

Stewarding the Truth – 52-week Reading Plan Through Acts

This reading plan will take you through the entire book of Acts in one year. There are two built in “skip” weeks for those times when life gets pretty hectic, so if you do the plan each week, you’ll actually end two weeks before the start of 2023. Below, you’ll find a selection of verses to read through each week as well as some questions to consider as you read that particular passage. I would encourage you to read through the questions prior to reading, read slowly and purposefully, and think about the questions as you read. Set aside a few pages in a notebook to actually write down answers to the questions – this will cause you to engage with God’s Word more deeply and will help you to better remember God’s Word for you. I pray that God is with you as you engage with His Word, and I know that He will be!

Week 1 – Jan. 1-7: Acts 1:1-11

- Jesus gave “many proofs” of his resurrection. Why is this so important for us?
- What mission does Jesus give the disciples (and by extension, us) before He ascends?
- What help does Jesus promise them (and by extension, us) to help them on this mission?

Week 2 – Jan. 8-14: Acts 1:12-26

- While waiting in Jerusalem, what did the disciples devote themselves to? What can you learn from this?
- To what do the disciples look to for a guide (see vs. 20)? Is God’s Word still a good guide for us?
- What is the main job of an apostle (see vs. 22)? Why is this the most important part of the message to proclaim?

Week 3 – Jan. 15-21: Acts 2:1-13

- The Holy Spirit came on the disciples that first Pentecost. Do you think He’s still with us?
- Why do you think God chose this particular day to send the Spirit (see vs. 9-10)?
- In vs. 12, the question is asked, “What does this mean?” What does Pentecost mean?

Week 4 – Jan. 22-28: Acts 2:14-41

- A few times in his sermon, Peter quotes the Old Testament. Why does he do this?
- What events of Jesus’ life does Peter focus on? Why?
- After hearing Peter’s sermon, many believe. What does Peter command them to do?

Week 5 – Jan. 29-Feb. 4: Acts 2:42-3:10

- What do the believers devote themselves to? Those are still the things that we should devote our lives to. Why do you think that is?
- The early church was very tight knit and sharing; it’s an excellent model for churches to follow. Why should we seek to be like them? Do you have any ideas for how we can cultivate that here at St. Paul?
- Once healed, what does the lame man do? Having also been ‘healed’ from eternal death in hell, what can you take away from the blind man’s actions?

Week 6 – Feb. 5-11: Acts 3:11-26

- Who does Peter give the credit to for the miracle they performed? What can you learn from this?
- What aspects of Jesus’ life does Peter focus on in his sermon?
- Peter explains that all the prophets from Abraham to Moses to Samuel to others foretold of Jesus. Why is that significant?

Week 7 – Feb. 12-18: Acts 4:1-22

- What happens to the disciples for preaching the word? Should we expect the same for preaching the word?

- Who is the ONLY person you can find salvation in (see vs. 12)?
- The council orders them to stop speaking about Jesus. How do Peter and John answer (see vs. 19-20)? Who should you listen to, God or men?

Week 8 – Feb. 19-25: Acts 4:23-37

- The disciples were persecuted for proclaiming Jesus. How do they meet this persecution? (see vs. 29) What can you learn from this?
- Why do you think the disciples weren't afraid to continue preaching? Why should you not be afraid to stand up for God?
- Why do you think the believers were so willing to share all they had? You have the same reason to share as the disciples – has that reason influenced your life like it did theirs?

Week 9 – Feb. 26-Mar. 4: Acts 5:1-16

- What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?
- The apostles preach, and they heal; they care for both the physical and spiritual needs of the people. What can you take away from their example?
- We hear that many believers were added to the Lord. The goal of the early church was to bring people to know Christ. Why should this be our goal also?

Week 10 – Mar. 5-11: Acts 5:17-42

- The apostles are arrested for preaching. The very next day, they go back to doing the same thing! How were they able to be so bold? Do you have the same reason to be bold?
- What do you think “all the words of this Life” (vs. 20) are?
- Peter explains that despite the danger, they must “obey God” by proclaiming the Gospel. Does this command apply to you also?

