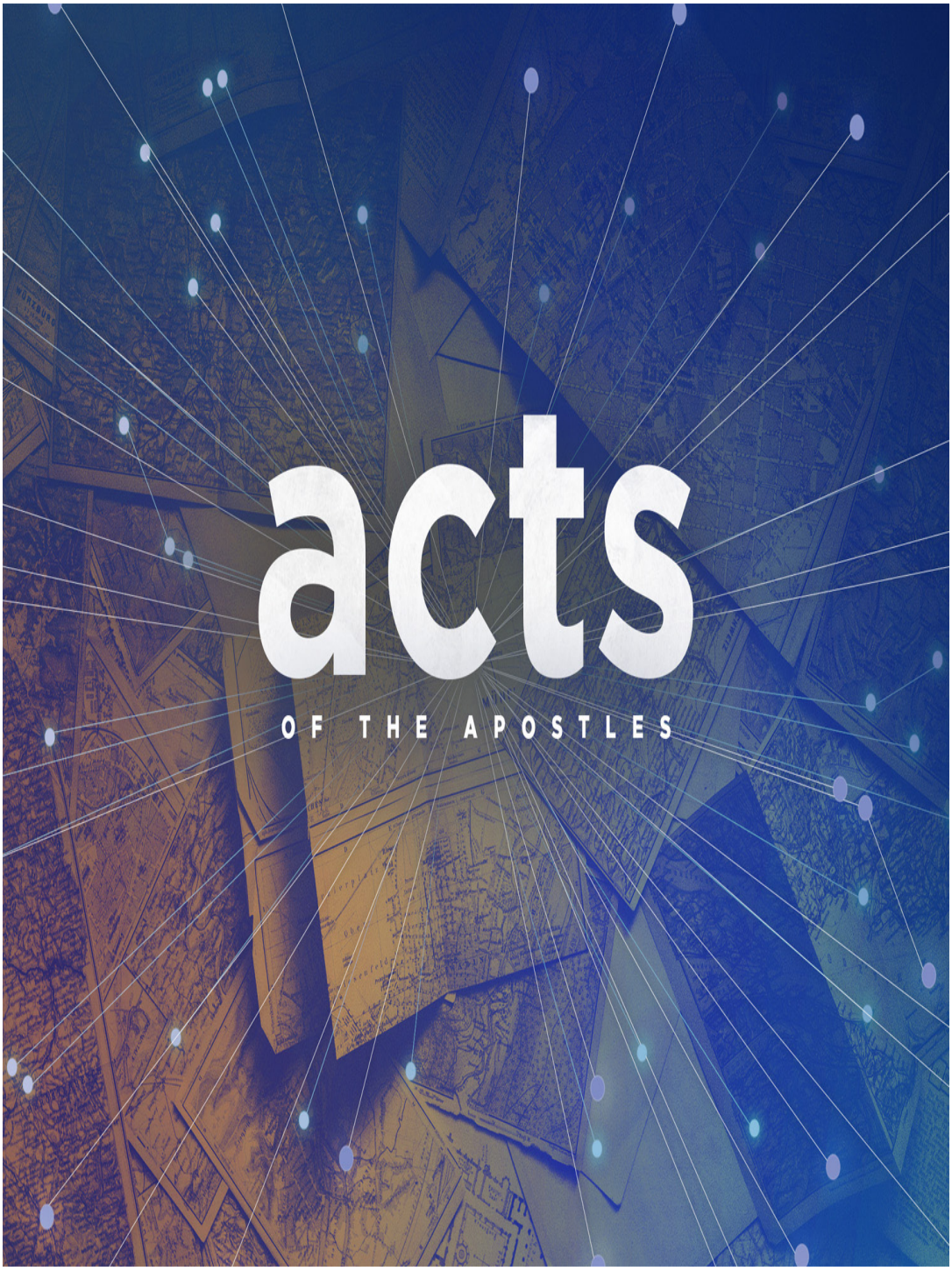
SEEING THE GOSPEL



ACTS

by: Brent Kercheville

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HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

This workbook is designed for use in middle to high school Bible classrooms and is intentionally flexible to meet a wide range of ages and maturity levels. Lessons are organized in sections that increase in depth and complexity, allowing teachers to adjust pacing and emphasis based on their students' needs. Each lesson contains enough material to fill a 30–45 minute class period.

Lessons begin with **Rapid Recall**, a brief set of questions to review the previous lesson and connect it to the day's topic. This should take only a few minutes. Next, **The Big Picture** introduces the main focus and goal of the lesson, helping students understand what they will be studying.

The **Content** section forms the core of the lesson. It includes questions tied directly to Scripture. Teachers may assign passages for students to read ahead of time or read/summarize them together in class, depending on age, preparation, and reading ability. Younger or less-prepared students may spend more time here, while older or well-prepared students can move through this section more quickly.

Each lesson also includes a **Gospel Message**, which intentionally connects the lesson to Christ and the gospel. This section encourages discussion and personal application, helping students see Scripture as more than information and guiding them toward Christ-like living.

The **Digging Deeper** section is designed for further application and discussion. This portion works especially well with older or more mature students and can take up a larger part of the lesson when time allows.

Some lessons include additional review activities such as maps or drawings. These tools help reinforce learning and can be used as appropriate for the class level.

Teachers are encouraged to adapt each lesson as needed, emphasizing different sections to best serve their students while keeping the overall goal of biblical understanding and gospel-centered application in view.

UNDERSTANDING ACTS

LESSON 01

THE BIG PICTURE

1 What do you know about the book of Acts? What do you think the book is about? _____

2 Read Acts 1:1. Who is the book of Acts written to? _____

3 What is the "first book" that Acts 1:1 refers to? _____

4 Who is the author of Acts? _____

5 What was the first book about (Acts 1:1-3)? _____

6 What can be inferred about what this second book, the book of Acts, is about? _____

PREPARING FOR THE KINGDOM

7 What was Jesus doing during the 40 days after his resurrection (1:3)? _____

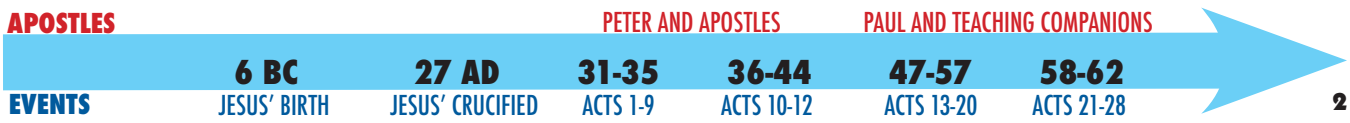
8 What did Jesus instruct his apostles to do (1:4)? _____

