

# ACTS

## LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

### Young Adults United Studies – the book of Acts

**Intro** - We've chosen to study the book of Acts because it's where the story of the early church begins—it's the powerful bridge between the ministry of Jesus and the mission of the church throughout history. In Acts, we see Jesus faithfully building His church just as He promised, and we watch that work ripple out from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. As we walk through this book together, we're not just looking back; we're being reminded that we're part of the same story. The same Spirit who empowered the first believers empowers us today. We believe this study will encourage our hearts, strengthen our faith, and help us see our place in God's unfolding plan that spans generations.

- **4/15: Acts 2** – The Spirit Comes and the Church Begins
- **4/22: Acts 4** – Bold Witness in the Face of Opposition
- **4/29: Acts 9** – Saul's Conversion
- **5/6: Acts 10** – The Gospel Breaks Barriers
- **5/13: Acts 15** – Church Conflict
- **5/20: Acts 28** – The Mission Continues Unhindered

**Review** – Last week Michael led the first lesson from Acts 2. Here's a brief summary...

- **God Keeps His Promises** The Holy Spirit came just as Jesus said—God always follows through.
- **The Gospel Is for Everyone** People from every nation heard the good news in their own language—God's message is for all.
- **The Spirit Gives Boldness** Peter, once afraid, now preaches with courage—the Spirit empowers us to speak up.
- **Jesus Is the Focus** Peter's message centers on Jesus—crucified, risen, and Lord of all.
- **The Church Is Born** Believers responded with repentance, unity, and generosity—the Spirit forms a new kind of community.

**Acts 4** *The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. 2 They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. 3 They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. 4 But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.*

*5 The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. 6 Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. 7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"*

*8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 Jesus is*

*"the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.'*

*12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."*

*13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

*21 After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. 22 For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.*

*32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.*

## Teaching Questions –

1. In verse 3 it says the religious leaders were angry because the apostles were teaching life after death. Why get angry?
2. Verse 4 says that the number of people who believe the gospel is about 5,000. How many days after Jesus' death, burial and resurrection is this? What is happening?
3. Verse 8 says Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. What does that mean and how do His words reflect that?
4. Verse 13 says that the people there could tell that Peter and John had been with Jesus. How so? What does that mean?
5. Verse 32 says there was a unity and generosity that happened. How does this reveal that this was a the Holy Spirit's prompting?

**Icebreaker** – This chapter talks about courage. What is something, difficult or easy, or an everyday action, that takes courage for you?

**Anger** - Why were the religious leaders upset (v.2)? If someone gets angry about Jesus today, what might that reveal about what's going on inside? How should we respond when we face opposition? Do you have examples?

**Read** John 15:18-19. Is this how it should be?

**Holy Spirit Power** – The text says 5,000 people believed (v.4). What does this rapid growth tell us about the power of the gospel and the Spirit's work? Is God doing this same thing today? Same pace? Same purpose? How so?

**Read** I Corinthians 3:6-7. How is God's power freeing for us?

**Indwelling Spirit** - Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit (v.8). What benefits do we receive from the presence and indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

**Read** Galatians 5:22-23. How does the Spirit bring truth and grace?

**Being With Jesus** -"They recognized they had been with Jesus" (v.13). What would it take for someone to say that about you? What are the marks of someone who's been with Jesus?

**Read** 2 Corinthians 3:18 & Philippians 3:10. Talk transformation

**Love, Unity, Generosity** – See (v.32–35). Why is love a powerful witness to the world? How does the Holy Spirit prompt this kind of community?

**Read** I John 13:17-18 & Romans 12:10-13. Discuss freely

## **Church History Quotes** – What is in here we haven't discussed?

Thomas Watson: "The Spirit of God first works upon the heart, and then the word is received with joy."

Richard Baxter: "He that is not resolved to suffer for Christ, will never do anything considerable for him."

John Flavel: "The presence of God in the soul is the life of the soul."

Jeremiah Burroughs: "Unity is the strength of the church; division is the weakness."

Matthew Henry: "Those that have been with Jesus will be bold for him."

John Bunyan: "He who would be valiant against disaster, let him in constancy follow the Master."

John Owen: "Communion with God is the soul's strength and joy."

Richard Sibbes: "The Spirit of Christ is the bond of union among believers."

John Flavel: "Christ's presence makes the darkest prison a palace."

Thomas Watson: "The Spirit of God is a sanctifying Spirit; he makes the heart a temple."

Stephen Charnock: "The Spirit is the great comforter in all afflictions."

Matthew Henry: "The more we suffer for Christ, the more we are conformed to him."

John Bunyan: "In times of affliction, we commonly meet with the sweetest experiences of the love of God."

## Small Group Options

1. **Tom, Emilyynn, Reid, Melanie** – Through the Gym, back room, don't get lost.
2. **Michael, Alyssa** – Down stairs, down stairs again, no matter what happens keep the lights on.
3. **Jacob, Danielle, Micah, Adelle** – Down the hall, turn right, shut the door, stay quiet.
4. **Steve, Jordyne** – Down the stairs, turn left, brown couches, avoid direct eye contact.

## Why are Small Groups the Best Groups

- 💬 1. Deep Conversation Happens *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."* — Proverbs 27:17
- 🙏 2. Spiritual Growth Accelerates *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."* — Hebrews 10:24
- 💛 3. You're Truly Known and Loved *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* — Galatians 6:2
- 🎯 4. Real-Life Application *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."* — James 1:22
- 🍞 5. The Book of Acts Is all about it. ... *"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts."* — Acts 2:46

## **Open the Eyes of My Heart**

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up  
Shinin' in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up  
Shinin' in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
I want to see you

To see You high and lifted up  
Shinin' in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy