



ACTS 1-7

Term 2 2018

Narrabeen
ST. FAITH'S *Anglican Church*

ACTS

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our studies in 'Acts' for Term 2, 2018. We are following on from our short series in Luke's gospel, looking at what Luke saw as Jesus' continuing Mission, recorded in Acts.

In Acts chapter 1, verse 8, Jesus tells his apostles where they will be witnesses. This is one of the key themes of Acts. Jesus says they are to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and beyond. This term we will just be studying the first 7 chapters of Acts, which is the account of the apostles' witness in Jerusalem.

It is exciting to see how the early church began as Jesus' "unstoppable" gospel spread. Spread, in the face of constant opposition. There are many lessons for us, as Christians in Narrabeen nearly 2000 years later.

We have inherited the same mission as the original apostles. We share the same message. Like them, it will be vital that our lives are consistent with this message. And, like them, we must rely on our Risen Lord Jesus, to "drive" it all. He will not be stopped. His love for the lost is still the same, today.

May we be inspired, as we study 'Acts', to be faithful servants of the gospel in our generation, as the apostles were in theirs.

Kerry Nagel

April 2018

PRAYER POINTS

- b) How did Peter know about God's plans? (v16, v20) What does this tell us, about where we should look, to know God's will? Discuss.

4/ If you have time

- a) What do you think of the apostles' method of deciding between Joseph and Matthias (v23-26)? Is this a model for us? Why or why not?

PRAYER POINTS

- e) Read Acts 2:14-21. What explanation does Peter give for what is going on here?

- f) How does all this “fit” with Jesus’ instructions to the disciples in Acts 1:8.

- g) If the “Last Days” have come (v17), what invitation has become urgent, for the crowds? (v21)

3/ Getting personal

- a) In what way are we different from the apostles? Why might this be important? Discuss.

- b) In what ways are we similar to the apostles?

- c) How do we ‘fit’ in Jesus’ Mission plan, so far? Discuss.

PRAYER POINTS

1/ Getting Started

- a) Have you ever made a mistake, with unfortunate, even embarrassing, consequences? (eg holiday plans that didn't work out?). Share some of these, and how you felt when your mistake, became obvious.

- b) Today, we meet some people who realise they have made the biggest mistake in history. We are invited to learn from their experience.

2/ Turning to the Bible

- a) Read Acts 2:22 to 24. Peter is explaining what the coming of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost, 2:1-21) proves about Jesus. From verses 22 to 24, what had the people known about Jesus?

- b) What had the people done to Jesus? (v23)

g) Read Acts 2:37-41. Why do you think the people in the crowd respond as they do, to Peter's message? (v37) How do you think they are feeling? Discuss.

h) What does Peter tell them to do, in response? Why? (v38-41)

3/ Getting personal

a) We were not present at Jesus death, nor at Pentecost. But what do we have in common with the crowds who were there?

b) What is Peter's "Big Announcement" about Jesus? What difference should this make to us? Discuss.

4/ If you have time.

a) Read Acts 2:42-47, Summarise the practical response of these new Christians, to their experience?

b) Why do you think they act as they do? Discuss.

PRAYER POINTS

- g) What does Peter urge the people in the crowd to do?
(e.g. v19 & v26)

- h) Why does he say they should do this? List as many reasons as you can.

3/ Getting personal

- a) The message Peter gives the crowd here, is similar to that in Chapter 2. List the key elements of the "gospel" Peter announces?

- b) What response should we make to this message? Discuss.

- c) How can this passage help us to faithfully share the gospel? Discuss.

PRAYER POINTS

PRAYER POINTS

STUDY SEVEN: A New Community

Acts 4:32 - 5:16

1/ Getting started

- a) Have you experienced great generosity? Has anyone ever been very generous to you? If so, how did you feel? Discuss.

2/ Turning to the Bible

- a) Read Acts 4:32-37. Describe what it would have been like to be a part of the early "community of believers"? How do you think you would have felt? Discuss.

- b) Discuss why you think the early believers acted in these ways.

- c) Read Acts 5:1-11. What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?

3/ Getting personal

a) What does all this indicate about the character of the “Kingdom of God”, that Jesus is establishing?

b) How might the attitudes and values we see in this section, challenge us as followers of Jesus, today? Discuss why.

PRAYER POINTS

3/ Getting personal

a) Consider the response of the apostles to opposition. How do you think you might respond, if you faced that sort of opposition today? Discuss.

b) How do you think the apostles were able to rejoice, even in such suffering (v41)? Discuss.

PRAYER POINTS

- d) What charges are laid against Stephen? Why?
- e) Read Act 7:1-53. Summarise Stephen's response to the charges levelled against him.
- f) Read Acts 7:54-60. What finally happens to Stephen? Why, do you think?

3/ Getting personal

a) In what ways is Stephen a good example for us? Discuss.

b) How might the events of these chapters help us deal with tensions in our own fellowship? Discuss.

PRAYER POINTS