9 In Acts 1:6 the apostles ask about the timing of the restoration of the kingdom. What would be the sign for the arrival of the kingdom (1:7-8)? _____

10 What were the apostles to do when the kingdom came (1:8)? _____

11 What happened after Jesus' gave the apostles' this instruction (1:9)? _____

12 What did the two men in white robes tell the apostles about Jesus (1:10-11)? _____



PREPARING THE APOSTLES

13 Who are gathered in Jerusalem (1:12-14)? _____

14 What were they doing in Jerusalem (1:14)? _____

15 What does Peter say about Judas (1:15-20)? Was what Judas did outside of God's plan and foreknowledge? _____

16 What were the requirements needed to be considered for replacing Judas as an apostle (1:21-22)? _____

17 Who were put forward as possible replacements (1:23)? _____

18 How did they decide which one would replace Judas (1:24-25)? _____

PREPARING FOR PENTECOST

19 Read Acts 2:1-4. Describe the event that happens. _____

20 What were the apostles about to do (2:4)? _____

21 Who was in attendance at Pentecost? Where were they all from (2:5-11)? _____

22 We do not read the word "Pentecost" in the Old Testament. Rather, it is called the Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22), the Feast of Harvest (Exodus 23:16), or the Day of Firstfruits (Numbers 28:26). Pentecost occurred 50 days after Passover (Leviticus 23:15-16), which is the reason for its name. It was a time of worship, giving thanks to the Lord for his blessings and provisions as the people began to bring in beginning of their harvests.

23 What were the responses of the crowd to the apostles speaking in different languages (2:12-13)? _____

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- The ascension of Christ is a very important event (Acts 1:9-11). Read Daniel 7:13-14 which prophetically pictures the ascension. Where did the Son of Man go? What did the Son of Man receive?

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- The apostle Peter quotes from two psalms to explain the judgment that came on Judas for his betrayal. Read Psalm 69:1-8. What is David experiencing in this psalm? Then read Psalm 69:19-28. What is David asking for? How do your answers apply to Judas and Jesus?

- Now turn to Psalm 109, the other psalm that Peter quotes. Read Psalm 109:1-5. What is David experiencing in this psalm? Then read Psalm 109:6-15. What does David say should happen to the wicked man? How do your answers apply to Judas and Jesus?

- Can we have apostles today (cf. Acts 1:22)? Why or why not? What should we think of those who call themselves apostles today? What was the purpose of an apostle (Acts 1:8,22)?

Below is a map of much of the Roman world showing the various regions where the Jewish people came from for Passover and Pentecost as well as key cities for your study of Acts.



THE MISSION BEGINS

LESSON 02

RAPID RECALL

1 What happened when the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit? _____

2 What were people thinking when this happened (2:12-13)? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Peter and the 11 apostles have been filled with the Holy Spirit. They now are going to preach to the crowds about what this event means and instruct them what they should do now that they know what God has done.

EXPLAINING THE EVENT

3 What is Peter's first answer to explaining what happened (2:14-15)? _____

4 Who does Peter say he is quoting to explain the event to prove that this was from God (2:16)? _____

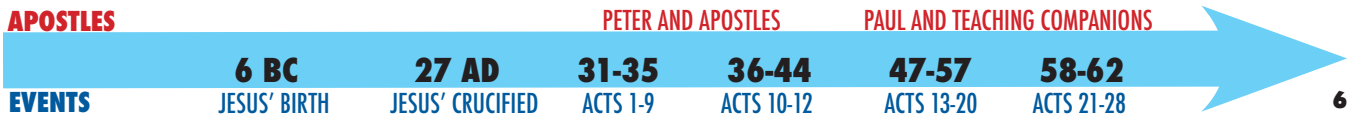
5 According to Joel, who would be able to be saved (2:21)? _____

6 What does Peter proclaim happened to Jesus (2:22-24)? _____

7 What did David prophesy would happen to Jesus (2:29-32)? _____

8 What did the pouring out of the Holy Spirit prove about Jesus (2:33-36)? _____

9 Why is the resurrection so important to Peter's sermon? _____



RESPONDING TO THE EVENT

10 What was the response of the crowd to the explanation of this event (2:37)? _____

11 What does Peter say the people must do (2:38)? _____

12 What two things does Peter say people will receive if they do this (2:38)? _____

13 Who is the promise offered to (2:39)? _____

14 What else did Peter preach to the people (2:40)? _____

15 How many received the message and what did they do (2:41)? _____

LIVING OUT THE EVENT

16 Write down the four things these Christians devoted themselves to and explain what each of these four things are (2:42)? _____

17 Who were performing wonders and signs (2:43)? _____

18 What else were these Christians doing for each other (2:44-45)? _____

19 What else were the Christians doing each day (2:46-27)? _____

20 Who is the one who adds people to the church, the family of Christ (2:48)? _____

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- Read Acts 2:38. One required response to the message of Jesus is repentance.
  - What does it mean to repent?
  - What would repentance look like in our lives?
  - What would be different about how we think about and approach God if we have repented?
  - What will be different about how we think about and act toward other people if we have repented?

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Peter seems to give two different answers about what someone must do to be saved. Compare the two sentences below. Draw lines between the similarities. Is Peter saying the same thing or did he give two different answers to be saved?

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Acts 2:21)

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." (Acts 2:38)

- Why does Peter say to save themselves from "this crooked generation" (Acts 2:40)? What is the problem of living like people in the world live? Consider Ephesians 4:17-20 in your answer.

COURAGE TO SPEAK

LESSON 03

RAPID RECALL

1 What did the pouring out of the Spirit prove? _____

2 What were the people told to do? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Acts 3–4 shows the apostles boldly proclaiming Jesus after healing a lame man in His name. Peter teaches that Jesus is the promised Savior, calls the people to repent, and declares that salvation is found only in Him; despite opposition and threats, Peter and John continue preaching with courage and the church responds with prayer, unity, and generosity.

THE POWER OF CHRIST (ACTS 3)

Read Acts 3:1–10.

