

WEEKS 37-52

# 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 37

Over the next several weeks we'll read the letters Paul wrote to churches during and after his missionary journeys. This week we'll read the book of Galatians, which is believed to be written around 48-49 AD, about the time Acts 13 was taking place.

SUNDAY

### Acts 13

In this chapter Paul and Barnabas are set apart by the Holy Spirit. They travel to Cyprus and Antioch, preaching the good news to Jews and Gentiles alike.

MONDAY

### 2 Peter 2, Deuteronomy 18:6-14, Matthew 24:23-28, 1 John 4:1-6

In Acts 13 Paul and Barnabas encounter a sorcerer, a false teacher or prophet. Many passages in the Bible warn about false prophets and teachers.

TUESDAY

### Genesis 12-13

The church dedicated Saul and Barnabas and sent them out, just as God sent Abraham out to

be the father of many nations. Abraham, like Saul and Barnabas, said “Yes!” to the Lord. Their great obedience advanced all that God wanted to do.

WEDNESDAY

## Galatians 1-2

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Paul’s opponents questioned his integrity and authority as an apostle, so Paul opens this letter by defending his apostleship. Paul declares that he has received the gospel message not by human reasoning, but from a direct revelation of Jesus Christ. In Chapter 2 Paul has a dispute with Peter over circumcision and Peter’s wavering when challenged.

THURSDAY

## Galatians 3-4

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

FRIDAY

## Galatians 5-6

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In today’s reading we see what it looks like to have freedom in Christ and live a Godly life through the Holy Spirit.

SATURDAY

## Psalms 109, 110, 111

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## Week 38

This week we read about some of Paul and Barnabas's travels.

SUNDAY

### Acts 14

Paul and Barnabas spread the good news about Jesus. A mob of Gentiles and Jews attack them but they continue to travel, winning many disciples.

MONDAY

### Mark 16:15-20, Hebrews 2:1-4, 2 Corinthians 12:1-13

Today we read a few passages that talk about God confirming His message through signs and wonders, just as He does through Paul and Barnabas in Acts 14.

TUESDAY

### Matthew 5:10-12, John 15:18-26

Persecution, like we read about in Acts 14, is inevitable when sharing the good news about Jesus. Today's reading is encouragement to persecuted believers.

WEDNESDAY

## **1 Corinthians 3:1-11, Psalm 133**

In Acts 14 the people of Iconium were divided in their opinions. The Bible is clear about division and dwelling together in unity.

THURSDAY

## **Matthew 9:1-13, John 5:1-23, John 9:1-34**

Paul and Barnabas heal a crippled man in Acts 14. In John 14:12 Jesus tells His disciples, "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father."

FRIDAY

## **Genesis 37, Joel 2:12-17**

When the people of Lystra thought Paul and Barnabas were gods, they tore their clothing in dismay. Tearing their clothing was a sign of deep grief, pain, or sorrow. Genesis 37 shows Jacob tearing his clothes in grief. Joel focuses on tearing your heart and not your garments as a sign of repentance.

SATURDAY

## **Psalms 112, 113, 114**

## Week 39

In this week's reading we get a glimpse into how the early church dealt with what it meant to live out God's laws in a post-resurrection world.

SUNDAY

### Acts 15

The apostles hold a council in Jerusalem to discuss requirements for Gentile believers. They decide against requiring circumcision but agree on some requirements.

MONDAY

### Genesis 17:1-14, Romans 2:25-29

Genesis 17 gives us insight to the covenant God made with Abraham. Romans offers Paul's perspective on circumcision.

TUESDAY

### 2 Corinthians 1:12-22, 2 Corinthians 5:1-5, Ephesians 1:1-14

Peter addresses the apostles in Acts 15 and says that God confirms He accepts the Gentiles by giving

them the Holy Spirit. Today's passages talk about God giving the Holy Spirit to those who follow Him.

