

WEEKS 25-36

# Acts+

A WEEKLY BIBLE READING PLAN  
BASED ON THE BOOK OF ACTS.





**And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship and the breaking of bread and the prayers.**

**–Acts 2:42**



## Acts +

The Book of Acts is Luke's second book. It's the story of how Jesus' life, death, and resurrection transformed everyone around Him, and through those people, the world. It's the story of the early church.

In Acts, the early church takes the good news of Jesus to all people. They experience the power of the Holy Spirit. They encounter questions about what it means to follow Jesus in their new, resurrected, transformed life—questions not so different from the ones we face today.

We hope this simple reading plan based on the Book of Acts will help you discover the Good News and be transformed by the story of Jesus.

## Week 25

This week, we read about Jesus' ascension, the promise of the Holy Spirit, and the return of Christ.

### SUNDAY

## Acts 1

Acts 1 tells us about Jesus' ascension, and the promise of the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells the disciples that they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and that they will be witnesses for Christ. A replacement is needed for Judas, and Matthias is chosen by lot.

### MONDAY

## Daniel 7

Daniel 7 is an End Times prophetic picture, the coming of the One who will reign and rule all kingdoms for all of eternity. Jesus spoke of His coming before He ascended.

### TUESDAY

## John 14

In John, Jesus speaks of what will happen in Acts 1; His ascension, and the promise of the Holy Spirit.

**WEDNESDAY**    **Mark 1:1-15**

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In today's reading, we read about the first introduction of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. First, John the Baptist declares that Jesus will baptize people with the Holy Spirit. After John baptizes Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes upon Him.

**THURSDAY**    **1 Corinthians 12**

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This chapter explains the meaning, functions, and purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**FRIDAY**    **Revelation 22:12-21**

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Today's reading is Jesus' declaration that He is returning, as promised in Acts 1.

**SATURDAY**    **Psalms 73, 74, 75**

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# Week 26

This week we'll read about the Holy Spirit, from the disciples' baptism at Pentecost to the Holy Spirit's involvement in the Old Testament.

SUNDAY

## Acts 2

At Pentecost tongues of fire descend on the disciples, and they are filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues. Peter preaches the risen Christ and exhorts those present to be baptized in the name of Jesus.

MONDAY

## Exodus 3

Today, we read about Moses and the burning bush. The presence of fire represents the presence of God. In the same way, the presence of fire in Acts 2 is symbolic of the presence of God.

TUESDAY

## 1 Samuel 11:1-11, 1 Samuel 16:14-23

In both of these passages, we read about the

presence and absence of the Holy Spirit in the life of Saul. The Holy Spirit came upon people throughout the Bible so that they could accomplish the work of God. This shows us that the Holy Spirit has always been present, empowering His people in different ways to accomplish the mission of God.

**WEDNESDAY** **Joel 2**

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Acts 2 is a direct fulfillment of this chapter in Joel, a prophetic word that is still being fulfilled today.

**THURSDAY** **1 Corinthians 13**

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This chapter explains the motivation for using the gifts of the spirit. Paul admonishes everyone to always be motivated by love in their manifestations of the Spirit.

**FRIDAY** **Galatians 5:13-26**

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Paul talks about how important it is that we not only display the manifestation of the Spirit but live by the fruit of the Spirit, so that our testimony is untainted.

**SATURDAY** **Psalms 76, 77, 78**

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## Week 27

In this week's reading, we see the disciples beginning to live out the mandate given to them, unashamed and with great boldness from the Holy Spirit. We see that the death and resurrection of Jesus was in the plan of God all along.

### SUNDAY

## Acts 3

In today's reading, Peter and John heal a paralyzed beggar and preach about the life of Jesus. Peter preaches repentance, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

### MONDAY

## Deuteronomy 18:14-22

In Acts 3 Peter references this passage in Deuteronomy, where Moses states that God will raise up a prophet—Jesus.

TUESDAY

## **Jeremiah 33**

In this chapter of Jeremiah, God speaks about the restoration of Israel; restoration that will happen through Jesus.

WEDNESDAY

## **Matthew 9:1-8;18-34**

Today's reading is a few of Jesus' healing stories. In Acts 3, Peter and John are imitating Jesus' life and obeying His command to heal the sick.

