

The Book of Acts: An Introduction

Luke 1:1-4, Acts 1:1-5,8

MAIN IDEAS

This is a history written from eyewitness testimony to describe how God established His church.

The purpose was so that the original reader, Theophilus, would have certainty about what he believed. That purpose still applies to us today.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Both tradition and scholars agree that Luke wrote the book of Acts. What do we learn about him in Luke 1:1-4, Acts 1:1-5 and 16:8-10, Colossians 4:14, and 2 Timothy 4:11?

How did Luke go about gathering his information according to Luke 1:2? Why is this important?

How do Peter's words in 1 Peter 1:16, 20-21 support and expand on the significance of eyewitness testimony? How does this help us trust the scriptures today even though we are separated by nearly 2000 years from the original audiences?

What is the overarching theme in the book of Acts, consider 1:8? What 2 things should we expect to see/learn as we read through the history of the first Christian church?

What was something from the sermon that impacted you? What will you do in response?

Consider using a notebook to keep track of central figures, events, facts, details, and locations as we read through the book of Acts over the next few months. This will help us make connections in order to see the big picture of what God did and is still doing to grow His church.

GROUP RESPONSE

What comparisons can you make between the Christian church of then and the Church today? Are there beliefs or activities that your group needs to obey as the body of Christ, and if so, how will you do them together?

Spend time in praise and thanks to God for preserving His church and His word for nearly 2000 years. Ask Him to lead the body in ways that continue to grow His kingdom.

REPRODUCE

Are you certain about the things of Jesus that you learned and believe? If not, ask a brother or sister to walk with you and pray with you as you search God's word for the assurance that He promises, Hebrews 10:19-23.

Do you know a brother or sister who is struggling to completely trust the word of God? Pray with them and offer to search God's word with them that they may be certain of what they believe.

KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- Acts 1

Additional verses from the study:

- Luke 1:1-4
- Colossian 4:14
- 2 Timothy 4:11
- 2 Peter 1:16, 20-21
- Hebrews 10:19-23