

## Introduction

The key to properly understanding Acts is to grasp the transitional nature of the book. "Acts abounds with transitions: from the ministry of Jesus to that of the apostles; from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant; from Israel as God's witness nation to the church (composed of both Jews and Gentiles) as God's witness people...Acts depicts the New Covenant's practical outworking in the life of the church."

John MacArthur  
*The MacArthur Study Bible*, p. 1588

This year we are memorizing Ephesians 2 and this week we return to our normal schedule, memorizing Ephesians 2:12: "...remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world."

## Day One

*Read Acts 19:1-10; The Work of the Holy Spirit in Ephesus*

1. What particularly encouraged or convicted you from last week's lesson or lecture?
  
2. Using a dictionary, define the meaning of the word "disciple." In Acts 19:1-4, of whom were the men disciples?
  - a. What was their response to the revelation that Jesus was the Savior whom John had anticipated?
  
  - b. What does this show about their faith?
  
3. In verses 1 and 8-10, where did Paul preach and why?
  - a. From these verses, what was Paul's message? (See also Ephesians 1.)
  
  - b. Take time to review the gospel proclamation in the book of Acts, then, in one sentence, rewrite that message in your own words. (See Acts 2:38; 3:13-26; 4:12; 5:30-31; 10:43; 13:23-24, 38-39, 46-47; 17:31; and 18:5.)

## Day Two

*Read Acts 19:11-20; The Name of Jesus*

1. According to verse 11, who was responsible for Paul's miracles? In light of the events that follow in verses 11-16, why do you think this was so important to understand?
  
2. From verses 13-17, why were the Jewish exorcists unable to cast out evil spirits? (See Matthew 10:5-8.)

- a. According to verse 17, what was the result of this failed attempt by the Jewish exorcists?
  - b. What warning is there for those who tried to falsely duplicate Paul's works?
  - c. According to Ephesians 6:11–17, how does God strengthen believers today to fight sin?
3. From Acts 19:18–19, what did these new believers do, and why?
- a. How does this text and Matthew 5:29–30 help you better understand true repentance?
  - b. Consider your own response to sin in your life and areas where you need to repent. What might need to change?
  - c. Find a text in Scripture that reveals God's holiness and think about how that shapes your understanding of sin. Share with your group.

## Day Three

Read Acts 19:21–20:1; **The Ministry of Paul in the Face of Opposition**

**NOTE:** Paul's intent was to return to Jerusalem but he chose to travel by way of Macedonia and Achaia, which are in the opposite direction.

1. According to Romans 15:25–27 and 1 Corinthians 16:1–4, what reason did Paul have for taking this indirect route?
  - a. What does that show about his commitment to the ministry and his care for believers?
  - b. How does his example encourage you to greater service to those in the church?
2. From Acts 19:23–41, summarize briefly what happened in Ephesus, including Demetrius' objection.
3. In Acts 19:30–31 and 20:1, what was Paul's response to the riot?
4. Use a dictionary to define "exhortation" or "encouragement," used in verse 2.

- a. Why would Paul have seen fit to put so much effort into this task?
  
- b. Find two or three other verses that instruct exhortation and share them with your group.

## Day Four

Read Acts 20; ***Paul's Journey Continues***

1. In verses 1–4, where were Paul's traveling companions from? Why do you think Luke noted that?
  
2. In verses 7–12, what happened to Eutychus when Paul was speaking to the believers in Troas, and how did Paul respond?
  - a. What practical steps can you take to remain attentive when God's Word is being taught or during your personal time of study?
  
3. From Acts 20:19–27, how did Paul's leadership serve as an example for the Ephesian elders and how can it serve as an example for church leaders today?
  - a. In verses 20 and 27, what phrase is repeated and what leadership quality does that represent?
  
4. From verses 22–24, what did Paul expect would happen to him in Jerusalem, and what was his priority there?
  - a. What ministry work has God given *you* to do, and how does Paul's example encourage or challenge you?

## Day Five

Read Acts 20; ***Paul's Farewell to Ephesus***

**NOTE:** *At Miletus, Paul called the elders of the church at Ephesus to visit him so that he could impart a final exhortation to them before he left for Jerusalem. This context gives Paul's instruction profound weight, within the context of his last face-to-face meeting with those church leaders.*

1. In verse 27, what do you think Paul meant by "the whole purpose of God?"
  
2. According to verse 28, for whom must the overseer be on guard? Why is this an important principal for ministry? Find Scripture to support your answer and share them with your group.

3. From verse 28, why is the church of such value? How does this change the way you view the church and consequently, how you function in the church?
  
4. According to verses 29–30, from where will attacks upon the church come?
  - a. How do these “wolves” draw disciples away? What is able to build up the church and protect it from these attacks?
  
5. What encouragement or exhortation in Paul's farewell speech to the Ephesian elders is particularly meaningful to you, and why?
  
6. Looking back at Acts 19–20, how do you see God's sovereign purpose and plan of redemption in these chapters?

---

## **Paul's Third Missionary Journey**

- I. Qualifications of a Proclaimer
- II. Quest of the Proclaimer
- III. Quickening of the Elders by the Proclaimer