3 Who do Peter and John encounter on the way to the temple? _____

4 Why was this man at the gate of the temple? _____

5 What does Peter tell this man? _____

6 What immediately happened? _____

7 What did this man do next? _____

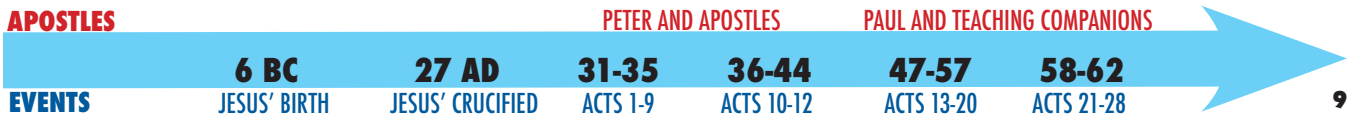
Read Acts 3:11–16.

8 How does Peter explain to the people in the temple what happened? _____

Read Acts 3:17–26.

9 What did the people need to do? What would be the result (3:19–20)? _____

10 What did the people need to do? How would God bless them (3:26)? _____



THE COURAGE TO FOLLOW CHRIST (ACTS 4)

Read Acts 4:1-22.

11 How many heard the word and believed (4:1-4)? _____

12 Who were greatly annoyed by Peter and John preaching Jesus (4:1-4)? _____

13 What did Peter preach to the Jewish leaders (4:5-12)? _____

14 What could the leaders not deny (4:13-16)? _____

15 What do the leaders tell Peter and John (4:17-18)? _____

16 What do Peter and John answer to their command (4:19-20)? _____

17 Do the leaders accept Peter and John's answer? What did the leaders do (4:21-22)? _____

Read Acts 4:23-31.

18 What did the Christians do after Peter and John report what happened to them (4:23-31)?
_____

19 What do these Christians pray for? _____

20 What do you think you would pray for in this circumstance? Did these Christians pray for the same thing? What do we learn? _____

21 What was the result of their prayer (4:31)? _____

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- Read Acts 4:12. What does this mean? What are the implications about other ways to heaven or other ways to be in relationship with God?

- What did Moses say must be done when the prophet like him came (Acts 3:22)?

- What did Moses say would happen if a person did not listen to that prophet (Acts 3:23)?

- Who else spoke of the Christ and the days of his arrival (Acts 3:24)? How then should we read the Old Testament scriptures?

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Why do you think Peter and John were willing to continue to talk about Jesus even after being threatened to get in trouble by the authorities in Jerusalem? What do we learn and how can we be like Peter and John? What are some situations in your life where you need to have this kind of courage?

- Why should Christians pray when they are afraid? What is the difference between praying, "Make my problem go away," and "Help me through this problem"?

- Part of the Christians' prayer in Acts 4 is to quote from Psalm 2 (cf. Acts 4:25-26). Why do they quote this part of the psalm? What are they recognizing about how the world wil respond to the Lord and his Christ? What do we learn as we try to follow Jesus?

A HOLY CHURCH

LESSON 04

RAPID RECALL

1 How did Peter and John handle the threats made against them to stop preaching about Jesus? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Acts 5–7 shows the apostles boldly preach Jesus despite opposition. Through the courage of the apostles and Stephen—even in the face of death—we see that the gospel cannot be stopped and Jesus is worth faithfully following no matter the cost.

EVERYTHING IN COMMON (ACTS 4:32-5:11)

Read Acts 4:32–37.

2 Describe the relationship connections that the Christians in Jerusalem had with one another.

_____

3 What does it mean that these Christians "had everything in common" (4:32)? _____

4 What were these Christians doing with their possessions? Why (4:35)? _____

5 Who is Joseph (4:36–37)? Why did the apostles call him by a different name? What did he do? _____

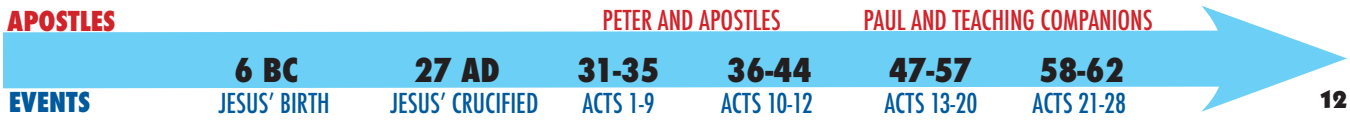
Read Acts 5:1–11.

6 What did Ananias and Sapphira do differently than Barnabas? _____

7 Who did Ananias and Sapphira lie to (5:3–4)? _____

8 Why do you think they lied? _____

9 Why do you think this was the punishment (5:10)? _____



SUFFERING FOR JESUS' NAME (ACTS 5:12-42)

Read Acts 5:12-42.

10 Why are the Jewish leaders upset with the apostles (5:27-28)? _____

11 What was the response from Peter and the apostles (5:29)? _____

12 Why did the council not order the apostles' death (5:33-40)? _____

13 How did the apostles respond to their suffering (5:41-42)? _____

SERVING THE CHURCH (ACTS 6-7)

Read Acts 6.

14 What need arises in the church at Jerusalem (6:1)? _____

15 Why are seven men selected to handle this problem (6:2-3)? _____

16 How does the Jewish leadership get Stephen arrested (6:8-15)? _____

Read Acts 7.

17 Why does Stephen retell much of Israel's history to the Jewish leaders in Acts 7? What point is he wanting them to see in their history (7:9; 7:25; 7:35; 7:39; 7:51)? _____

18 How do the Jewish leaders respond to Stephen's sermon (7:54-58)? _____

19 What does Stephen see in the final moments of his life (7:55-56)? _____

20 How does Stephen respond to those who are stoning him to death (7:60)? _____

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- What opportunity for repentance was given to Sapphira (5:7–10)? Could her judgment been avoided? What do we learn about the gospel message of repentance?

- What does it mean that Jesus is both "Leader and Savior" (5:31)?

- Why is serving others part of what it means to be a disciples of Jesus (6:1–6)?

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- What does Ananias and Sapphira's sin and punishment teach us about the holiness of God? What do we learn about lying?

- The apostles state that it is not right for them to give up preaching the word to serve tables in Acts 6:2. What do they mean by this? What are the apostles understanding about their work? What do we learn about the different roles and works in the local church?

- Consider Stephen's response in Acts 7:60. Who is Stephen imitating to respond this way as he is being killed (cf. Luke 23:33–34)? How can we have the same response to those who are trying to harm us?