**WEDNESDAY**    **Leviticus 17:1-16, 1 Corinthians 8**

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Today's reading talks about two of the requirements the council in Jerusalem settled on for new believers; Leviticus forbids the eating of blood, and 1 Corinthians talks about food sacrificed to idols.

**THURSDAY**    **1 Corinthians 5,  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

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Another requirement for new believers is to abstain from sexual sin. In 1 Corinthians Paul talks more in-depth about sexual immorality.

**FRIDAY**    **James 4:1-12, Matthew 18:15-19**

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Paul and Barnabas have a strong disagreement at the end of Acts 15. Today's reading talks about submitting ourselves to God so we don't quarrel, and the correct way to deal with sin in the church.

**SATURDAY**    **Psalms 115, 116, 117**

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## Week 40

This week we'll read the book of Philippians. It's unclear when this letter was written, but Philippi was the first city to hear the good news about Jesus on Paul's second missionary journey.

SUNDAY

### Acts 16

Timothy joins Paul and Silas as they travel. They eventually arrive in Philippi, where Paul and Silas are imprisoned for preaching the good news.

MONDAY

### John 15:26-16:15

The Holy Spirit forbade Paul and Silas to preach the Word in the province of Asia. This passage in John talks about how the Holy Spirit will be our guide.

TUESDAY

### Mark 16:15-18, Matthew 10:1-25

Paul and Silas encountered a young slave girl that was demon possessed. They cast out the demon as commanded in Mark. Then Paul and Silas suffered

imprisonment and beating for preaching the good news. When Jesus called His disciples in Matthew 10, He warned them about the coming persecution.

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**WEDNESDAY** **Joshua 6**

While they were in prison Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns to God, and there was an earthquake. There is power in worship and prayer. Read Joshua 6 and see what happens when the ram's horns are blown (symbolic of worship) and when a shout is released (prayer).

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**THURSDAY** **Philippians 1-2**

When Paul visits Philippi he is beaten and thrown in prison. The next two days we'll read Philippians, a letter that teaches us about the importance of having joy in our journey following Christ.

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**FRIDAY** **Philippians 3-4**

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**SATURDAY** **Psalms 118**

# Week 41

This week's reading includes 1 and 2 Thessalonians. The letters to the Thessalonians were probably written around 50 AD while Paul was in Corinth.

## SUNDAY

### Acts 17

Paul and his companions travel to Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens, where Paul shares the good news with the Athenians.

## MONDAY

### Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hosea 6:1-3

Paul explained prophecies about the Messiah suffering and rising from the dead while he was teaching in the synagogue in Thessalonica.

Today we'll read some of the prophecies he could have spoken about.

TUESDAY

## **Exodus 20:1-6, 23:20-33**

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While Paul was in Athens he was greatly distressed to see the city was full of idols. Today's reading tells us how God feels about the worship of idols.

WEDNESDAY

## **1 Thessalonians 1-3**

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Luke reported the evangelization of Thessalonica at the beginning of Acts 17. As we'll read over the next few days, the letters to the Thessalonians were full of encouragement for living a life worthy of being called a Christian.

THURSDAY

## **1 Thessalonians 4-5**

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FRIDAY

## **2 Thessalonians 1-3**

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SATURDAY

## **Psalms 119**

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## Week 42

Acts 18 tells us about Paul's stay in Corinth. In verse 23 Paul travels to the region of Galatia and Phrygia to strengthen all the disciples. Later this week, we'll read the book of Galatians.

SUNDAY

### Acts 18

Paul stays in Corinth, where many Corinthians believe and are baptized. He travels to Jerusalem, Antioch, and Galatia.

MONDAY

### Numbers 6

In Acts 18 Paul shaves his head, marking the end of a vow according to Jewish custom. It appears that Paul took a Nazirite vow. Nazirite in Hebrew means to be separate. Numbers explains more about the Nazirites.

TUESDAY

## Proverbs 16, 19:2

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When the Ephesians asked Paul to stay longer, Paul told them, "I will come back later, God willing."

Proverbs talks about following God's will.