Week 11 – Mar. 12-18: Acts 6:1-15

- The Apostles weren't saying that serving tables was beneath them, rather they had been given another gift and should be using that. What's your gift(s)? How can you be using it to serve God?
- What were the qualifications for the seven men they picked (see vs. 3)?
- What happened as they continued to faithfully proclaim God's Word? (see vs. 7) What can you take away from their example and the results?

Week 12 – Mar. 19-25: Acts 7:1-29

- Why do you think Stephen went into the whole history of Israel in his speech?
- What is the “time of promise” mentioned in vs. 17?
- Read vs. 25. Moses tried to give the Israelites salvation from the Egyptians, but they didn't understand. Who came to give us ultimate salvation? Do many still fail to understand?

Week 13 – Mar. 26-Apr. 1: Acts 7:30-60

- Read vs. 34. God has always been a God of deliverance. He delivered them from slavery. What has He delivered us from?
- Stephen is about to be killed, but he's unafraid as he sees his promise before him. What is that promise? Do you share in it? Why should you not be afraid to boldly proclaim Jesus like Stephen?
- What amazing thing does Stephen do in vs. 60? Are you having a hard time forgiving anyone? Where did Stephen get his strength to radically forgive and where can you get strength to forgive people in your life?

Week 14 – Apr. 2-8: Acts 8:1-25

- In vs. 1, we see that these early Christians suffer. Yet, how is this suffering for ultimate good? (compare to Acts 1:8). Does this give you a new perspective on suffering in your life? Explain.
- Simon the Magician shows us that witchcraft and magic (as a power from the Devil) are real. Yet, even he, this powerful man, is amazed by what Philip does. What does this tell us about God's power?

-If you can't buy the Holy Spirit, how can you get Him?

Week 15 – Apr. 9-15: Acts 8:26-40

- What does the eunuch do when he doesn't understand the Scriptures? What can you learn from that?
- Philip told the eunuch "the good news about Jesus." What is that good news (pay attention to vs. 32-33)?
- The eunuch believes and immediately wants to be baptized. Should all believers be baptized?

Week 16 – Apr. 16-22: Acts 9:1-31

- Jesus appears to Saul, a terrible sinner and murderer of Christians. Why would he do that? Should you ever think that someone is too 'bad' to be saved?
- Why is Ananias initially hesitant to help Saul? Why does he eventually do it? What can you learn from him?
- What does Saul do immediately after he's converted? What can you take away from this?

Week 17 – Apr. 23-29: Acts 9:32-43

- When Peter heals Aeneas, who does he give credit for the miracle to? Why is this important?
- What was Tabitha (Dorcas) full of (see vs. 36)? How can you be more like Tabitha?
- God let a great believer like Tabitha (Dorcas) die only to raise her again. Why put her through this? What was his purpose (see vs. 42)?

Week 18 – Apr. 30-May 6: Acts 10:1-33

- Many people wonder why we no longer keep all the laws God lays down in the Old Testament. One of the reasons you find right here in Acts 10. Can we be certain that the cleanliness laws from the Old Testament no longer apply to us?
- Cornelius was expecting Peter to come and give him a message from God; in anticipation, he invites his friends and relatives. Who can you invite to come to church and hear God's message with you?
- Peter says, "I should not call any person common or unclean." You don't think of people as unclean in the same way that the Jews did, but do you still see some people that way? If so, should you?

Week 19 – May 7-13: Acts 10:34-48

- Vs. 34 reminds us that God shows no partiality. Where do you show partiality in your life? How can you fight against that to become more like God?
- What events of Jesus' life does Peter focus on in his sermon? These are the same events that you should focus your life and your evangelism on. Why?
- What happens to all who believe in Jesus (vs. 43)? Why do you need that?

Week 20 – May 14-20: Acts 11:1-18

- What is one amazing gift you receive in baptism (vs. 16)?
- When these Jews learned that Gentiles could be saved, what is their reaction? Why should you act the same when others come to know Christ?
- Vs. 18 says that "repentance...leads to life." How is repentance tied to faith, which is the thing that ultimately saves?

Week 21 – May 21-27: Acts 11:19-30

- You should go out, teach, and preach, but who is the one who really does the converting? (see vs. 21) Does this give you the confidence to evangelize more?
- Barnabas "exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose." Why is this a good exhortation? Why is remaining faithful and steadfast the most important thing of all?
- When there is a famine in another part of the world, how do the believers in Antioch respond? Why should you do the same?

