

Acts 1 Study Guide

Background: Some scholars call Acts, “Luke Part 2”. Luke was a believer in Christ who was a doctor by profession and traveled with the apostle Paul. He was a gentile and wrote both “Luke” and “Acts”. Both of these books of the Bible were written to a man named, “Theophilus”. Not much is known about him except that he was the recipient of both of these letters. It appears, by Luke referring to him as “most excellent” or “most honorable”, Theophilus may have held some position of influence. Luke writes **Acts**, in the same way he did Luke’s gospel of Jesus, to educate fellow believers on what occurred through eye witness accounts and testimonies. The Bible, both Old Testament and New Testament, records the history of God and His people. The **book of Acts** is the history of how God built the church. This is our story as the church. We will learn why we exist as well as the work that God has for us to do for Him within this world.

Scriptures in Study Guide:

Scriptures this week are in the CSB (Christian Standard Bible). To make things easier, the actual verses will be included in your daily lessons to help you with the missing words. If you have any questions, write them down and we can talk about them in Sunday School.

Day 1 (Acts1:1-8)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Acts 1** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

1 I wrote the first narrative, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach **2** until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. **3** After he had suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. **4** While he was with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father’s promise. “Which,” he said, “you have heard me speak about; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days.” **6** So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?” **7** He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Verse 1-2:

- I wrote the _____ narrative, Theophilus, about all that _____ began to do and _____ until the _____ he was _____ up, after he had given _____ through the Holy _____ to the apostles he had _____.
- **Questions:**
 - Who is Luke, the author of Acts, writing this narrative to? _____
 - Who is Luke writing about in these first verses of Acts? _____
 - How long was Jesus teaching and doing this with the apostles? _____
 - What had Jesus given the apostles through the Holy Spirit? _____
 - Who chose these apostles? _____

Verse 3:

- _____ he had suffered, he also _____ himself _____ to them by many convincing _____, appearing to them over a period of _____ days and speaking about the _____ of God.
- **Questions:**
 - How did Jesus present Himself to the apostles after He “suffered” and died ? _____
 - If Jesus is presenting Himself alive after these apostles saw His brutal death, what does that say about Who Jesus was and is? _____
 - Write out **John 14:29:** _____
 - How many days did Jesus physically appear to His apostles in His resurrected body after His resurrection? _____
 - During these 40 days, what was Jesus speaking of to His apostles that He had chosen? _____

Verse 4-5:

- While he was _____ them, he commanded them not to leave _____, but to wait for the Father's _____ . "Which," he said, "you have _____ - me speak about; for John baptized with _____, but you will be baptized with the _____ Spirit in a few days."

• **Questions:**

- What are the 2 things that Jesus commanded His apostles to do?
• _____ and _____.
- What was the Father's promise which Jesus had spoken to them about? (See **John 14:26**) _____
- What did John baptize with? _____
- What did Jesus say that they would be baptized with a few days from then? _____

Write out **Luke 3:16**: _____

Verse 6:

- So _____ they had come _____, they asked him, "Lord, are you _____ the kingdom to _____ at this time?"
- When the apostles had come together with Jesus, what question did they ask Him about what He was going to do? _____

Note: Even after the resurrection, the apostles were still growing in their understanding of the fullness of God's redemptive plan for humanity. The restoration focus, to these Jewish men who believed in Jesus as their Messiah, was still on the nation of Israel alone. Gentiles and Romans could join them in their Jewishness, but there was not a full realization of seeking those outside of Israel. God provides understanding when we need it.

Verse 7:

- He said to them, "It is _____ for you to _____ times or _____ that the Father has set by his own _____."

• **Questions:**

- What did Jesus say to His apostles about if it was time for the kingdom to be restored to Israel?

- Who has the authority to set the times and periods of history (past, present, and future)?

- Write out **Isaiah 46:10**: _____

Note: Jesus response of the "times and periods" would indicate that there is a time and period when Israel will be grafted back into God's kingdom. Those are set by God's authority.

Verse 8:

- But you will _____ power when the _____ Spirit has come _____ you, and you will be my _____ in Jerusalem, in _____ Judea and Samaria, and to the _____ of the earth."

