



# ACTS 1–10

## THE EARLY CHURCH

(8 BIBLE STUDIES)

**EXAMINATION APPLICATION**

**BIBLE STUDIES**



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## THE SMALL PRINT

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### **Your Commitment**

I would encourage you to make a commitment to attending your group regularly. I realise that sometimes there are things that get in the way, but do prioritise studying the Bible with other. This will involve sacrifice, and effective use of your time, but I really believe that in doing so you will get the most out of studying the Bible and praying together in your small group.

### **Your Contribution**

What you put into the group is going to determine what you get out of the group. I encourage you to contribute honestly to the discussion and workings of the group. I understand people come from different backgrounds with unique personalities & life experiences. But, we all have a big part to play, so I encourage you to be fully present and take ownership of your group.

### **Your Preparation**

These materials are primarily for use in preparing and/or leading group discussions, but they will also be useful in keeping your thoughts together in one place. The materials provide you with the passage so that you can identify and highlight recurring themes and note down your own thoughts and questions. Also, the materials include questions designed to provoke thought, and help you reflect on what the passage meant, both at the time it was written, and also what it means for us now.

I would encourage you to make good use of these materials, as doing so will help you contribute and get the most out of the group discussions. The materials are, however, only “tools” – they are there to help you, and not to restrict you, or force you to think in a certain manner. I want to see God speaking to you through these passages, and if the questions or notes don't help you, simply don't use them!

I have also included within these materials an introduction to the book. Make of this what you will, but I hope that it is helpful in getting you started with these studies!

### **Your Leadership**

Here are some useful pointers in how to lead your Bible study group. Be aware that included in this study guide are more questions than you can possibly ask and/or answer in one session. They are not designed to be used rigidly, and there will rarely be a need to ask every question! Make sure that you spend some time praying at the start and ensure you read & re-read the passages as much as possible. In relation to the passages, then consider the suggested questions with an open mind. There is rarely “a single right answer” and I would encourage you to share your thoughts with your group.

I have also included a number of quotations from relevant Christian literature, most of which are readily available online if you want to do further thinking or study. My prayer is that as you study together you would grow to love Jesus and experience Him more deeply.

I would appreciate your feedback and suggestions on how to make these materials even better!

*Steve McClure  
Spring 2019*

Few would contest that Luke was the author of the book of Acts. He was a physician (Colossians 4:14) and also a travelling companion of Paul. At points the pronoun *we* tells us that he was with Paul on his journeys (e.g. 16:10–17, 20:5-21:18, 27:1-28:16). Some believe Acts to be written in 63AD (soon after the events of Acts 28) while others argue for a date of 70AD. The fact that no details are given of what happened to Paul (who was such a key player in the book) would seem to support the case for the earlier date. Acts (as was Luke's gospel) was written to Theophilus. Little however is known about him but these verses from the start of Luke's gospel tell us much about what Luke sought to achieve with his accounts:

*<sup>1</sup> Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, <sup>2</sup> just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eye witnesses and servants of the word. <sup>3</sup> With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.*

### **Luke 1:1-4**

Luke's writing is full of detail and employs a large vocabulary. Much of what he has written we are able to cross reference with what we know from history and archeology (e.g. times, places, cultures, descriptions and so on). Luke is a great story teller and loves to record events both with accuracy but also conveying the drama of what had happened: he really brings it to life. In the earlier section of Acts (most of chapters 1-12) which you can find in my other Acts study guide), the focus is really on Peter. The remaining chapters (13-28) focus largely on Paul. As a whole the book of Acts demonstrates how the gospel, through the early church and mobile operators like Paul and his travelling teams, spread from Jerusalem to Judea, to Samaria and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). It's rarely an easy ride and there are many obstacles on the way but we see how nothing and no-one could halt the spread of the gospel as Jesus turned the world upside down.

In these early chapters of Acts we see a total transformation of the disciples through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the steady growth of the early church. These first 10 chapters depict the spread of the gospel in fulfilment of Acts 1:8 which says: *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* These first 10 chapters focus predominantly on the life of Peter who soon becomes the leader of this dynamic movement. The other key player in the book of Acts is the Holy Spirit who Luke weaves through each and every chapter. His ministry is what gives power to this movement and from the day of Pentecost onwards we see thousands coming to faith in Christ daily. These early days are of course not without their challenges but with the Holy Spirit at work nothing can stop the spread of the gospel. Indeed God even uses persecution to facilitate this spread when the believers are scattered following the stoning of Stephen. These are motivating and inspiring chapters about how God turned the world upside down.