Week 22 – May 28-Jun. 3: Acts 12:1-25

- Often, people wonder why God lets bad things happen to Christians. Here you see that James, one of his closest disciples dies. God never promises to free us from suffering, but what does He promise to us that makes the suffering worth it?
- James is killed and Peter is freed. Which would you rather be? (Really think about it a bit and consider Philippians 1:21)
- Why was Herod killed (see vs. 23)? What are some areas in your life that you could better do what Herod failed to do?

Week 23 – Jun. 4-10: Acts 13:1-12

- How does the church send off Paul and Barnabas? What can you learn from this?
- After reading about Elymas, what should you expect as you preach Jesus to people?
- The proconsul was “astonished at the teaching of the Lord.” God’s teaching is truly astonishing! How so?

Week 24 – Jun. 11-17: Acts 13:13-52

- “To us has been sent the message of this salvation.” What are you to do with this message?
- Peter focuses his sermon on the resurrection. This is the most important event in the history of the world. Why is that?
- In vs. 39, Paul says that Jesus brings freedom. What do you have freedom from?

Week 25 – Jun. 18-24: Acts 14:1-18

- Even though they are always being threatened and persecuted, Paul and Barnabas “continued to preach the Gospel.” Why should we always proclaim the Gospel, no matter what?
- When Paul and Barnabas learn that the people think they are gods, how do they respond?
- What is one way that you can know God is real (see vs. 17)?

Week 26 – Jun. 25-Jul. 1: Acts 14:19-28

- Paul gets stoned and left for dead, who comes out to help him? Who in your life needs helping right now and how can you help them?
- After getting stoned and left for dead, Paul does what? Does his courage encourage you to do the same?
- Not only did Paul and Barnabas go to new cities and proclaim the Gospel to make new converts, but they also returned to churches that they’d already been to in order to encourage them. Why is it so important to do that?

Week 27 – Jul. 2-8: Acts 15:1-35

- What false teaching had crept into the church that the Jerusalem council dealt with?
- The council concludes that there is nothing that you can do to be saved; rather, what does Peter say saves us all – both Jews and Gentiles (see vs. 11)?
- The New Testament was written by these same men, those who walked with Jesus, those who knew his will, those to whom he gave his Holy Spirit, and those who gathered in prayer and with the Spirit to determine his will. Why is this so comforting and good to know?

Week 28 – Jul. 9-15: Acts 15:36-16:5

- It’s interesting to see that even from the beginning, the church has had divisions and quarrels. Even though Paul and Barnabas split, what do they continue to do? Why should this be the ultimate goal of your life also?
- Why do you think the churches needed “strengthening”? What tools does God give that can provide you with this strengthening today?
- Circumcision is not a requirement for Christians, so why did Paul circumcise Timothy?

Week 29 – Jul. 16-22: Acts 16:6-15

- Why might Paul have not been allowed to speak the word in Asia (see vs. 9)?

- There's a saying, "When God closes a door, he opens another." Have you been praying and looking for doors that God has opened for you to serve and help in?
- Who actually causes our conversion/faith (see vs. 14)?

Week 30 – Jul. 23-29: Acts 16:16-40

- The slave girl very clearly sums up Paul and Silas' message. What do they proclaim? To whom can you tell that same message?
- Paul and Silas are punished for doing good. Has this ever happened to you? How do Paul and Silas handle their misfortune? What can you learn from this?
- Though they were miraculously freed, Paul and Silas didn't take the opportunity for freedom. Rather, who were they thinking about? What was the result? Do you live your life putting others and their salvation first or do you more often put yourself first?

Week 31 – Jul. 30-Aug. 5: Acts 17:1-15

- Paul "reasoned with them from the Scriptures." What makes Christianity a 'reasonable' religion?
- The Jews in Berea examined the Scriptures daily to "see if these things were so." Do you let the Scriptures guide all aspects of your life? Why might this be a good practice?
- The word of God was under attack in those days. Is this still the case? Through the attack, they never stopped proclaiming. Why should we never stop?

Week 32 – Aug. 6-12: Acts 17:16-34

- In vs. 16, Paul's "spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols." Does the evil and unbelief around us ever provoke your spirit? How does Paul respond? How can you prepare yourself to respond like Paul?
- What did Paul preach (see vs. 18)? Why?
- What are some things that Paul explains should cause us "to seek" God (see vs. 26-28)? Why is it so important that a person seeks God?

