8-12)
Peter shows us that we need to have courage, use the opportunities we are given, and be ready to answer.
7. April 27 – How Do You Witness to The Good News? (Acts 4:18-20; 5:29-32; 7; 8:26-40)
Witnessing can happen whenever, and wherever we are, boldness in witnessing should follow a personal, intimate, joyful encounter with the living God.

III. Fanning the Flame of the Gospel

8. May 4 – What Barriers Does The Good News Break? (Acts 2:17-21, 9:32-11:18)
The Gospel breaks down race, cultural, gender and social barriers. Luke-Acts directs us to a life unbound by these barriers in the Kingdom of God as shown in Antioch (Acts 11:19-30).
9. May 11 – What Hardships Does The Good News Produce?
While the gospel persistently creates hardships, the power of Jesus through the gospel can also overcome any hardship.
10. May 18 – What Leadership in The Church Does The Good News Require? (Acts 6, Acts 20)
The Leadership in Acts had three main goals: To obey God rather than men (5:29), To complete task of testifying to the gospel (20:24) Help the weak (20:35)
11. May 25 – Where Does The Good News Go? (Acts 1:8, Acts 8:1, 11:19, 13:1-3, Acts 28)
The church emerged as a chiefly Gentile, worldwide phenomenon from its origins as a base of Jewish believers centered in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit was directly responsible for this phenomenon of salvation for all based on grace alone.