THE GOSPEL SPREADS

LESSON 05

RAPID RECALL

1 What did Stephen say as the people stoned him to death? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Acts 8–9 shows how the gospel continued to spread even when Christians faced persecution, and how Jesus transformed Saul from a persecutor of Christians into one of his greatest messengers.

PHILIP AND THE SAMARITANS (8:1-25)

2 What happened to the Jerusalem church after Stephen is stoned (8:1-2)? _____

3 What is Saul doing (8:1-3)? _____

4 What did the scattered Christians do (8:4-8)? _____

5 Who is Philip (cf. 6:1-6)? How is Philip able to signs? _____

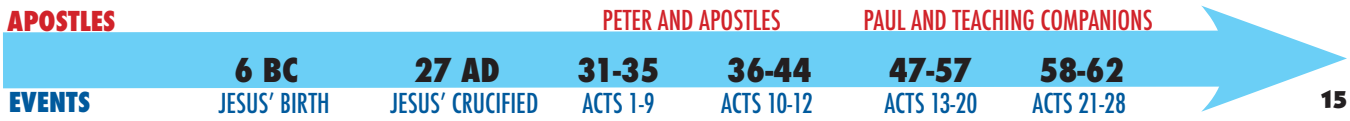
6 What was Simon doing in the city of Samaria (8:9-11)? _____

7 What did the crowds do when Philip preached the gospel (8:12-13)? _____

8 Why did Peter and John come to Samaria from Jerusalem (8:14-18)? _____

9 What was the only way for miraculous spiritual gifts to be given to another Christian (8:18)? _____

10 What does Peter say to Simon's attempt to purchase this ability (8:20-24)? _____



SIMON AND THE ETHIOPIAN (8:26-40)

11 What was Philip told to do (8:26-28)? _____

12 What book was the Ethiopian eunuch reading (8:27-28)? _____

13 What question does the Ethiopian eunuch ask first (8:34)? _____

14 How does Philip respond (8:35)? _____

15 What is the next question the Ethiopian eunuch ask (8:36)? _____

16 What did Philip and the eunuch do (8:38-39)? _____

SAUL FOLLOWS JESUS (9:1-42)

17 Why was Saul going to Damascus (9:1-2)? _____

18 What happened to Saul while on his way (9:3-9)? _____

19 What was Ananias told to do (9:10-19)? _____

20 What did Saul do (9:18-25)? _____

21 What did Saul try to do when he came to Jerusalem (9:26)? _____

22 What did it take for the Jerusalem church to accept Saul (9:27-31)? _____

23 What did Peter do at the city of Lydda (9:32-35)? _____

24 What did Peter do at the city of Joppa (9:36-43)? _____

25 What was the character of Tabitha (9:36,39)? _____

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- Simon believes and is baptized (Acts 8:13). But then he sins as he tries to buy the power to impart miraculous spiritual gifts to others (Acts 8:18-21). What does Peter tell Simon he needs to do? How is this different than what Peter was telling people to do to become a Christian? Explain.

- Why do you think the Ethiopian eunuch asked about baptism (Acts 8:36)? What does the text say Philip was preaching (Acts 8:35)? What do we learn about the gospel? What do we learn about baptism?

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Acts 8:18-19 twice states that receiving the miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit required an apostle laying hands on that person. What would happen when all the apostles died? What does this mean about those who claim to perform miracles today? Why are miraculous gifts unnecessary today?

- Why did Philip and the eunuch both go down into the water (8:38)? Why does the eunuch seeing a body of water trigger the question about being baptized? Why didn't Philip simply sprinkle some water on the eunuch?

- Acts 9:26 says that Saul attempted to join the disciples in Jerusalem. What do you think he was trying to do? Why was he trying to do this? Why was this an important action?

THE GOSPEL IS FOR ALL

LESSON 06

RAPID RECALL

1 Describe Saul's conversion to become a Christian: _____

THE BIG PICTURE

God breaks down the barriers between people as the gospel moves to the Gentiles, showing that salvation through Jesus is for everyone. Even when God's people face persecution and suffering, God's Word continues to spread and His purposes cannot be stopped.

THE GOSPEL TO THE GENTILES (ACTS 10)

2 Who is Cornelius? How is he described (Acts 10:1-2)? _____

3 What does Cornelius see and what was the meaning (Acts 10:3-8)? _____

4 What did Peter see and what was the meaning (Acts 10:9-16)? _____

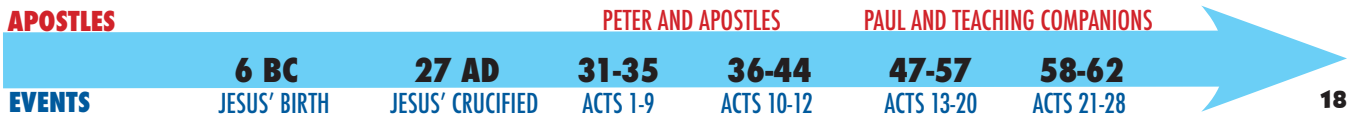
5 What does Peter do based on his vision and the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:17-21)? _____

6 What does Peter say that God has taught him (Acts 10:28-29)? _____

7 What else does Peter understand (Acts 10:34-35)? _____

8 Summarize what Peter teaches Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:36-43)? _____

9 What happened while Peter was teaching (Acts 10:44)? What does he understand this to mean (Acts 10:47-48)? _____



EXPLAINING THE GOSPEL IS FOR ALL (ACTS 11)

10 Why is Peter criticized (Acts 11:1-3)? _____

11 How does Peter defend his actions (Acts 11:4-17)? _____

12 How did the people respond to Peter's defense (Acts 11:18)? _____

13 What were the disciples first called in Antioch (Acts 11:23-26)? _____

14 What did the prophets foretell was about to happen (Acts 11:27-30)? _____

REJECTING THE GOSPEL (ACTS 12)

15 What happened to James (Acts 12:1-2)? _____

16 How did the Jews react? What did Herod do next (Acts 12:3-5)? _____

17 How was Peter rescued (Acts 12:5-11)? _____

18 Did the church expect Peter's release? What happened when Peter visited (Acts 12:12-19)?
_____

19 What were the people shouting about Herod (Acts 12:20-22)? _____

20 What happened to Herod? Why (Acts 12:23)? _____

21 Did the murder of James and the arrest of Peter discourage the church (Acts 12:24)? ___

GOSPEL MESSAGE

- Read Acts 10:34-35. What does it mean that God does not show partiality?

