



## Reading through the New Testament—Week 19

May 14-20

Reading Plan available on  
YouVersion Bible App  
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### ***Becoming*** more like Jesus—growing in His Word

Last week we started reading in the book of Acts. Acts takes up where Luke's Gospel ends, focused on Jesus Christ. Luke 24:51 relates that several weeks after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven. Acts opens with an additional description of what Jesus said and did prior to His physical departure from earth into heaven.

Acts, positioned between the four gospels which tell of Jesus Christ's coming, and the Epistles, which explain Christ's significance in specific local church situations – is an indication of its theological importance. Acts explains how the earliest proclamation about the dead and risen Jesus, made its way into the ancient Roman world and therefore has significance as a part of the Biblical narrative.

Historically, Acts mentions over thirty countries, more than fifty towns and cities, numerous islands, and nearly one hundred persons, about sixty of whom are not mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament. As the author of Acts, Luke demonstrates impressive knowledge (and research) on geography, local politics and customs, life on the sea, and the first century Mediterranean world.

# This Week's Sermon Outline

## "Pentecost"

Acts 2:1-15

The Day of Pentecost

E \_\_\_\_\_

"... stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49)

"... wait for the gift my Father promised . . ." (Acts 1:4)

E \_\_\_\_\_

"... stay in the city until you have been clothed with **power** from on high." (Luke 24:49)

"You will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you . . ." (Acts 1:8)

E \_\_\_\_\_

**a** \_\_\_\_\_ **phenomena**

"... a sound like the blowing of a violent wind . . ." (Acts 2:2)

**v** \_\_\_\_\_ **phenomena**

"They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire . . ." (Acts 2:3)

**o** \_\_\_\_\_ **phenomena**

"... began to speak in other tongues (languages) . . ." (Acts 2:4)

E \_\_\_\_\_

"Then Peter stood up . . . and addressed the crowd." (Acts 2:14)

E \_\_\_\_\_

"The Peter stood up . . . let me explain this to you . . ." (Acts 2:14)

E \_\_\_\_\_

"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized . . . and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 2:38)

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit . . . will teach you all things." (John 14:26)

"Paraclete" – comforter, counselor, helper (12<sup>th</sup> man)

## New Testament in a Year—May 14-20

Acts

Chapter 2  3  4  5  6 

### **Additional Reflections** from this week's reading

**Acts 2.** As you read Acts 2 this week, you may want to go back and reread John 14:15-31 and John 16:5-16. Here Jesus tells about the coming of the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives.

As you read Peter's sermon in Acts 2, take note of all he says/describes about Jesus.

**Acts 3.** As you read Peter's words in vv. 11-26, what is Peter saying about the people (including us)?

Despite what Peter says about us in vv. 13-15, how does he give us hope in vv. 24-26?

**Acts 4.** As you read Peter's words in vv. 8-12, compare his boldness and courage here to the time he denied Jesus. The Holy Spirit has certainly empowered him!

Reread v. 12 and commit it to memory as a further testimony to the fact that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

**Acts 5.** After reading vv. 17-41, how do you think you would feel if you were told, at the risk of being imprisoned, not to share your faith? How ready are we in this country to thrive if faced with severe persecution?

**Acts 6.** As you read vv. 1-7, think about how important it is for many people to participate in the life and work of God's mission. In what way(s) are you participating in the "ministry of the Word" or "waiting on tables" in service to the gospel?

## *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 as we ponder the work of the Holy Spirit and the Church. We are going to scratch the surface on the topic of Spiritual Gifts which are talents, passion points, and traits given to us so that God's work can be accomplished.

Identifying our spiritual giftedness can be accomplished in various ways. Spiritual gift tests or inventories, while not to be fully relied upon, can definitely help us understand where our gifting might be. Confirmation from others also gives light to our spiritual giftedness. Other people who see us serving the Lord can often identify a spiritual gift in us that we might take for granted or not recognize. Prayer is also important. The one person who knows exactly how we are spiritually gifted is the gift-giver Himself—the Holy Spirit. We can ask God to show us how we are gifted in order to better use our spiritual gifts for His glory. Take some time as a group to discuss ways you see each other uniquely serving God's kingdom.

Begin with a prayer asking the Spirit to guide your time together.

- Are there "gifts" you think you may have, but are unsure? Ask the group about them.
- Where can you encourage or even challenge someone in putting a gift into action?
- What is a passion point (an area of service or need) that you feel drawn to individually or as a group?
- How can you lean into that passion point more this summer?

A common problem for Christians is the temptation to get so caught up in our spiritual gift that we only seek to serve God in the area in which we feel we have been gifted. That is not how the spiritual gifts work. God calls us to obediently serve Him in all things. He will equip us with whatever gift or gifts we need to accomplish the task He has called us to.

## *Blessing* the World

Small Things. Jesus tells His people around Him that two key elements of being a disciple is loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves. This week, find small ways to bless your neighbor—showing them they are loved. Some ideas:

Mow a neighbor's lawn / Wash someone's windows

Pay for a meal for the person behind you / Grab an extra coffee to give away

**Kids:** How can you show your mom she is loved?