Week 33 – Aug. 13-19: Acts 18:1-17

- "And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks." Have you ever thought about studying the arguments for Christianity and the defense of the faith (apologetics) so that you may reason with those who aren't Christians?
- Jesus gives great comfort to Paul in vs. 9-10. Do you think He's still with you when you proclaim the word?
- God even works through the unbelieving Gallio and keeps His promise to Paul. God doesn't always promise safety, but He does always keep his promises. What's God's greatest promise to you that you can always be comforted by?

Week 34 – Aug. 20-26: Acts 18:18-28

- Who does Paul allow to direct his life (see vs. 21)? Do you let that same thing direct your life?
- Paul went about "strengthening all the disciples." Do you seek God's strengthening daily? Where can you look to have your faith in him strengthened?
- What did Priscilla and Aquilla do for Apollos? Do you know anyone who you can help as they helped Apollos?

Week 35 – Aug. 27-Sep. 2: Acts 19:1-20

- "The Way" (vs. 9) was what Christians first called themselves. Why is this an appropriate name for Christianity?
- Paul daily reasoned with the people of Ephesus for two years straight! He didn't see success right away; it took patience and time. What can you learn from this?
- The people of Ephesus, who were sinning by doing sorcery, came to faith and then burned their books. This is an excellent example of true repentance. Explain why.

Week 36 – Sep. 3-9: Acts 19:20-41

- Why do the smiths of Ephesus revolt against Paul? What was their god?
- Ephesus had experienced a great revival for Christianity. But quickly, in a riot, many Ephesians turned back to their false God. What are some false 'gods' that you should be aware of so that you don't turn back to them?
- Why is it wrong to have other gods?

Week 37 – Sep. 10-16: Acts 20:1-16

- Continually, you see that people are accompanying Paul on his journeys. Why do you think that was a good thing? Should you have Christian friends to accompany you through life?
- After reading vs. 7-9, should you ever complain about the length of a sermon again? 😊
- In vs. 11 it says that Paul broke bread with them. What do you think this is referring to?

Week 38 – Sep. 17-23: Acts 20:17-38

- How does Paul serve the Lord (see vs. 19-21)? How can you adopt some of these same practices into your life?
- Despite much persecution, Paul "did not shrink from declaring" the Word of God. Why not? Why should you be inspired to act similarly?
- Paul warns them of "fierce wolves" or false teachers. Should you still be aware of such things? Can you think of any examples of false teaching that you've heard?

Week 39 – Sep. 24-30: Acts 21:1-26

- In Tyre, they "sought out the disciples" in order to have a place to stay. Why is hospitality an important part of living the Christian life?
- God let's Paul know that he'll be imprisoned if he goes to Jerusalem, and Paul still goes. Why do you think he does that? How can Paul feel so secure?
- When the Christian leaders in Jerusalem heard about God's works through Paul, "they glorified God." What are something you should similarly glorify God for?

Week 40 – Oct. 1-7: Acts 21:27-21:36

- How do you think Paul copes with all the beating and suffering he experienced?
- This mob vehemently hates Paul and his message. Jesus warned us also to expect such opposition. Why is the world so opposed to the Christian message?
- Persecution sounds like an awful, terrible thing. Yet, God allows it to happen to Christians in all times and ages. What are some positive things about persecution and suffering? How can it benefit the persecuted and those doing the persecuting?

Week 41 – Oct. 8-14: Acts 21:37-22:29

- Even to these people who hate him, arrested him, and beat him, Paul still cares for them by proclaiming the Gospel to them. Why would he do that? What can you take away from that?
- Why do you think Paul shares with them what he did before his conversion? Why does he also share his conversion with them? What's your testimony of how God has saved you? Who can you share it with?
- Paul thought he would be an effective missionary to the Jews (see vs. 19-20). But where did God send him instead? Are you open to God's direction for you, wherever and whatever it might be?