THURSDAY

## **John 10:1-21**

Jesus presents himself as the Good Shepherd, the only one that leads to salvation.

FRIDAY

## **Hebrews 10**

In Acts 3, Peter tells the Jews they intended to kill Jesus for their own benefit, but God had a plan all along: He intended Jesus to be the sacrifice once and for all. Hebrews 10 elaborates on the need for this sacrifice.

SATURDAY

## **Psalm 79, 80, 81**

## Week 28

This week we read about the boldness of individuals filled with the Holy Spirit, along with encouragement from Peter and Paul.

### SUNDAY

## Acts 4

The Sadducees have Peter and John arrested for preaching the resurrection of the dead. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, preaches boldly to the Sanhedrin. After Peter and John's release the believers pray for boldness, and are filled with the Holy Spirit.

### MONDAY

## Judges 3:7-11, 6:33-38, 14:5-7

These short stories tell us about the Holy Spirit coming upon leaders and granting them boldness to fulfill specific tasks, just like Peter in Acts 4.

### TUESDAY

## Isaiah 59

This chapter is God's intent for sin, confession, and redemption, which includes the promise of the Holy Spirit forever.

**WEDNESDAY** **1 Corinthians 15**

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In today's reading, Paul goes into more depth about the resurrection of the dead, resurrection and Jesus, and what that means to us as believers.

**THURSDAY** **Peter 1**

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Peter talks about the hope of eternal life; the blessing, the suffering, and the reward. Peter walked through this himself in Acts 4, and is encouraging others.

**FRIDAY** **1 Peter 2:4-25**

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Peter uses the same cornerstone analogy from Acts 4 to encourage Christians by reminding them of their strong foundation, and that each of them is an individual stone being built as the church of God.

**SATURDAY** **Psalms 82, 83, 84**

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## Week 29

In this week's reading, we'll read about the fruit of the deception of man, the gospel being preached during persecution, and the promise of hope through Jesus.

### SUNDAY

## Acts 5

Ananias and Sapphira sell a piece of property, but keep back some of the proceeds. Peter rebukes them, and they fall down dead. Many wonders are performed throughout the city, with many healed. The apostles are arrested again, but Peter boldly stands as witness to the crucified and risen Christ. After a beating, the apostles resume preaching with joy.

### MONDAY

## Genesis 3

In Acts, Ananias and Sapphira were deceptive, leading to their physical death. Today we read about the first deception of man leading to death, and the promise of Jesus.

TUESDAY

## John 15

Jesus admonishes the disciples to remain in Him, but to also note that, as they do so, they will be persecuted just as Jesus was.

WEDNESDAY

## James 1

James talks about the trials and temptations that believers face, then goes on to talk about righteous living under the cross. He encourages us to practice what we read so that our faith is not in vain.

THURSDAY

## 1 Peter 4

Peter encourages the church that there is suffering in following Christ, but also a greater reward.

FRIDAY

## 1 John 2

John cautions the church against sin such as hatred, loving the world, and denying the Son. He also tells them to be cautious of others who could be leading them astray.

SATURDAY

## Psalm 85, 86, 87

## Week 30

This week we read about leadership within the early church, and the gifts that God gives to the body of Christ.

### SUNDAY

## Acts 6

The Grecian Jews complain to the Hebraic Jews that their widows are ignored in daily distributions.

The apostles appoint seven men to preside over the business of distribution. One of them, Stephen, performs great wonders, and the Jews falsely accuse Stephen of heresy.

### MONDAY

## Numbers 27:12-23

In Acts, the apostles pray over and lay hands on appointed men. In today's reading we see a similar tradition. It was customary for the Jews to lay hands on appointed men before they did the work of God.

TUESDAY

## Romans 12

In this reading, we see the different gifts God has given the church to function in unity. The foundation is to love well and use our gifts to serve each other.

WEDNESDAY

## Ephesians 4:1-16

The church is a family unit; God grants us gifts, and we use those gifts to serve each other and build the church.

THURSDAY

## 1 Timothy 3:1-13

Paul writes instructions for people in leadership to help guide their behavior, similar to the requirements the Twelve had for leaders in Acts 6.

FRIDAY

## Titus 3

Today's reading helps us understand that we are saved to do good and give to each other.