• **Questions :**

- When will they receive power? _____
- What will this power, when the Holy Spirit comes upon them, enable them to do?

- Where will they be witnesses? Just in Israel? _____

- Write out **Luke 1:35**: _____

Note: This is the power of God's Holy Spirit, the Third in the Triune. Every believer has this power within us to accomplish the "work" that God has designed for us to do for Him. This is what we will see happen as the Lord begins to built His church.

Day 2 (Acts 1:9-14)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Acts 1** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

9 After he had said this, he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10** While he was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. **11** They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven.” **12** Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem—a Sabbath day’s journey away. **13** When they arrived, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. **14** They all were continually united in prayer, along with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Verse 9:

- After he had said this, he was _____ up as they were _____, and a cloud took him out of their _____.
- **Questions:**
 - After Jesus had said to them that they would receive the power from God to take God’s Word to the world, what happened to Jesus? _____
 - What hid Jesus from their sight? _____

Verse 10:

- _____ he was going, they were _____ into heaven, and _____ two men in white _____ stood by them.
- **Questions:**
 - Where were they gazing as Jesus was going? _____
 - Who appeared standing suddenly beside them in white clothes? _____
- *note: these were angels taking form of men

Verse 11:

- They said, “Men of _____, why do you stand _____ up into _____? This same _____, who has been _____ from you into heaven, will _____ in the same way that you have _____ him going into _____.”
- **Questions:**
 - What did these two men ask as they gazed toward heaven? _____
 - Who will come in the same way that they saw him go up to heaven? This _____ Jesus
- Write out **Mark 14:62:** _____

- Write out **Revelation 1:7:** _____

Verse 12:

- Then they _____ to Jerusalem from the Mount of _____, which is _____ Jerusalem—a _____ day’s journey away.
- **Questions:**
 - Where did they return from the Mount of Olives? _____
 - How far was Jerusalem from them? _____

Verse 13:

- When they _____, they went to _____ room upstairs where they were _____: Peter, John, _____, Andrew, Philip, _____, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the _____ of Alphaeus, _____ the Zealot, and Judas the _____ of James.

• **Questions:**

- Where did they go when they arrived to Jerusalem? _____
- Who were named staying together in this room upstairs? _____

Write out **Matthew 10:2:** _____

- When you compare **Matthew 10:2** with who is listed in **Acts 1:13**, who is missing? Why is that? _____

Verse 14:

- They all were _____ united in prayer, _____ with the women, _____ Mary the _____ of Jesus, and _____ brothers.

• **Questions:**

- What were Jesus' disciples continually united in? _____
- Who else is named with them in Acts 1:14? _____
- Who were the brothers (half brothers) of Jesus? (See **Matthew 13:55**) _____

Day 3 (Acts 1:15-17)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.

Read **Acts 1:15-17** out loud and complete the following verse and questions.

15 In those days Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters—the number of people who were together was about a hundred twenty—and said, **16** “Brothers and sisters, it was necessary that the Scripture be fulfilled that the Holy Spirit through the mouth of David foretold about Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. **17** For he was one of our number and shared in this ministry.”

Verse 15:

- In _____ days Peter stood up _____ the brothers and _____ —the number of _____ who were together was _____ a hundred twenty—and said,

• **Questions:**

- Who stood up among the brothers and sisters? _____
- How many people did Peter speak to? _____

Verse 16:

- “_____ and sisters, it was _____ - that the Scripture be _____ - that the Holy Spirit through the _____ of David foretold about _____, who became a guide to those who _____ Jesus.

• **Questions:**

- What did Peter say was necessary to be fulfilled? _____
- Who is fulfilling this Scripture through the mouth of David? (Hint: 3rd in Triune) _____
- What did the Scripture that David foretold through the Holy Spirit foretell about Judas? _____

Verse 17:

- For he was _____ of our number and _____ in this ministry.”

• **Questions:**

- What was Judas one of? _____
- What did Judas share in? _____

Write out **John 6:70:** _____

Note: This is an example of the “divine parallels”. God ordains all and mankind chooses (and is accountable for that choice). Judas could’ve repented at any time and God would’ve forgiven an honest heart (see **Jonah 3:10**). Instead, he went to man’s religious system for his salvation (see **Matthew 27:4**) and, as happens with the world, the system had no use for him anymore.

Day 4 (Acts 1:18-20)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Acts 1** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

18 Now this man acquired a field with his unrighteous wages. He fell headfirst, his body burst open and his intestines spilled out. **19** This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that in their own language that field is called *Hakeldama* (that is, "Field of Blood"). **20** "For it is written in the Book of Psalms:

Let his dwelling become desolate;
let no one live in it; and
Let someone else take his position.

Verse 18:

- Now this man _____ a field with his _____ - wages.
- He _____ headfirst, his body _____ open and his _____ spilled out.
- **Questions:**
- What did "this man", which refers to Judas Iscariot acquired with his unrighteous wages? _____
- What happened to Judas? _____

Note: this is the record of Judas taking his own life. Judas had never come to an understanding of Who Jesus was and instead, trusted in his "system of religion". When the "system" rejected him, he fell into despair. If only, Judas would've realized that he could've repented of his rejection of Jesus as God as we will see devout Jews do in **Acts 2**. Judas is a picture of **1John 2:19**.

Verse 19:

- This became _____ to all the _____ of Jerusalem, so that in their _____ language that field is _____ *Hakeldama* (that is, "_____ of Blood").
- **Questions:**
- Who did this become known to? _____
- What did *Hakeldama* mean? _____

Write out **Matthew 27:5-7** _____

Verse 20:

- "For it is _____ in the Book of _____:
Let his _____ become desolate;
let no one _____ in it; and
Let someone else take his _____.
- **Questions:**
- What Old Testament book of the Bible is Peter about to quote out of? _____
- What did this prophecy, out of Psalms, say about
 - his dwelling? _____
 - how many will live in it? _____
 - his vacant position? _____

Note: This prophecy is from Psalms 69:25 and Psalms 109:8.

Day 5 (Acts 1:21-26)

Pray God open your heart and understanding to what He would have you learn today from His Word.
Read **Acts 1** out loud and complete the following verses and questions.

21 “Therefore, from among the men who have accompanied us during the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us— **22** beginning from the baptism of John until the day he was taken up from us—from among these, it is necessary that one become a witness with us of his resurrection.” **23** So they proposed two: Joseph, called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. **24** Then they prayed, “You, Lord, know everyone’s hearts; show which of these two you have chosen **25** to take the place in this apostolic ministry that Judas left to go where he belongs.” **26** Then they cast lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Verse 21-22:

- “_____, from among the men who have _____ us during the _____ time the Lord _____ went in and out _____ us—
- beginning from the _____ of John until the day he was _____ up from us—from _____ these, it is _____ that one become a _____ with us of his _____.”
- **Question:** what is the timeline for Judas’ replacement? From the time _____ baptized Jesus until Jesus _____ into heaven.

Note: this would include witnessing the brutal crucifixion and resurrection as well as the 40 days that Jesus taught them in His resurrected body. These men will be witnesses and upon their eyewitness testimony, the church will be built.

Verse 23:

- So they _____ two: Joseph, called Barsabbas, who was _____ known as Justus, and Matthias.
- **Question:** who are the 2 people that they proposed to fill Judas Iscariot’s position among the other 11 apostles? _____ and _____
- _____

Verse 24-25:

- _____ they prayed, “You, Lord, know _____ hearts; show _____ of these _____ you have _____
- to take the _____ in this apostolic _____ that Judas _____ to go where _____ belongs.”
- **Questions:**
 - What is the first thing that they did? _____
 - In their prayer, what did they say that the Lord knew about everyone? _____
 - What did they ask the Lord to do? _____
 - Why did they need the Lord to show them which of the two to choose? _____

Verse 26:

- Then they _____ lots for them, and the _____ fell to Matthias and he was _____ to the eleven _____.
- **Questions:**
- How did they decide? _____
- Who did the “lot” fall to add to the eleven apostles? _____

Note: the “practice of casting lots” is listed 70 times in the OT and 7 times in the NT. This was an ancient procedure where they would determine God’s will in a situation. This will be the last time that we see this practice.