- What does this mean in terms of who can be saved?

- Since God does not show partiality, should we? What would this look like at school, at church, and with your friends?

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read Acts 12:20-23. What did Herod do wrong? When the people were praising Herod, what should he have done? What should we do if people are glorifying us? What would this look like?

- Read Acts 12:1-5. What was the church doing when Peter was arrested? What do we learn about prayer? What are physical circumstances we are allowed to pray about? What do you need to pray for regarding your physical body or life circumstances?

- Consider the outcomes of the prayers for James and Peter. What happened to James? What happened to Peter? Do you think that God loved Peter more than James? What do we learn about God and prayer when it comes to our suffering?

PAUL'S FIRST JOURNEY

LESSON 07

RAPID RECALL

1 What did Peter proclaim about the character of God? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Acts 13–14 records Paul and Barnabas' first missionary journey as they preach Jesus to Jews and Gentiles, establish churches, and face both acceptance and strong opposition.

BEGINNING THE FIRST JOURNEY (ACTS 13)

2 Who does God set apart with the special work to travel around proclaiming the gospel (Acts 13:1-3)? _____

3 What happens on the island of Paphos (Acts 13:6-8)? _____

4 How did Saul handle Elymas (Acts 13:9-12)? _____

KEY POINT:
Read Acts 13:9. From this point forward, Saul will now be called Paul. God did not change his name in this text. Rather, Saul is his Jewish name and Paul is his Roman name. Since Paul was designated to also preach to the Gentiles (cf. Acts 9:15), this may be why he will be called by his Roman name in the rest of Acts and in his letters.

5 Write down what Paul taught about Jesus in the synagogue at Antioch (13:16-39): _____

6 What reason does Paul give why the Jews rejected Jesus (Acts 13:26-28)? _____

7 Who did the resurrected Jesus appear to (Acts 13:29-31)? _____

8 What can be received through Jesus (Acts 13:38-39)? _____

9 What warning does Paul give and what was the reaction of the people (13:40-43)? _____

APOSTLES			PETER AND APOSTLES		PAUL AND TEACHING COMPANIONS	
	6 BC	**27 AD**	**31-35**	**36-44**	**47-57**	**58-62**
EVENTS	JESUS' BIRTH	JESUS' CRUCIFIED	ACTS 1-9	ACTS 10-12	ACTS 13-20	ACTS 21-28

10 What happened when Paul returned to preach the gospel the next week (13:44-52)? What were the two responses? _____



COMPLETING THE FIRST JOURNEY (ACTS 14)

11 What happened at Iconium (14:1-7)? Who is causing Paul and his companions problems? _____

12 What was the response to Paul and Barnabas at Lystra (14:8-18)? _____

13 What did Paul preach in Lystra (14:15-17)? _____

14 What else happened to Paul at Lystra (14:19-20)? Who were the ones who did this? _____

15 What did Paul preach as he went back to the prior cities (14:21-23)? _____

16 What did Paul do in each of those cities (14:23)? _____

17 What did Paul and his companions do when they returned to Antioch (14:27-28)? _____

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- Read Acts 13:28-33. Paul quotes from Psalm 2:7 regarding Jesus, "You are my Son, today I have begotton you." The scriptures are very clear that the Son is eternal and was not created or physically born from the Father like humans are (cf. John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16-17). Look carefully at Acts 13:28-33. What event does Paul say is the fulfillment of Jesus showing himself to be the Son of God?

- Read Romans 1:1-4. How does Paul say Jesus was declared to be the Son of God? Why is this event so important?

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Return to Acts 12:22-23. What did the crowd say about Herod and what happened to him? Then look at Acts 14:11-15. What did the crowd say about Paul and Barnabas? What did they do differently than Herod? What do we learn?

- Read Acts 14:22. What did Paul teach is necessary to happen to Christians to enter the kingdom of God? Why? Consider James 1:2-4 in your answer.

- Read Acts 14:23. What was appointed in every church? Is a church able to have only one elder? Why or why not? Why are elders in a church important?

SAVED THROUGH GRACE

LESSON 80

RAPID RECALL

1 What did the resurrection of Jesus prove about him? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Acts 15–16 shows the gospel continuing to spread as the early church resolves questions about salvation as more Gentiles are becoming disciples. The chapters emphasize that salvation is through the grace of Jesus and is offered to all people.

EARLY CONFLICT

2 What did some come from Judea teaching (15:1)? _____

3 When they come to Jerusalem, what did the believers say was necessary (15:5)? _____

4 What did they do to determine the answer (15:6)? _____

5 What did Peter say in regards to this issue (15:7–11)? _____

6 What did Barnabas and Paul say in regards to this issue (15:12)? _____

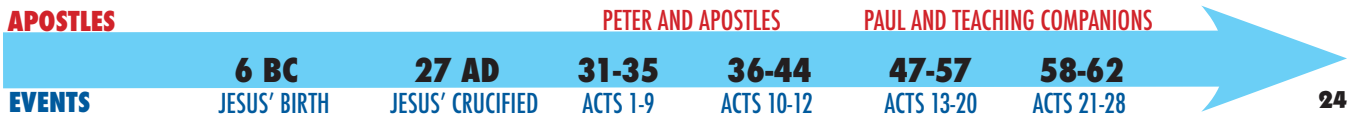
7 What did James say in regards to this issue (15:13–18)? _____

8 What solution does James propose (15:19–21)? _____

9 Who are Judas and Silas and what were they sent to do (15:32–33)? _____

10 What did Paul and Barnabas determine to do (15:35–36)? _____

11 Why did Paul and Barnabas disagree (15:37–39)? _____





12 What did Paul and Barnabas do to solve their disagreement (15:39-40)? _____

13 What was their purpose for their next journey (15:41)? _____

STRENGTHENING CHURCHES

14 Who does Paul encounter in Lystra (16:1-2)? _____

15 What does Paul have him do before traveling with him (16:3)? _____

16 Why would Paul have him do this when Acts 15 settled the matter that this act was not necessary (16:1-3)? _____

17 Where did the Holy Spirit direct Paul to go (16:6-10)? _____

18 Notice in Acts 16:12 that the account changes to "we." Who has apparently joined with Paul and Silas so that the author says "we"? _____

19 Who does Paul meet in Philippi? What happens (16:14-15)? _____

20 What was the slave girl proclaiming as she followed Paul (16:17-18)? _____

21 What did Paul do with the slave girl (16:18)? What resulted from this (16:19-24)? _____

22 What were Paul and Silas doing while in prison (16:25)? Who is listening? _____

23 What happens that sets Paul and Silas free (16:26-28)? _____

24 What does the jailer ask Paul and Silas (16:30)? _____

25 How do Paul and Silas answer the jailer (16:31)? _____

26 What does the jailer and his family do (16:32-34)? _____

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- Paul and Silas tell the jailer and his family to believe in the Lord Jesus to be saved. But then the jailer and his family were baptized. How do we reconcile these two actions? Do you need to believe to be saved or do you need to be baptized to be saved?

