



Getting started with Acts

*Imagine a giant snowball rolling down a mountain getting bigger and bigger, reaching new areas, gaining momentum; an **unstoppable** force.*

Acts tells the story of the spread of the good news of Jesus. It's growing & unstoppable – bringing restoration rather than destruction.

The first few verses of the book are key.

1v1 “In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus **began** to do and to teach...”

Acts is the second volume of the gospel of Luke. In this second half, Luke continues the story.

Acts is about what Jesus **continues** to do and teach – but this time He will do it through His people, by His Spirit. So Jesus ascends to heaven in chapter 1 and sends His Spirit in chapter 2.

He is risen, ascended, exalted, enthroned – King Jesus is still at work today. As Jesus ascends, He leaves his followers with a mission, which sets the scene for the rest of the book.

1v8 “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.”

Chapters 2-7 – witnessing in Jerusalem

The community of Jesus-followers quickly grows. The early church begins to live together as subjects of King Jesus. They soon face opposition and persecution. As they scatter, they take the good news with them...

Chapters 8-12 – witnessing in Judea and Samaria

... and this good news is not just for Jews! Anyone can believe and be baptised! This section also includes the conversion of Saul/Paul who becomes crucial to spreading the good news to non-Jews.

Chapters 12-28 – witnessing to the ends of the earth

Paul is the main character in the second half of the book as we follow his missionary journeys across Turkey and Greece; preaching, teaching and planting churches in a wide range of settings among a wide range of people.

He is then arrested, imprisoned and tried, which takes him and his gospel to Rome. During this time he also has the time to write numerous letters to the churches springing up – many of which are found in our New Testament.

So what?

Throughout the book we see lots of people saved and lots of people opposing the message. But Jesus is unstoppable: persecution only serves to spread the gospel further and wider, like ripples of a pond.

The snowball is still rolling today – and we can be a part of it.

Acts teaches us what it looks like to live as subjects to King Jesus and be part of His unstoppable mission.

Reading schedule:

Read 1 chapter per day and you'll finish Acts this month!



Here are some questions the Bible wants you to ask of itself. Use these to help you as you read your way through this month's book: (please don't feel like you have to fill in every question in loads of detail. These are a guide to help you learn from what you are reading.)

- What did you learn about Jesus and what it means to trust him? (Luke 24:45-47)
- What did you learn about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)
- How were you corrected or rebuked or equipped for every good work? (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- What did you learn from the book that will help you keep going as a follower of Jesus? (Romans 15:4)
- What did you learn that will help you serve and build up the church? (Eph 4:11-16)
- What have you learnt that helps you love the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul & with all your mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
- What has helped you love your neighbour as yourself? (Matt 22:37-40)



RBT Grow Group is on Tuesday 5th February

Bring along some things from your reading of
Acts to share with others.

Some RBT reading ideas:

- Meet up once a week to read it with a friend.
- Listen online at Biblegateway.com
- Write down a verse that struck you that day.
- Encourage someone by texting them a thought from what you've read.
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Grow 1:1 questions to unlock the passage:

What does this teach me about God?

How does this point me to the Lord Jesus and His cross?

What does this teach me about myself?

How does this help me to pray?

What difference will this make to my week?