Week 42 – Oct. 15-21: Acts 22:30-23:11

- Paul proclaims that he lived with a good conscience all his life. Why is it so valuable to have a good conscience? Do you have a clear conscience? If not, repent to God and receive his forgiveness!
- Even though Paul's comment to the High Priest was justified by human standards, he recognizes that he still broke God's law and humbly repents (vs. 5). Do you have a hard time repenting for sins you feel are justified? Who is the ultimate guide for what is right and wrong – you or God?

-When Paul is again thrown in prison, Jesus comes and comforts him. Do you think God still does this for those who suffer on account of him?

Week 43 – Oct. 22-28: Acts 23:12-23:35

-These Jews took a rather radical oath and God thwarted their plans; ultimately, God is the one who is in control. What can you learn not to do from them?

-God had told Paul that he'll testify in Rome; it's amazing to see how God goes about making that happen. Do you trust that God has an ultimate plan for your life and is seeing it through, no matter how convoluted it may seem?

-By using an army and government of pagans, God protects Paul. Do you think God can still use non-Christians to work His purposes? Do you trust Him to ultimately do what is best for you?

Week 44 – Oct. 29-Nov. 4: Acts 24:1-21

-Paul is called to witness, and he confesses the whole truth; he in no way hides or twists the information. He knows that even if he is punished for what he did, that he did the right thing and he's not ashamed. Do you have this clear of a conscience? Where does the confidence to always tell the truth come from?

-Paul is a Christian, yet he believes "everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets." How can Christianity be different from Judaism but still accept all its writings (the Old Testament)?

-Paul has a "hope in God" because there will be a "resurrection." How does the promise of a resurrection give you hope?

Week 45 – Nov. 5-11: Acts 24:22-25:12

-When Felix asked to hear about the faith, Paul didn't sugarcoat anything; in fact, Felix "was alarmed" by it. Should you ever try to hide anything about the Christian faith? Do we have anything to be ashamed of?

-For over two years, Paul sat in prison in Caesarea. What does this tell you about God's timing?

-Paul does "not seek to escape death." Why? Where can you get this same courage?

Week 46 – Nov. 12-18: Acts 25:13-26:11

-There sure is a lot of political and historical detail in here. Why do you think that the Holy Spirit would inspire all this to be in the Bible? Is it helpful?

-Paul asks a good question, "Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?" Should we ever doubt that God could do that?

-Why does Paul share about his time as a persecutor of the church? How can sharing the things a person did when they didn't believe be a powerful part of a testimony?

Week 47 – Nov. 19-25: Acts 26:12-26:32

-For what purpose did Jesus appear to Saul on the road (see vs. 16)? Do you share in this purpose?

-Jesus wants people to "turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." Why should this also be your goal in life?

-Where did Paul say his help has always come from (see vs.22)? Do you still receive that same hope?

Week 48 – Nov. 26-Dec. 2: Acts 27:1-38

-Even though he's already a prisoner, God does not spare Paul from the suffering of this storm. In fact, throughout Acts, Paul suffers a lot. Are Christians exempt from suffering? Despite the suffering that we will experience, what hope do we always have to cling to?

-Paul says that he both belongs to God and worships God (vs. 23). You also belong to God. Do you truly worship him in your life?

-God promises that they will all be alright. Do you have this promise from God in this life? Do you have this promise from God in eternal life?

Week 49 – Dec. 3-9: Acts 27:39-28:10

-When the viper bit Paul, the superstitious locals assumed that he must be an evil person.

What's wrong with that from a Christian point of view?

-When Paul doesn't die, they think him to be a god. What's wrong with that from a Christian point of view?

-Paul helps even these strangers by healing them. Is there anyone who is 'out-of-bounds,' anyone that we shouldn't be willing to help?

Week 50 – Dec. 10-16: Acts 28:11-31

-When he saw fellow Christians in Rome, Paul "thanked God and took courage." Why would such an encounter bring courage? Are you encouraged by other Christians? Do you encourage other Christians?

-Immediately, Paul sets about proclaiming the Gospel as he gets to Rome. Why would he do this? Is evangelizing something you're always seeking to do also?

-Paul "welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ." Are you prepared to welcome, proclaim, and teach to all those whom God has put and will put in your life? How can you get prepared?

Thank you all for taking the time to bolster your faith and understanding of God, His word, and His purpose and plans for you! May He bless you as you continue to steward His Word and gifts. In everything that you do, may the glory always be given to God!

-Pastor Rob