Steve McClure  
Spring 2019

## STUDY 1 – ACTS 1 – TRANSITIONS

**INTRODUCTION:** The book of Acts begins with the disciples waiting in Jerusalem, for the gift of the Holy Spirit who Jesus had promised. Before their very eyes they see Jesus leave them and ascend to Heaven. Their first point of business is to choose Matthias to replace Judas to join them.

**SETTING THE SCENE:** What kinds of things do people have most confidence in? How would you describe your level of confidence you have in the Bible? Compare v1&2 with Luke 1:1-4: why do you think Luke includes these comments on his purpose in writing? How do these verses help?

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**TRANSFORMED (v2-3):** How would you imagine the disciples were feeling after the events of the last few months (Luke 22:54-62, 24:1-12)? How might Jesus' appearances to them have begun to change that (v3-3, Luke 24:36-53)? What kinds of things cause dramatic changes in our lives?

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**BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT (v4-5):** Why do you think that Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem? What do you think Jesus meant when he says that in a few days they would be *baptised with [or in] the Holy Spirit* (John 1:29-34)? Why would this prove to be so significant for their ministry?

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**YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER (v6-8):** How would you describe the Holy Spirit more as power or person? Why does Jesus say that they will *receive power when the Holy Spirit comes*? What are the characteristics of His ministry? In what ways is v8 a summary of the whole of the book of Acts?

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**JESUS' ASCENSION (v9-11):** What do you think it would have been like to watch Jesus *taken up before their very eyes* (v9)? How does the arrival of the men dressed in white refocus their attention from the present to the future? What impact does this expectation of Jesus' return have for you?

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**JOINED TOGETHER (v12-26):** Why would the disciples have been so eager to be together and constantly in prayer? What impact do times of corporate prayer have in your life?

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**STEPPING UP TO LEAD:** What differences do we already see in Peter as he steps up to lead (v15-22)? What principles do you think we should or shouldn't draw from the process followed by the apostles to choose Matthias to replace Judas?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** This chapter is full of transitions: Jesus ascending to Heaven, the upcoming arrival of the Holy Spirit, the disciples waiting before starting their ministry and the replacement of Judas. What principles can we glean about how we handle transitions in our own lives?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Share together about how God has helped and equipped you during times of transition. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh and to equip you for all that He has in store for you in the coming months and years.

**MEMORY VERSE: ACTS 1:8**

## STUDY 2 – ACTS 2 – THE OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT

**INTRODUCTION:** In Acts 1:7-8 Jesus tells His disciples that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes and then they will be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Acts 2 is about Pentecost when this promise is fulfilled and Jesus pours out His Spirit.

**SETTING THE SCENE:** What do you know about the work of the Holy Spirit (the third person of the trinity)? Would you say that He is a power or a person? Why?

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**THE SPIRIT COMES IN POWER (v1-13):** How would you describe in your own words what actually happened on the Day of Pentecost? How do you think that you would have felt if you had been there?

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**FULFILMENT OF PROPHECY:** In what sense were the events of Acts 2 the fulfilment and beginnings of what the prophets and Jesus himself had spoken of? Read the following passages: Ezekiel 36:24-32, John 14:15-20 & 25-27, 16:5-16 and Acts 1: 4-8?

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**MIRACULOUS SIGNS:** What was the significance of the three signs (wind, fire & speech) that accompanied the pouring out of the Holy Spirit that day (See Luke 24:49 & Isaiah 6:6-7)? Is there a difference between the tongues (or languages) referred to here and those referred to in 1 Cor 12-14?

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**PETER'S TRANSFORMATION (v14-40):** Contrast the Peter we see in Luke 22: 54-61: How do you account for the drastic change in Peter from that of a broken man weeping at his failure to a big stage preacher? What are the main points of Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost?