WEDNESDAY

## Galatians 1-2

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Over the next three days we will read what Paul wrote to the church in Galatia. Galatians is known as the grace gospel. It encourages us to live freely before God and to serve one another.

THURSDAY

## Galatians 3-4

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FRIDAY

## Galatians 5-6

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SATURDAY

## Psalms 120, 121, 122

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## Week 43

This week we read about Paul traveling to Ephesus, where he stays for over two years. Paul developed a deep relationship with the Ephesians and his letter to them is one of the Bible's most moving passages.

### SUNDAY

## Acts 19

Paul travels to Ephesus. Many people believe the good news about Jesus, and God does extraordinary miracles through Paul. The good news makes such an impact that some of the Ephesian craftsmen start a riot.

### MONDAY

## John 1:19-34, Mark 1:1-8

While Paul is in Ephesus he asks some disciples if they received the Holy Spirit when they believed. Many had heard of John's baptism, but not Holy Spirit baptism. Today we'll read about John's baptism, which was a baptism of repentance.

**TUESDAY**

## **Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-11, Acts 2**

Today's reading is about the Holy Spirit's baptism, a baptism of power.

**WEDNESDAY**

## **Ephesians 1-2**

The book of Ephesians was probably written while Paul was imprisoned in Rome. It's full of blessings from above, apostolic prayers, and revelation.

**THURSDAY**

## **Ephesians 3-4**

**FRIDAY**

## **Ephesians 5-6**

**SATURDAY**

## **Psalms 123, 124, 125**

## Week 44

This week's reading includes the book of 1 Corinthians. Paul established the Corinthian Church around 50-51 AD, and 1 Corinthians was probably written in 56 AD.

### SUNDAY

## Acts 20

Paul journeys to Greece. A young man is raised from the dead at Troas, and Paul says farewell to the Ephesian elders.

### MONDAY

## 1 Kings 17:17-24, 2 Kings 4:8-37

When Paul meets with believers in an upper room, a young man named Eutychus falls asleep while sitting in a window and falls to the ground. Paul immediately goes to the young man and wraps his arms around him. 1 and 2 Kings tell us of two similar incidents with Elijah and Elisha.

**TUESDAY**

## **1 Corinthians 1-4**

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The first letter to the Corinthian church was written as a pastoral letter to resolve doctrinal and practical problems within the local church. We've read many passages from 1 Corinthians so far, but reading all of it together will help us understand the letter in its entirety.

**WEDNESDAY**

## **1 Corinthians 5-9**

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**THURSDAY**

## **1 Corinthians 10-12**

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**FRIDAY**

## **1 Corinthians 13-15**

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**SATURDAY**

## **Psalms 126, 127, 128**

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## Week 45

This week we'll read about Paul's arrest in Jerusalem and his second letter to the Corinthian church.

SUNDAY

### Acts 21

After leaving Ephesus Paul travels to Jerusalem, where he is greeted warmly by other believers. Shortly after Paul arrives he is arrested.

MONDAY

### Esther 1-4

In Acts, Paul refers to Philip's four unmarried daughters who prophesied. This statement implies the role of women in ministry. The next two days we will read the book of Esther, a significant account of a woman who stood for her nation.

TUESDAY

### Esther 5-8

**WEDNESDAY**    **2 Corinthians 1-4**

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This second letter to the Corinthians was probably written about the same time as the book of Romans. Many of the believers in Corinth rejected Paul's first letter, so Paul visited the church there. 2 Corinthians is his follow-up to that visit. 2 Corinthians challenges believers to live lives transformed by the story of Jesus.

**THURSDAY**    **2 Corinthians 5-9**

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**FRIDAY**    **2 Corinthians 10-13**

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These chapters are believed to be part of the formerly mentioned "severe letter" that was written to the Corinthians. The letter in its entirety is not available.

**SATURDAY**    **Psalms 129, 130, 131**

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## Week 46

This week's reading includes the book of Romans. The book of Romans is believed to have been written by Paul from Corinth in approximately 56 AD.