SATURDAY

## Psalms 88, 89, 90

## Week 31

This week teaches about suffering for Christ. We read about the first martyr, about the Jewish culture of remembering their history, and the hope that Jesus is who He says He is. He is sitting at the right hand of His Father.

SUNDAY

### Acts 7

In this chapter we read about the first martyr, Stephen, who is stoned to death; an execution observed by Paul. Before dying, Stephen has a vision of the Son of man sitting at the right hand of the Father.

MONDAY

### Leviticus 24:10-23

Today we read about the Law of the Jews, in which God commands that anyone who blasphemes—like Stephen was accused of—should be stoned.

TUESDAY

### Joshua 24:1-15

In today's reading Joshua recounts the story of his

ancestors, just like Stephen in Acts. It was customary for Jewish men to know and understand their family stories.

## **WEDNESDAY**    **John 1:1-18**

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This passage in John is a picture of Jesus and His relationship to the Father. He was there in the beginning, and is still there now. Stephen saw this picture of the Father and Jesus before dying.

## **THURSDAY**    **Hebrews 11**

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Stephen was a man of faith, like those mentioned in Hebrews 11. Here we also see a repetition of stories from the Old Testament. It was part of the Jewish culture to know their history as a way to honor God.

## **FRIDAY**    **1 Peter 3:8-22**

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Peter talks about suffering for doing good, similar to Stephen's experience. In verse 22 he talks about Jesus sitting at the right hand of God, just as Stephen saw.

## **SATURDAY**    **Psalms 91, 92, 93**

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## Week 32

As part of God's divine plan, the gospel is spread even further through persecution of the church. More ethnicities are hearing the gospel of Jesus, being baptized, and coming into a relationship with Jesus.

SUNDAY

### Acts 8

The church is persecuted at the hands of Saul and scatters. Philip successfully preaches the gospel to the Samaritans and converts Simon the Sorcerer. Simon asks Peter if he can buy the power of the Holy Spirit and Peter rebukes him. The Lord directs Philip to an Ethiopian government official. The Ethiopian confesses Christ and is baptized, whereupon Philip mysteriously disappears.

MONDAY

### Isaiah 53

Today we'll read the same passage of Isaiah that Philip explained to the Ethiopian eunuch.

TUESDAY

## Matthew 28

This chapter in Matthew contains the Great Commission, a mission the church in Acts was fulfilling. Persecution caused them to spread the gospel even further.

WEDNESDAY

## Romans 8

In today's reading Paul talks about life through the Spirit and the suffering that comes with it, but also the greater glory to come.

THURSDAY

## 2 Corinthians 4

Paul writes about the present suffering and persecution of the Christian life, but also the glory that comes at resurrection.

FRIDAY

## 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

In today's reading Paul explains the purpose behind the gospel and what the church in Acts was doing: bringing people into reconciliation with God.

SATURDAY

## Psalm 94, 95, 96

## Week 33

God is constantly speaking to us, turning us toward Him. This week, we read about Paul's transformation through an encounter with Jesus. We also read about Paul's history and his call as an apostle.

### SUNDAY

## Acts 9

Saul travels to Damascus to arrest Christians and bring them back to Jerusalem to be persecuted. He encounters Jesus on the road and is radically changed. To everyone's amazement, Saul preaches in Damascus. Later, he travels to Jerusalem and meets with the believers there. Peter heals many people and stays with Simon, a tanner.

### MONDAY

## Job 33:1-18

In today's reading we experience a God who communicates with us for the same reason He spoke to Paul—to turn us from our sin to righteousness. God is always speaking to us, in many different ways.

TUESDAY

## **John 5:30-47**

Saul persecuted the first followers of Jesus. Saul was a Pharisee; in John 5, Jesus tells the Pharisees that though they've studied the scriptures diligently, they've failed to realize that Jesus is the Son of God.

WEDNESDAY

## **Romans 1:1-6; Romans 15:14-21**

In both of these passages, we see Paul's calling as an apostle manifested.

THURSDAY

## **1 Timothy 1:12-17, Galatians 1:11-24**

In today's reading Paul recounts his salvation encounter both to confirm his calling and to preach the gospel.

FRIDAY

## **Philippians 3**

In this chapter, Paul uses his story to communicate the gospel to the Philippians. He mentions his qualifications as a Jew but counts that as loss compared to the knowledge of Christ.