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**ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE:** How does he use the Old testament to support what has happened (See Joel 2:22-24, Psalm 16:8-11 & Psalm 110:1)? Do you think he is justified in his use of these passages (the whole Bible bears witness to Jesus who spent 40 days explaining it to them: see Lk 24)?  
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**JOINING THE DOTS:** What connection is there between repentance, baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit (v38)? What do you think that Jesus (through the Holy Spirit) is asking of you today? What does (or would) it look for Jesus to turn your life upside down in the same way as Peter's?  
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**RESPONSE (v41-47):** What do you think caused the drastic changes in the 3,000 people who became believers that day? How does that compare to your experience? What do you notice about the way that the believers subsequently began meeting together (the start of the early church)? How does this compare with your own experiences (if relevant) of being part of a church?  
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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** Why were the events of Pentecost so important firstly for Peter but also for the Church in general? What would be the implications if the events of Pentecost never happened?  
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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Thank God for the way that He transforms lives. Continue to pray for such transformation both in your own lives and in those of your friends. Ask God to empower you for the task of sharing your life and your faith with those around you.

**MEMORY VERSE: ACTS 2:38**

**STUDY 3 – ACTS 3:1-4:31 – ACTING COURAGEOUSLY**

**INTRODUCTION:** The good news about Jesus is taking Jerusalem by storm. After Peter and John heal a lame beggar the authorities intervene to try and take the sting out of this growing movement. The exact opposite happens and their efforts to stop them only seem to fuel the fire!

**SETTING THE SCENE:** What would you say is more important: doing the right thing or going along with the crowd? Why? Can you think of a time when your efforts to prevent something have proved ineffective? What were the reasons for this?

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**ENCOUNTERING HEALING (3:1-10):** Putting yourselves in the lame man's shoes: how might you have felt before the healing? Why do you think Peter and John healed the man rather than giving him money or telling him about Jesus? How is this a picture of what happens when we come to Salvation?

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**PETER'S TALK (3:11-26):** Why are Peter and John keen to point people to Jesus rather than themselves? What does v16 was the reason why this miracle was possible? How would you summarise the message about Jesus that Peter gives to the onlookers in these verses? What do you think these times of refreshing were (v19) that Peter says will come from their repentance?

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**CONFRONTED (4:1-12):** What do the religious leaders hope to achieve by seizing Peter and John and demanding to know whose power and name they were acting in? How courageous was the response they gave as a result of being filled with the Spirit?

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**ASTONISHED (4:13-18):** What is the response of the religious leaders to the courage of Peter and John and what do they try to do about it? What did they have to fear from these unschooled men? How do you react to opposition to your faith and what steps could you take to develop this kind of courage?

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**OBEYING GOD (4:19-22):** What risk were Peter and John taking by responding in the way they do? How do we distinguish between when we should obey the authorities and when we should make a stand for Christ (See Romans 13:1-7)? Can you think of a time when you've made such a stand?

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**RESPONDING IN PRAYER (4:23-31):** What surprises you about what the Apostles *did pray* and *didn't pray* when Peter and John returned? To what extent should we pray for the things they pray for in v29-30 and/or expect the kind of response God provides in v31?

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**ACTING IN IGNORANCE (3:17 & 4:28):** How do *God's Sovereignty* and *Man's responsibility* fit together in these verses? Is there a contradiction? Does 'acting in ignorance' get them off the hook?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** How much can you identify with the kind of situations that Peter and John have to deal with? What steps can you take to respond more boldly and courageously?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Thank God for these incredible examples of boldness and courage. Thank God that regardless of our intensions He is always in control. Ask God to help you to respond to trouble, suffering and even persecution with such faith.

**MEMORY VERSES: ACTS 4:18-20**

**STUDY 4 – ACTS 4:32-5:42 – ALL IN IT TOGETHER**

**INTRODUCTION:** Despite having faced opposition we now see the disciples sharing with one another in all things: the quality of their community is inspiring. Sacrificial giving is however soon replaced by tragedy (Ananias & Sapphira) before a further wave of opposition comes their way.

**SETTING THE SCENE:** How would you describe authentic community? What would the hallmarks be of what it is and what it isn't? Why is community so important to us? What has your experience been of community in the various communities that you have been a part of?

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**LIVING IN COMMUNITY (4:32-37):** How do the following phrases help you to develop a picture of what it would have been like to be part of this early church community: (1) *one in heart and mind* (v32), (2) *much grace was upon them all* (v33) and (3) *there were no needy persons among them* (v34)?

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**SHARING EVERYTHING:** Why do you think that the believers shared everything they had and what relation (if any) did this have to God's grace working powerfully among them? To what extent do you think we should follow this example? Why do you think Barnabas was called *son of encouragement*?

