



THE
BOOK
OF
Acts

STUDY JOURNAL



BACKGROUND

Author and Date: The Book of Acts, written around AD 63, serves as a follow-up sequel to the Gospel of Luke. It accounts for the early progress of Jesus' disciples taking the gospel and starting churches from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and the rest of the Mediterranean world. Both Acts and Luke were written by a physician named Luke who was known to have traveled with the apostle Paul for parts of his ministry. The initial purpose for both books was for a man named Theophilus to aid his understanding of the life, ministry, and impact of Jesus (cf. Luke 1:3-4). Throughout the book of Acts, one can see a detailed account of the start and expansion of the early church after the resurrection of Jesus. The book of Acts not only details life immediately following the resurrection of Jesus, but it also provides a timeline and historical context for the rest of the New Testament (Romans through Revelation).

ACTS OUTLINE

- Preparing the First Witnesses (1:1-2:13)
- Witnesses in Jerusalem (2:14-5:42)
- Witnessing past Jerusalem, Cyprus, and Galatia (6:1-14:28)
- The Jerusalem Council (15:1-35)
- Witness Journeys:
 - To Greece (15:36-18:22)
 - To Ephesus (18:23 - 21:16)
 - The Arrest in Jerusalem (21:17-23:35)
 - To Caesarea (24:1-26:32)
 - To Rome (27:1-28:31)

THEMES

- Disciples living out Jesus' promise to be witnesses through the presence, power, guidance, and work of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8, 2:38-49, 4:5-22, 18:12-16, 28:25, etc.)
- The effect of Jesus' life, teaching, and resurrection on the life of the church (6:7, 9:31, 12:24, 16:5, 19:20)
- Suffering for the sake of the Kingdom can be expected. (5:40, ch. 7, 9:16, 14:22, 21:13)
- The saving and redeeming work of Jesus is for all people - Jews and Gentiles alike, who can serve as witnesses to the power of Jesus. (chs. 2-5, 10:1-11:18, 16:11-34, etc.)

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSES

- Acts 1:8
- Acts 2:24
- Acts 13:32-33
- Acts 18:26
- Acts 24:16

PERSONAL STUDY OVERVIEW

R.E.A.D. Approach

We view personal study as the regular rhythm where *we live in God's Word, so that we may live out His truths*. Namely, we seek to apply the Bible to our lives and adjust accordingly, not the other way around. (see. James 1:22-25, 1 John 5:2-5). For every disciple, we put it this way: *Head knowledge <---> Heart Change*. Personal study is not just about gaining more head knowledge (1 Corinthians 8:1), but also letting ourselves be changed and living different lives by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. If we are willing to open our hearts and minds to Scripture, we ought to open our lives as well!

As disciples of Jesus, the awareness to be in the Word of God exists for each and every one of us. We view the Bible as God's sovereign plan, intent, and desire for all of creation - as well as the ultimate authority in knowing, loving, and living as a disciple in the Kingdom of God. (see 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Timothy 4:7-10, Hebrews 4:12).

For spiritual disciplines, when it comes down to it, the most important thing is to put that rhythm into practice. Whether it's prayer, personal study, honoring the sabbath, or using our spiritual gifts, there may not be one "right" way; but there are definitely "wrong" ways! Here at FIRST we encourage The R.E.A.D. Approach for our personal study. (Again, this isn't the only way to read and apply the Bible!)

THE R.E.A.D. APPROACH

For every text - and we always recommend reading a minimum of full paragraphs, if not full chapters - we can ask ourselves the following as we seek to let it transform our lives.



Reflect: After reading a section of Scripture, pause to *reflect* on what you just read and let the words sit. Maybe spending a few moments in prayer to ask the Holy Spirit to bring understanding, conviction, or insight into that passage.

Examine: Spend some time *examining* the passage. What was said? Who was involved? How does this portion fit with the paragraphs around it or the book as a whole? This is a good spot to make some observations of repetitive words, key details given, or figures of speech used (usually good signs of important stuff!). The key question to ask is, *what did this mean to the original audience who received this text?*

Apply: If the goal of personal study is for head knowledge to lead to heart change, we need to do the work to see how it applies to us today. Consider what this passage teaches you about God, others, the world around you, or even yourself. Even though we don't live in the ancient Middle East, the Bible is still very much applicable to our lives. This is a good time to not assume what the *character* did as an example - unless it specifically says so - but rather to focus on the heart or trust in God of their actions.

Do: Sometimes we may feel we have finished our personal study after we've learned something new or arrived at a stark reminder. But nonetheless, the Word of God is designed to also penetrate our hearts to work itself out in our lives. What do I need to *do* to live this out - and why is it important for the Kingdom of God?

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 1

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Matthew 28

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 2

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Joel 2, Psalm 16, Psalm 110



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 3

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Deuteronomy 18, Genesis 22



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 4

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Psalm 2, Psalm 118



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 5

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Joshua 7



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 6

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: 1 Timothy 3:1-12, 5:17-21; Titus 1:5-9, 2:1-8



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 7

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Exodus 1-3, Amos 5

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 8

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Isaiah 53



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 9

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Philippians 3, Galatians 1

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 10

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Galatians 3



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 11

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: John 1



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 12

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Genesis 39



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 13

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Psalm 22



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 14

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Isaiah 55



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 15

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Amos 9, Galatians 5



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 16

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Daniel 6



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 17

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: 1 Thessalonians 1



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 18

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: 1 Corinthians 16



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 19

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Romans 19, Ephesians 3

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 20

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Ephesians 6



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 21

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: John 18-19



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 22

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: 1 Peter 3



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 23

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Exodus 22



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 24

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Revelation 21-22



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 25

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Ephesians 6



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 26

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: 2 Corinthians 5



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 27

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Mark 4



R.E.A.D. Personal Study #1: Acts 28

R.E.A.D. Personal Study #2: Isaiah 6





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