### SUNDAY

## Acts 22

Paul speaks to the Jewish mob who tried to kill him. Once the Roman commander realizes Paul is a Roman citizen, he brings Paul before the Sanhedrin.

### MONDAY

## Daniel 10, Ezekiel 1, Revelation 4

Paul speaks about a trance that he was in while praying. The Greek word for trance is *existemi*, which means to displace the individual's ordinary state of mind with an elevated, God-given state of mind. Today we'll read other accounts of visions or trances in the Bible.

TUESDAY

## Romans 1-4

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The church in Rome was founded by other Christians. Paul had not been to Rome when he wrote this letter, but he had preached the Gospel and planted churches in the Mediterranean world for more than 10 years. Romans is Paul's explanation of the gospel message.

WEDNESDAY

## Romans 5-8

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THURSDAY

## Romans 9-12

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FRIDAY

## Romans 13-16

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SATURDAY

## Psalms 132, 133, 134

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## Week 47

This week we'll read a letter written by Peter, not Paul. It is believed that 1 Peter was written in the late 50s AD or early 60s AD, around the same time Paul was arrested.

SUNDAY

### Acts 23

Paul speaks before the Sanhedrin. Some Jews form a plot to kill Paul, so Paul is sent to Caesarea to Governor Felix.

MONDAY

### Leviticus 21-22:16

Acts tells us that Ananias is the high priest. Today we'll read about the role of the high priest.

TUESDAY

### Hebrews 9

Today's reading talks about Christ's role as our high priest.

**WEDNESDAY**    **1 Peter 1-2**

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1 Peter was written to encourage all true Christians that we will experience some type of hostility from an ungodly world. Peter calls believers to patience and holiness. Persecution of Christians is as great in many parts of the world today as it was in the 1st century.

**THURSDAY**    **1 Peter 3-4**

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

**FRIDAY**    **1 Peter 5**

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Silvanus (or Silas) was possibly Peter's secretary and could have helped compose 1 and 2 Peter. Silvanus accompanied Paul during his second missionary journey.

**SATURDAY**    **Psalms 135, 136, 137**

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## Week 48

This week we read about Paul's trial and one of the letters he wrote while imprisoned in Rome.

SUNDAY

### Acts 24

This chapter tells us about Paul's trial and defense before Governor Felix.

MONDAY

### John 2:13-25

During Paul's trial the high priest accuses him of profaning the temple. This passage in John shows us an example of what the Bible refers to as profaning the temple.

TUESDAY

### Revelation 20

During his trial Paul contends that his hope in God is that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust. This chapter of Revelation talks about the judgement of the dead.

**WEDNESDAY** **Titus 1-2**

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The next two days we'll read Paul's letter to Titus. Titus was a believer highly esteemed by Paul and traveled with him on his third missionary journey. Titus was traveling to Crete to care for the new churches there.

**THURSDAY** **Titus 3**

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**FRIDAY** **Philemon**

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Both the date and the content of Paul's letter to Philemon suggests it was one of the several letters written while Paul was imprisoned and awaiting trial in Rome. Philemon was written as a personal appeal from Paul to Philemon concerning Onesimus. Philemon was converted through Paul's ministry.

**SATURDAY** **Psalms 138, 139, 140**

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## Week 49

This week includes Paul's letter to the Colossians, another letter he wrote while in Rome. We also read about Paul's appeal to Caesar.

SUNDAY

### Acts 25

This chapter in Acts tells us about Paul's appearances before Festus and Agrippa.

MONDAY

### John 15:18-25, Revelation 6

Paul was persecuted throughout Acts for his bold witness of the Gospel. Today we'll read some passages about persecution.

TUESDAY

### 1 Kings 21

There were many serious charges leveled against Paul by the Jews, but they were unable to substantiate the charges, bearing false witness against Paul. A false witness stands up and swears before others that something untrue is true, especially with the intention

of hurting someone else or ruining their reputation. When a person is righteous and their enemies can find nothing with which to blame them, bearing false witness is a common weapon. This chapter in 1 Kings tells us about a time when Ahab used false witness to condemn a man to death.