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**ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA (5:1-11):** How do the actions of Ananias and Sapphira contrast to the sense of community displayed by Barnabas (and the early church) in the previous section? Why was it such a big deal that they did not give all the proceeds from their property sale?

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**CONSEQUENCES OF SIN:** How do you understand Peter comment that they *lied to the Holy Spirit* (5:3)? To what extent do you think the severity of the punishment fitted the crime (Acts 9:4)? In response the church is seized with fear (v11): why was this a necessary lesson to learn at this point?

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**SIGNS AND WONDERS (5:12-18):** What do you think it would have been like to witness all of these miracles? How do you understand the seemingly conflicting responses of people to these things (v34-34)? Why do you think that the religious leaders felt so jealous because of the miracles?

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**OPPOSITION (5:19-32):** The Apostles were creating something of a stir: imprisoned and yet God set them free. What do you think gave them such courage to respond as he does in v29? How are the Apostles opposed in sharing the gospel in this section and what do you think motivates this opposition? Is it more of the same from chapter 3-4 or is it growing in intensity?

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**IF IT IS FROM GOD IT WILL NOT FAIL (5:33-41):** How did Gamaliel (a highly renowned Rabbi) persuade the religious leaders not to kill Peter and the other apostle? How were the impacts of his intervention actually a demonstration of the things that he said?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** How are you encouraged and/or challenged by the unfolding events of this section and by what God is doing in and through these early believers?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Thank God for the communities that you are part of and ask Him to deepened your relationships within that community. Pray that you would be a great encouragement and support for one another in all of the opposition that might come your way.

**MEMORY VERSES: ACTS 5:38-39**

**STUDY 5 – ACTS 6:1-7:53 – THE TESTIMONY OF STEPHEN**

**INTRODUCTION:** Needs develop within the early church and the Apostles designate particular people to take care of those needs while they take care of the ministry of God's Word. One man in particular, Stephen soon attracts opposition and is hauled up before the Sanhedrin on trumped up charges.

**SETTING THE SCENE:** Different kinds of roles require different skillsets but strength of character is vital for all: what would you say are your strongest skills and character traits? For what kind of things do you think that the Spirit has gifted you for and why?

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**FULL OF THE SPIRIT AND WISDOM (6:1-7):** What was the issue that arose here that necessitated the setting aside of these seven men? Their role appears to be very practical: why did they need to be full of the Spirit and wisdom? What does this say about which roles were most important?

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**STEPHEN SEIZED (6:8-7:1):** What do we learn about the kind of man Stephen was and what were the kind of things he was doing? Why do you think people plotted and conspired against Stephen? In what ways were their charges in v13-14 (regarding the temple and the law) a twisted version of reality or downright false?

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**STEPHEN'S DEFENCE (7:2-53):** Stephen's speech to the Sanhedrin picks up the threads from the trumped at charges that had been levelled at him (6:13-14): how do you see these themes in his speech? How does this help explain why he spends so much time talking about the Old Testament?

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**THEME 1: GOD'S PROMISES (v2-8, 17, 32, 34-37):** Why does Stephen spend so long talk about Gods promises and why is this so relevant to Stephen's defence?  
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**THEME 2: THE LAW (v22, 35-39, 53):** How does Stephen show that neither he (now Jesus) was against Moses in these verses? How is Jesus a prophet like Jesus (v37)? How were the Jews disobeying God's law (v52-53)?  
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**THEME 3: THE TEMPLE (v41-50):** What was Stephen saying was wrong with their attitude towards the *holy place*? What does his speech say about where God lives (esp. v47), where He meets with His people (v2, 9, 30-34, 38) and where can He be worshiped?  
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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** If you were called to give a defence of what you believe what do you think you would say? What impresses you most about Stephen and the way that he speaks so boldly and passionately? In what ways has Stephen's testimony encouraged you through this study?  
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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Share together about how you feel that God is equipping you in your character convictions and contribution. Ask God to use the distinctiveness of your faith and service to be a witness to those around you?

**MEMORY VERSES: ACTS 6:3-4**

**STUDY 6 – ACTS 7:54-8:40 – GROWING THROUGH SUFFERING**

**INTRODUCTION:** In this study we meet Saul (busy persecuting the Christians) and Philip (who is said to be full of the Spirit and Wisdom). The study begins in tragedy with the death of Stephen and out the outcome of this is that the believers are scattered. God uses this suffering to advance the gospel.

