



## Reading through the New Testament—Week 18

May 7-13

Reading Plan available on  
YouVersion Bible App  
(QR Code).



### ***Becoming*** more like Jesus—growing in His Word

This week we make the transition from the Gospel of John to the Book of Acts. In “The Bible Project” video introduction to Acts (<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/acts/>) they make the claim that the book could easily be named The Acts of the Holy Spirit, as it shows the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of the disciples and early Christians. We continue to study the book of Acts to learn about the first century church.

In fact, our mission emphasis at St. Michael is called Acts 1:8. In this verse Jesus shares with His disciples that they “will be my witnesses” to the world, right before He is taken up into heaven. Part of being a witness is being connected to Jesus and sharing that connection with others around you.

This weekend, we celebrate confirmation as 17 students affirm their connection to Jesus after three years of learning (sixth, seventh, and eighth grade.) They have delved into Jesus’ life and ministry in the Bible, used the small catechism as a learning tool, been through a Bible Overview, and spent time exploring the impact Jesus has on our lives. During their eighth grade year, they chose Bible verses with a personal meaning to them now, and one they can hold onto for years to come. They also spent time with elders, talking about faith and how to live it out. This leads us to worship this weekend, when they will publically profess their connection into Jesus’ grace and their belief that His life, death, resurrection, and ascension mean something—it connects them, and us, to the Father through the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives.

# This Week's Sermon Outline

Be My Witnesses  
John 20:21 & Acts 1:8

**Processing:** Jesus' said to them, **"You Will Be My Witnesses."**

Acts 1:8

Kairos Moments (Acts 3:19)

**What:** Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, **"Mary."** John 20:15-16

When the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, **"Peace be with you!"** John 20:19

Again Jesus said, **"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."** John 20:21

**So What:** \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

He said to them: "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." Acts 1:8

**Now What:** B \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_

## New Testament in a Year—May 7-13

John and Acts

Chapter 18  19  20  21  1 

**Additional Reflections** from this week's reading  
This week as we read, we take a journey with Jesus to the Cross and then to an Empty Tomb. Take note of the narratives and stories that stand out to you from each chapter. You can reflect on the readings by asking:

1. **What from this narrative caught my attention?**
2. **So what about that section connects to my life, right now?**
3. **Now what is God speaking into my life through this reading?**

**John 18** | Jesus is put on trail

What can we learn from Jesus' words and actions while on trail?

**John 19** | Jesus death

What do you notice is different from the other Gospels?

**John 20** | The Resurrection

Read John 20:30-31. Did John accomplish his goal (these things are written so that...)?

**John 21** | Jesus appears to His disciples

As Jesus appears to His disciples, which narrative resonates with you?

**Acts 1** | Jesus final instructions to His disciples

"Be My Witnesses" See your sermon notes.

## ***Blessing*** the World

Jesus tells His disciples, "You will be my witnesses..." in Acts 1:8. How are you a witness for Jesus? How do you share what it means to be connected to Jesus to those around you? It might seem like a big task and one you can't even imagine. If that's you, start small. Try this:

- Write your favorite Bible verse on a notecard
- On the back, write down why it is your favorite
- Write how this verse helps you connect to Jesus
- In the next week, share that verse with someone in your life

## *Belonging* in Community

Connect Groups are a group of Christians who meet together regularly where we intentionally share in our faith walk. Connection is created through commitment and presence in fellowship, discussion, and prayer.

- Begin your time together by following up on anything that was shared during your last time together.
- Take some time to share any reflections of aha's you had from your reading.

This week we begin to look at the example and call to be a witness for God. Part of being ready to share the working of God in your life is to practice noticing and verbalizing those kairos moments to others. We are going to take some time to practice sharing.

Think of a time when you:

- Knew God was real.
- Were captured by His beauty.
- Were captivated by His power.
- Experienced a powerful or unexpected answer to prayer.
- Came to a deeper understanding of a simple truth about God and/or His Teachings.

These moments can happen quickly and it is easy to fly by them. However, these are also some of the most personal ways to share the Good News of who God is and what that means for our lives. Because of this, people who have yet to know and have faith in God can connect in some powerful ways through your story.

Take some time to listen as each person shares about one of these times. As you listen, celebrate and reflect on who God is and how He shows up. You can ask clarifying questions to help understand and encourage one another.

Take some time to thank God for who He is and how He works.