- What do we learn about belief? Is belief only mentally accepting that Jesus is the Lord? Or are the scriptures teaching that belief is more than something done mentally? Explain.

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Acts 15 records the sharp disagreement that arose over whether the Gentiles needed to be circumcised to be saved (cf. Acts 15:1, 5). Read Genesis 17:1-14 and write down the meaning of circumcision.

- Read Colossians 2:10-15. Paul teaches that we no longer practice physical circumcision to belong to the covenant of the Lord. What is the physical practice that we do now that is described as "circumcision"? What does this act represent according to Colossians 2:10-15?

- After Paul and Silas were severely beaten and imprisoned, we read about them praying and singing to God while fastened in the stocks (cf. Acts 16:23-25). How do you think they were able to do this despite the suffering they experienced? How can we do the same thing when we are suffering?

WORLD UPSIDE DOWN

LESSON 60

RAPID RECALL

1 What was the dispute over in Acts 15? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Acts 17–18 shows Paul preaching Jesus in Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, and Corinth, where people respond to the gospel in different ways—some believe, while others reject it. Despite opposition, Paul continues preaching because God's message must be proclaimed to all people.

UPROAR OVER THE GOSPEL

2 What did Paul and Silas do when they came to Thessalonica (17:1-3)? _____

3 What did the Jews do and why did they do this (17:5)? _____

4 What did the Jews do when they could not find Paul (17:6-7)? What crime did they charge these believers? _____

5 What was the response of the Jews in Berea (17:11-12)? _____

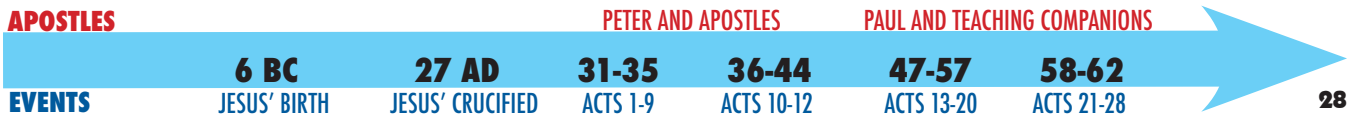
6 What did the Jews in Thessalonica do (17:13)? Where did Paul go? Who stayed behind? _____

7 What did Paul see in Athens (17:16)? What did Paul do? _____

8 What were the responses to Paul's teaching (17:17-21)? _____

9 How did Paul preach Christ to the Athenians (17:22-31)? _____

10 How did they respond to Paul's preaching (17:32-34)? _____





REASONING THE GOSPEL

11 Who did Paul find in Corinth (18:1-4)? What was Paul doing in Corinth? _____

12 Who met up with Paul in Corinth (18:5)? _____

13 What was the response to the gospel being preached in Corinth (18:6)? _____

14 What was Paul's response to the Jews in the synagogue (18:6)? _____

15 Who believed in Corinth (18:8)? What did they do in belief? _____

16 What does the Lord tell Paul in a vision (18:9-11)? _____

17 What this tell us about Paul's condition in Corinth that the Lord needed to give him this vision? _____

18 What did the Jews do against Paul (18:12-17)? Was Paul delivered like the Lord said? _____

19 Write down what Paul did in each of the following areas:

Cenchreae: _____

Ephesus: _____

Caesarea: _____

Antioch: _____

Region of Galatia and Phrygia: _____

20 How is Apollos described (18:24-26)? _____

21 What did Priscilla and Aquilla do with Apollos (18:26)? _____

22 Where did Apollos go and what did he do (18:27-28)? _____

GOSPEL MESSAGE

- Read Acts 16:30-31 and answer the following questions. What does God command all people to do? What does this mean?

- Why does God command all people to do this? What is going to happen?

- What is the assurance given so that all can know that this event is going to happen?

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read Acts 17:2-3. Paul was explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and rise from the dead. Why was it necessary for the Christ to suffer? Why was it necessary for the Christ to rise from the dead? What was Paul explaining?

- Read Acts 17:11. What made the Bereans different? How did they receive the word? What were they doing with the scriptures? How can we do these things? What would this look like for us on Sunday? What would this look like in our lives during the week?

- Read Acts 17:26-28. What is God wanting us to do (17:27)? Why should we do this (17:28)? Explain what Paul means, "In him we live and move and have our being?" What are we supposed to learn?

THE GOSPEL CHANGES LIVES

LESSON 10

RAPID RECALL

1 What does God command all people to do? Why? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Acts 19–20 shows the gospel powerfully transforming lives in Ephesus and spreading throughout the region, even in the face of opposition. Paul remains committed to preaching Jesus and strengthening the churches, demonstrating the importance of faithful service and finishing the work God has given us.

THE GOSPEL IN EPHESUS

2 What does Paul ask the disciples when he comes to Ephesus (19:1–2)? _____

3 Read Acts 2:38 and John 7:37. Since Christians receive the gift of the Holy Spirit when they repent and are baptized, Paul cannot be asking about that. So what else would Paul be asking these disciples about receiving regarding the Holy Spirit? Consider Acts 8:14–17.