**SETTING THE SCENE:** In what ways have you seen good arising from even the difficult situations going on around you? What is your experience of trusting God when it seems that His ways and His thoughts are so different to our own (Isaiah 55:8-9)?

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**THE DEATH OF STEPHEN (ACTS 7:54-60):** How do you observe Philip to be *full of faith and the Holy Spirit* (6:5) and *God's grace and power* (6:8) in these verses? Why do you think God gives him this vision of His glory (v55-56) and of heaven? What emotions might Stephen have felt at this point and how do you react to his willingness to die and his appeal to God on behalf of his attackers (v59-60)?

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**PERSECUTION (v1-3):** The persecution following Stephen's death was a significant moment in seeing the gospel spread: why do you think that might be the case? What do we learn here about Saul and his eagerness to serve God?

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**PHILIP AND SIMON THE SORCERER (ACTS 8:4-25):** What do we learn here about Simon and how do we see his life transformed by his encounter with Philip? What does Simon's request for the power to give the Spirit tell us about his understanding of the Spirit (v18-19)? Why do you think that Peter responds to him so strongly (v20-23)? To what extent does Simon repent of this (v24-25)?

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**RECEIVING THE SPIRIT:** How would you account for the delay between the new believers receiving the Holy Spirit having accepted the Word of God (v14-17)? Some argue that these verses describe a second blessing experience that we should all expect: do you agree or disagree and why?

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**PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN (Acts 8:26-40):** What do we know about this Ethiopian Eunuch? Why was he going to Jerusalem to worship (v26-28)? What is your experience of meeting people genuinely seeking after truth? What can we infer from the role and significance of baptism (v36-38)?

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**LEADING OF THE SPIRIT:** What do you imagine the leading of the Holy Spirit looked like for Philip (v29)? Why was it so important to be in the right place to take the opportunity God gave him with the Ethiopian? What might it mean for you to be ready and available to do likewise?

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Why do you think we are told that *the Spirit of the Lord took Phillip away* (v39)? What do you think this actually means? What principles can we draw from this passage and apply to sharing our faith in our everyday contexts (e.g. flexibility, crossing cultures, taking initiative, starting where people are at)?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** How do we see Acts 1:8 being fulfilled in this passage? How might a passage like this motivate and/or encourage you to reach out to your friends?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Share together about how God has used even life's toughest moments to advance His gospel. Ask God to fill you afresh with His Spirit to equip and empower you for all that God has for you. Pray that you would be ready and available to take opportunities when they come.

**MEMORY VERSE: ACTS 8:1B**

**STUDY 7 – ACTS 9 – TRANSFORMED BY GRACE**

**INTRODUCTION:** The focus here in Acts now shifts back to Saul (who later becomes Paul). If you recall we left in 8:3 persecuting the early Christians. The events of this chapter have a significant impact on the direction and history of the church!

**SETTING THE SCENE:** What stories of personal transformation (not necessarily Christian stories) most stand out in your experience? What big changes of direction have you experienced in your life?

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**SAUL THE PERSECUTOR (v1-2):** What new things do we learn about Saul here on top of what we've already seen about him in 7:58-8:3? Why do you think God would choose such a man to work out His purposes through? How do you feel about that?

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**ENCOUNTERING JESUS (v3-9):** What do you notice here about the encounter that Saul has with Jesus on the road to Damascus? In what ways is your own story of meeting Jesus similar and/or different? How were Saul's intentions turned on their heads (compare v2 with v6 & 8)?

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Paul later writes about this encounter with Jesus; what additional details do we learn about what exactly he experienced here (see v27, Acts 22:14-15, 26:15-16, 1 Cor 9:1, 15:7-10)? How do you respond to that and should we expect to have a similar moment in our own lives? In what ways does the example of Saul encourage us that there is no-one beyond God's grace?

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**RECONCILIATION WITH GOD (v10-19):** What were the key aspects of Ananias' encounter with Jesus? How do you imagine Ananias would have felt about God's command to go to Saul given all that he had heard about him? What do you think of the things that the Lord has in store for Saul?