SATURDAY

## **Psalm 97, 98, 99**

## Week 34

In this week's reading we begin to see the heart and intention of God all along; salvation and the promise of the Holy Spirit for everyone.

### SUNDAY

## Acts 10

Cornelius, a God-serving Roman centurion, is told by an angel to go to Peter. Peter has a vision in which a sheet with all kinds of clean and unclean animals descends from heaven. After his vision, Peter keeps company with Cornelius, a Gentile, despite the fact that it is forbidden for a Jew to do so. The Holy Spirit fills the Gentiles, who begin speaking in tongues, praising God, and are baptized.

### MONDAY

## Leviticus 11

In today's reading Moses presents the list of clean and unclean foods to the Israelites. This helps us understand Peter's vision.

TUESDAY

## **Zechariah 8**

This chapter reveals God's heart to bring salvation to Jerusalem, and also to all people.

WEDNESDAY

## **Mark 7:1-23**

In Mark 7, Jesus challenges religion. Religion is concerned with the outside appearance; Jesus is concerned with the heart.

THURSDAY

## **Ephesians 1**

In today's reading Paul confirms the participation of Gentiles in God's kingdom, both the blessing and the responsibility. He specifically states that Gentiles were predestined for adoption as sons.

FRIDAY

## **Colossians 2**

In Colossians, Paul explains the fullness and freedom all people (Jew and Gentile, slave and free alike) have in Christ. We aren't bound by rules about what we eat or touch, etc., but are redeemed only through Christ.

SATURDAY

## **Psalm 100, 101, 102**

## Week 35

This week, we discover that the gospel of Jesus breaks all barriers of culture and race and creates a community of people. All people are adopted into the family of God after salvation.

SUNDAY

### Acts 11

Jews object that Peter associates with Gentiles. The church in Antioch grows as Gentiles turn to the Lord. The term "Christian" is first used in Antioch.

MONDAY

### Isaiah 56:1-8

In today's reading we see God's heart for salvation of the Gentiles, even in the Old Testament.

TUESDAY

### Romans 9

This chapter in Romans shows us a picture of our adoption into the heritage and blessing of Israel. All people now have access to God, both Jew and Gentile.

WEDNESDAY

## Galatians 3

In this reading Paul explains that adoption into the family of Jesus Christ is for all people, not just the Jews. He also explains that we are saved through faith in Jesus Christ.

THURSDAY

## Colossians 3

This passage teaches us how to live as one in Jesus, regardless of our background.

FRIDAY

## Philemon 1

Paul reiterates that salvation is for all people, using Onesimus as an example. He was a slave that became a Christian. Paul encourages Philemon to accept Onesimus into the Christian community as one of their own, showing us again that the gospel breaks all barriers.

SATURDAY

## Psalms 103, 104, 105

## Week 36

This week we'll read about the life of James the apostle, who was part of Jesus' inner circle, and about the power of prayer.

### SUNDAY

## Acts 12

Acts 12 tells us about the death of James, and Peter's imprisonment and miraculous rescue.

### MONDAY

## Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 3:13-19, Luke 9:51-56, Matthew 20:20-28, Mark 10:35-44

Who was James? Today we will look at several passages of scripture that tell us about James' calling, what James and his brother John were like, and how they and their mother once asked if they could sit at Jesus' right and left hand.

### TUESDAY

## Matt. 17:1-9, Mark 5:35-43, Mark 14:32-42

James was one of the few disciples who witnessed Jesus' transfiguration. He was also with Jesus when He raised Jairus' daughter from the dead, and when

Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.

**Luke 11:1-13, John 14:12-14, 1 Thess. 5:17,**

**WEDNESDAY**

**James 5:13-18, 1 John 5:14-15**

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In Acts 12, the church prayed earnestly for Peter's release from prison. Today we'll read scriptures about effective prayer.

**Genesis 19:1-29, Daniel 3:28, Psalm 34:7,**

**THURSDAY**

**Matthew 4:11**

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Peter encountered an angel as a messenger and helper. The scriptures we read today reveal the ministry of angels throughout the Bible.

**Exodus 20:2-6, Exodus 32,**

**FRIDAY**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-14**

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Herod was struck by an angel of the Lord because he accepted the people's worship instead of giving glory to God. Today, we'll read verses concerning the worship of other gods or idols.

**SATURDAY**

**Psalm 106, 107, 108**

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