**WEDNESDAY** **Colossians 1**

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Epaphras asked for Paul's help to deal with false teaching that threatened the church in Colossae. This letter was delivered to the church by Tychicus, and addressed problems the church faced as well as encouraged believers to continue to live transformed lives.

**THURSDAY** **Colossians 2**

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**FRIDAY** **Colossians 3-4**

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**SATURDAY** **Psalms 141, 142, 143**

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## Week 50

This week we'll read about Paul's defense before King Agrippa, our need for a Messiah, and Paul's letter to Timothy.

SUNDAY

### Acts 26

In this chapter Paul tells his story and shares the good news about Jesus before King Agrippa.

MONDAY

### Genesis 3, Genesis 12:1-9, Isaiah 9:1-7

Genesis 3 tells the story of the fall of man, which brought about the need for the hope and promise of a Messiah. We'll also read some of the promises from the Lord about the coming Messiah.

TUESDAY

## Jeremiah 1

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Paul tells the story of how he was blinded and brought to the ground by the presence and glory of Jesus. Jesus asked Saul, "...why are you kicking against the goads?" or, "Why are you resisting My calling for you?" Jeremiah 1 is a picture of the Lord's calling. We are not to resist our calling for any excuse.

WEDNESDAY

## 1 Timothy 1-2

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Paul wrote this letter to Timothy to encourage him in his difficult task of dealing with doctrinal errors and practical problems in the church at Ephesus.

THURSDAY

## 1 Timothy 3-4

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FRIDAY

## 1 Timothy 5-6

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SATURDAY

## Psalms 144, 145, 145

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## Week 51

This week's reading includes Peter's second letter. Peter was martyred in Rome around 67 AD, the same time that Luke was in Rome writing the book of Acts.

SUNDAY

### Acts 27

Paul sails for Rome. The ship is caught in a storm and is wrecked after fourteen days.

MONDAY

### 1 Kings 19:1-18, Proverbs 25:13, 25

Paul was able to go ashore and visit some friends in Acts 27. The Bible says that Paul was refreshed there. Today's reading is about times of refreshing after very tense or hard times.

TUESDAY

## **Mark 4:35-41, Jonah 1**

While on his way to Rome, Paul and those aboard the ship were tossed at sea in a storm. Today we'll read about Jonah, who was on a ship when the waves were incredibly rough. God calmed the sea when Jonah obeyed. In Mark, Jesus calms the seas when He and His disciples are caught in a storm.

WEDNESDAY

## **2 Peter 1**

2 Peter is an encouragement to believers to continue growing in their faith in God. He also writes a lengthy warning against false teachers who are teaching worldliness and humanistic philosophy.

THURSDAY

## **2 Peter 2**

FRIDAY

## **2 Peter 3**

SATURDAY

## **Psalms 146, 147, 148**

## Week 52

This week we'll read the final chapter in Acts as well as the last of Paul's letters.

SUNDAY

### Acts 28

The shipwrecked passengers are welcomed onto the island of Malta. After spending three months there, they travel on to Rome where Paul is placed under house arrest. He continues to boldly preach the good news about Jesus.

MONDAY

### Mark 6:5, Mark 7:31-37, Mark 16:18

Paul demonstrated the laying on of hands to heal Publius' father. There are several reasons and examples in the Bible of the laying on of hands. Today we'll read some passages about healing.

TUESDAY

## **Genesis 48, Leviticus 16:18-22**

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Today we continue reading about the purposes of laying on of hands. Genesis shows us a blessing, and Leviticus tells us about the consecration of an offering.

WEDNESDAY

## **2 Timothy 1**

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2 Timothy is Paul's affectionate appeal to Timothy to come to him in Rome, as well as instructions for the welfare of the church.

THURSDAY

## **2 Timothy 2-3**

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FRIDAY

## **2 Timothy 4**

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SATURDAY

## **Psalms 149, 150**

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