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**BEGINNINGS OF MINISTRY (v20-31):** How do people respond to Saul and his ministry? What role does Barnabas play in helping Saul to relate to the early Christian community (see also Acts 4:36)? In what ways do we continue to see the growing influence and spread of the gospel here?

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**AENEAS & DORCAS (v32-43):** The story now transitions back to Peter: how do we see the power of God now displayed through Peter's ministry? What sort of transformation do we see in the lives of Aeneas and Dorcas and why is Luke so eager to include these events in his account?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** To what extent do we see and experience the kind of transformation experienced by Saul, Aeneas and Dorcas?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Give thanks for all that God has done to turn your life around. Pray for one or two friends & family to be transformed by this radical good news that has repeatedly changed lives such as these through the centuries.

**MEMORY VERSES: ACTS 9:15-16**

**STUDY 8 – ACTS 10 – GOOD NEWS FOR EVERYONE**

**INTRODUCTION:** We've seen the gospel going out from Jerusalem to Judea, to Samaria and now finally we will begin to see it going to the ends of the earth. The fact that the gospel was good news even for the Gentiles was a really big deal. God is clearly at work here leading His people forward.

**SETTING THE SCENE:** What modern day cultural or racial divides might mirror those of the Jews and the Gentiles? Why might such dividing lines make it really difficult to communicate or associate with one another? Why then do you think it would have been such a shock to God's heart for ALL people?

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**PREPARING CORNELIUS (10:1-8):** What do we know about Cornelius (who was probably a Jewish Proselyte) and to what extent was it a surprise that God spoke to him in this way? How do you understand the Angel's response to his question *what is it Lord* (v4b)? How was God preparing the way for what comes next?

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**PREPARING PETER (10:9-23a):** What's your reaction to the way God deals with Peter through the vision about the sheet from Heaven (v11-16)? How did this prepare Peter to meet Cornelius? Why was it necessary for the Spirit to tell Peter to go with the three men who came looking?

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**COMING TOGETHER (10:23b-43):** What do you think Cornelius was expecting from Peter (v23b-26)? What did Peter believe that God had shown him from the vision (v27-29)? In what ways does Peter put this immediately into practice? Specifically, what can we learn from Peter's speech (v34-43) about all that God has been teaching Him?

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**COMING OF THE SPIRIT (10:44-48):** What comes first for Cornelius and his household: Salvation, the gift of the Holy Spirit or neither? What should or shouldn't we conclude from the order of events in this fairly unique moment in Church history?

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What was so special about this moment that God poured out His Holy Spirit in this way? What has been your experience of the Holy Spirit and what should we expect to experience of Him in our lives?

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**REPORTING BACK (11:1-18):** The Apostles back in Jerusalem had concerns (v1-3) about what they had heard about Peter's time in Caesarea: if you have time think about what it was from Peter's version of events that set their minds at ease (v18)?

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**DRAWING IT TOGETHER:** God went to great lengths to show Peter that His gospel was for ALL people: who do we find ourselves thinking that they are beyond the reach of the gospel? What steps do we need to take to imitate God's heart for others?

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**IDEAS FOR PRAYER:** Thank God that His gospel really is for everyone and that no-one is beyond His love. Ask God to give you a heart for the people around you regardless of the background or circumstances. Pray for 3 of your friends who do not yet know Jesus as their Saviour.

**MEMORY VERSES: ACTS 10:34-35**





# MEMORY VERSES

## STUDY 1: ACTS 1 – TRANSITIONS

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' **Acts 1:8**

## STUDY 2: ACTS 2 – THE OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT

Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2:38**

## STUDY 3: ACTS 3:1-4:31 – ACTING COURAGEOUSLY

<sup>18</sup> Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, 'Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup> As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.' **Acts 4:18-20**

## STUDY 4: ACTS 4:32-5:42 – ALL IN IT TOGETHER

<sup>38</sup> Therefore, in the present case I advise you: leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. <sup>39</sup> But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God. **Acts 5:38-39**

## STUDY 5: ACTS 6:1-7:53 – THE TESTIMONY OF STEPHEN

<sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.' **Acts 6:3-4**

## STUDY 6: ACTS 7:54-8:40 – GROWING THROUGH SUFFERING

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. **Acts 8:1b**

## STUDY 7: ACTS 9 – TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.' **Acts 9:15-16**

## STUDY 8: ACTS 10 – GOOD NEWS FOR EVERYONE

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. **Acts 10:34-35**