_____

4 How do the disciples respond to Paul's question (19:2)? What is Paul's next question (19:3)?

_____

5 What was different about John's baptism (19:4)? _____

6 What did these disciples do next (19:5)? _____

7 What did Paul do once they were baptized (19:6–7)? _____

8 What did Paul do in Ephesus and what was the response (19:8–10)? _____

9 What was God doing through Paul (19:11–12)? _____

APOSTLES			PETER AND APOSTLES		PAUL AND TEACHING COMPANIONS	
	6 BC	**27 AD**	**31-35**	**36-44**	**47-57**	**58-62**
EVENTS	JESUS' BIRTH	JESUS' CRUCIFIED	ACTS 1-9	ACTS 10-12	ACTS 13-20	ACTS 21-28

10 What did Jewish exorcists try to do and what was the result (19:13-17)? _____

11 What problem arises in Ephesus (19:23-34)? _____

12 How was this problem resolved (19:35-41)? _____

THE GOSPEL SPREADS

13 What did these Christians do on the first day of the week in Troas (20:5-7)? _____

14 How long did Paul preach (20:7)? What happened while Paul was preaching (20:8-10)? What did Paul do? _____

15 Paul gives many important teachings and instructions to the Ephesian elders. In the following verses, write down what Paul says about himself or what he tells the Ephesian elders to do:

Acts 20:18-21: _____

Acts 20:22-23: _____

Acts 20:24-27: _____

Acts 20:28: _____

Acts 20:29-30: _____

Acts 20:31-32: _____

Acts 20:33-35: _____

16 What do we learn about how Paul conducted himself as an apostle of Jesus? _____

17 What do we learn about the future dangers of the Ephesian church? _____

GOSPEL MESSAGE

- Read Acts 20:35. What are the words of Jesus that needed to be remembered?

- Why is this true? Why is it not better to receive than to give? Explain.

- The gospel includes the message of giving ourselves rather than trying to always receive. What would it look like in your life to live out these words from Jesus?

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read Acts 19:2-5. What baptism had these twelve disciples first been baptized into? Why do you think they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus when they had already been baptized before? What do we learn?

- Read Acts 19:7. What did the disciples do on the first day of the week? Why did they do this on the first day of the week? Why not another day of the week?

- The apostle Paul gives some helpful pictures regarding the role of elders in a local church. Read Acts 20:28-31. Write down the various things elders are supposed to be doing for themselves and for the local church so that they are doing their God-given work.

FAITH UNDER PRESSURE

LESSON 11

RAPID RECALL

1 What words of Jesus did Paul tell the Ephesian elders to remember? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Acts 21-23 records Paul in great turmoil. We are going to look at the suffering Paul experiences for preaching the gospel. These chapters explain why Paul became a disciple and how to handle opposition to the gospel.

PAUL IN JERUSALEM

2 What was Paul being told by the disciples in Tyre (21:1-4)? _____

3 Who did Paul stay with in Caesarea? Where have we seen him before in Acts (21:7-8)? _____

4 What was the message to Paul from Agabus the prophet (21:10-11)? _____

5 What did everyone want Paul to do (21:12)? What was Paul's response? What then did they all do (21:14)? _____

6 What message do the Christians in Jerusalem have for Paul (21:20-25)? _____

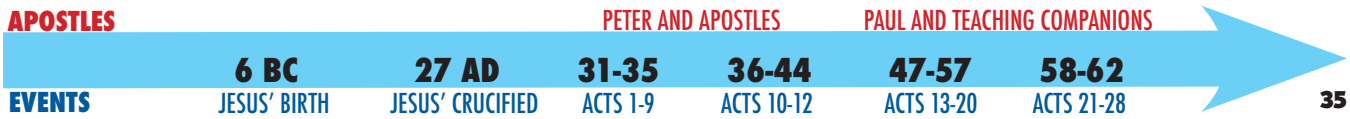
7 What were the Jews charging Paul with doing (21:20-21)? Is this true? _____

8 What was Paul trying to show with the four men under a vow (21:23-24)? _____

9 What happened while Paul was in the temple in Jerusalem (21:27-36)? _____

10 What do the Jews from Asia charge Paul with doing (21:27-29)? _____

11 Who kept Paul from being killed (21:33-36)? _____



PAUL'S DEFENSE

12 What does Paul ask the Roman tribune (21:37-40)? _____

13 What does Paul say about himself (22:3)? _____

14 What was Paul doing in Jerusalem (22:4-5)? _____

15 How does Paul explain why he became a disciple of Jesus (22:6-11)? _____

16 What did Ananias tell Paul to do (22:12-16)? _____

17 What does Paul say God showed him would happen in Jerusalem (22:17-21)? _____

18 What caused the crowd to turn on Paul (22:21-22)? _____

19 What were the Romans going to do to Paul (22:23-29)? What prevented them from doing this? _____

PAUL BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN COUNCIL

20 What does Paul charge the high priest with doing (23:1-5)? _____

21 What does Paul say is the reason he is on trial (23:6-10)? _____

22 What was God's message to Paul (23:11)? _____

23 What plot did the Jews make against Paul (23:12-15)? _____

24 How does Paul avoid this plot (23:16-22)? _____

25 What does Claudius Lysias do to rescue Paul (23:22-24)? _____

26 What does Claudias Lysias write in his letter to Felix the goveror (23:26-30)? _____

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- Read Acts 22:16. What did Ananias tell Paul to do? How does someone "call on his name" according to this verse?

- How does a person wash away sins, according to Acts 22:16? Read 1 Peter 3:21–22. What does Peter say about the meaning of baptism?

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read Acts 23:11. Paul was told that he must testify about the Lord in Rome. What was the means that Paul was going to end up in Rome? Did God's message to Paul mean that things were going to be easy or comfortable for him in preparation for going to Rome? What do we learn about the path of life God can put us on to accomplish his plans?

- Read Acts 23:3–5. What did Paul say once he found out that he was speaking to the high priest? Even though the high priest was violating God's law, what does Paul say he was not to do? What do we learn about how we speak about our leaders in our country, state, county, and city? Consider 1 Peter 2:17 in your answer.

- Consider some of the characteristics we have seen in Paul in these chapters. Some of the qualities we have read included courage, faithfulness, humility, trust, and patience. Choose a quality and how we see it in Paul's turmoil in these chapters. Then write down how you can practice the same quality in your life.

GOSPEL DEFENSE

LESSON 12

RAPID RECALL

1 What did Ananias tell Paul to do in Acts 22:16? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

Acts 24–26 records Paul defending his faith before Felix, Festus, and King Agrippa while remaining faithful despite false accusations and imprisonment. Paul uses these opportunities to boldly testify about Jesus, his resurrection, and the need for repentance and faith.

PAUL TRIED BY FELIX

2 What charges does Tertullus make against Paul (24:1-8)? _____

3 How does Paul defend himself against these charges in 24:12? _____

4 How does Paul defend himself against these charges in 24:13? _____

5 How does Paul defend himself against these charges in 24:14-15? _____

6 How does Paul defend himself against these charges in 24:16-20? _____

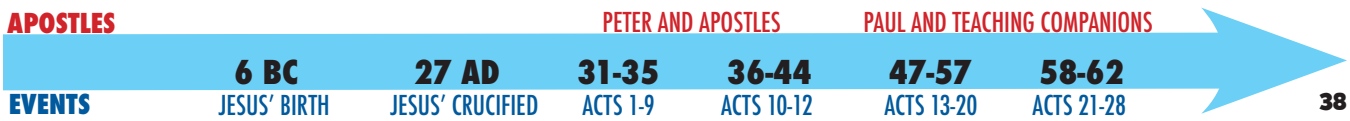
7 How does Paul defend himself against these charges in 24:21? _____

8 What does Felix the governor do rather than deciding the case (24:22)? _____

9 What does Felix command (24:23)? _____

10 What did Paul reason with Felix and Drusilla about (24:24-26)? _____

11 What did Felix hope for? How long did Paul remain in prison (24:26-27)? _____



PAUL TRIED BY FESTUS

12 Who replaces Felix as governor (24:27–25:1)? _____

13 What plans do the Jews have against Paul now (25:2–5)? _____

14 How does Paul defend himself now (25:8)? _____

15 Why didn't Festus release Paul (25:9)? What is Paul compelled to do (25:11–12)? _____

16 How does Festus describe Paul's charges to Agrippa (25:13–22)? _____

17 What is the reason for this trial of Paul (25:26–27)? _____

PAUL TRIED BY AGRIPPA

18 How does Paul describe his early years (26:4–5, 9–11)? _____

19 What does Paul say is the reason he is on trial (26:6–8)? _____

20 What does Paul say is his God-given mission (26:16–18)? _____

21 What did Paul preach to the Gentiles (26:19–23)? _____

22 What does Festus charge regarding Paul (26:24)? _____

23 How does Paul defend himself of this charge (26:25–26)? _____

24 What does Paul ask Agrippa (26:27)? _____

25 How does Agrippa answer Paul (26:28)? _____

26 What did Paul desire (26:29)? _____

27 What conclusion do Festus and Agrippa draw (26:30)? _____

GOSPEL MESSAGE

- There are many different ways that Paul describes the hope of the gospel in his different trials. Write down the gospel message and meaning for each scripture below:
- Acts 24:14-15:
- Acts 24:24-25:
- Acts 26:6-8:
- Acts 26:16-18:
- Acts 26:22-23

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Think about the three responses to Paul. How did Felix respond to Paul? How did Agrippa respond to Paul? How did Festus respond to Paul? Can we expect the same reactions today?
- Festus claims that Paul is insane for his beliefs (Acts 26:24). What are the ways that Paul defends himself from being crazy to follow Jesus (Acts 26:25-27)? What are ways that we are able to show that following Jesus is a rational and wise decision?
- In Acts 24:25 Paul reasoned with Felix about righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment. What does the gospel teach us about righteousness? What does the gospel teach us about self-control? What does the gospel teach us about the coming judgment? What do these three things look like in our lives and how do we live by these things?

UNSTOPPABLE GOSPEL

LESSON 13

RAPID RECALL

1 What did Paul say is the reason he was on trial (Acts 26:6-8)? _____

THE BIG PICTURE

In these final chapters in Acts, we are going to see the apostle Paul arrive in Rome through great difficulty. But more important, this is as an opportunity for the gospel to spread to one of the most powerful cities in the world at that time. Look for the unstoppable gospel in these final two chapters.

PAUL'S JOURNEY (ACTS 27)

2 Where is Paul sailing to and why is he going there (27:1)? _____

3 What problems are encountered on the trip so far (27:2-12)? _____

4 What are the other problems encountered on this trip (27:13-20)? _____

5 What message did God give to Paul to share with those on the ship (27:21-26)? _____

6 What message does Paul give to those who were looking to escape the ship (27:27-32)? _____

_____

7 What other message did Paul give to the ship and what did the people do (27:33-37)? _____

_____

8 What was the plan of the soldiers when the ship ran aground (27:40-42)? _____

9 How was Paul rescued from this plan (27:43-44)? _____

APOSTLES			PETER AND APOSTLES		PAUL AND TEACHING COMPANIONS	
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EVENTS	JESUS' BIRTH	JESUS' CRUCIFIED	ACTS 1-9	ACTS 10-12	ACTS 13-20	ACTS 21-28



FINISHING THE JOURNEY (ACTS 28)

10 What harm happened to Paul and what did those who lived on the island interpret this (28:1–4)? _____

11 What did Paul do and what did those who lived on the island now think about Paul (28:5–6)?

_____

12 What was Paul doing while on the island (28:7–10)? _____

13 Once the ship finally lands in Italy, what happened to Paul and what did Paul do (28:11–16)?

_____

14 What does Paul tell the local leaders of the Jews (28:17–20)? _____

15 Had the Jews in Rome heard about Paul's charges in Jerusalem (28:21-22)? _____

16 What did Paul preach at the next gathering of the Jews (28:23)? _____

17 What were the responses to Paul's teaching (28:24-25)? _____

18 What did Paul say that caused the people to leave Paul (28:25-28)? _____

19 Where is Paul quoting from in Acts 28:26-27? _____

20 Who would listen to the salvation of God (Acts 28:28)? _____

21 What did Paul do for two years while under house arrest in Rome (Acts 28:30-31)? _____

22 Consider the ending of this book. Why do you think the book ends without concluding about what is happening with the gospel as it goes to the ends of the earth? _____

GOSPEL MESSAGES

- Paul was very specific about what was required for those on the ship to be saved. Read Acts 27:30-32. What exactly did they need to do? What would have happened if some on the ship did not follow these directions? Would they still have been saved?

- Is there anything different about the gospel? Can we not follow all the directions given to us and still be saved? Read Acts 2:38 and write down what Peter says is necessary to be saved.

APPLICATION

DIGGING DEEPER

- Paul explains why many of the Jewish people were not convinced by Paul that Jesus was the Christ by quoting scripture. Read Acts 28:26-27. Why would many of the Jewish people not believe, according to this scripture? What does this mean?

- Paul's journey to Rome did not go as one would have expected. But God still accomplished his purpose. What can we learn when our plans do not go as expected? Read James 4:13-16 and write down what we should think about all the plans we make in life.

- Paul repeatedly used the difficult circumstances that everyone on the ship was experiencing as a way to show continued trust in God. How can you use difficult circumstances at home, school, or with friends to show continued faith in God?