

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

The book of *Acts* gives the account of God's faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit's direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

From Acts Chapter One

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Bow Down! Kneel before our glorious King who is enthroned in heaven at the right hand of the Father.

How Are You (We) Using His Power? God has given us His Holy Spirit with power. Use that power to benefit some others at *FCCW* and in our neighborhood. Pick up the phone. Send an email. Have someone over. Encourage them in Christ.

Pray! Ask the Lord to work in us in these ways. Ask others to pray for you in these ways, too.

God's Word—Mini-Series Overview

The Book of God's Glory

God has revealed Himself to humanity through the sixty-six books of the Scriptures. He shows us in the Bible what He is like, what we were made to be, the horror of our rebellion against Him and its galaxy-wide consequences. It also presents His incredible promise to win us back to Himself through the unthinkable sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Let's look together at the wonder of Scripture and consider how its uniqueness should guide everything that we do.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren

January 26th, 2020

Morning Service:

Acts 1: 12 – 26

Waiting in the Upper Room

1. His Disciples Devoted Themselves to Prayer (12-14).
2. They Looked Together at the Scriptures (15-22).
3. Trusting God They Acted on What They Knew (23-26).

Our King is ascended and is directing the work of His Kingdom from on high. We can trust Him to accomplish all that He has promised—the restoration of all things. As we await His return we must devote ourselves to unified prayer as an expression of faith in our King and make use of His appointed means for our victory in Christ.

Evening Service:

John 20: 24 – 31

Three-Part Series on the Word

Applying Scripture Daily

1. We Are Called to Use God's Word to Bring Him Glory.
2. How Do We Glorify God in Our Use of His Word?

Let us together by faith in Christ make use of His Word—miraculous, intimate, and authoritative—by the power of His Spirit and for the glory of God. Amen.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Stay here and wait! The disciples were ready for the culmination of all history, or so they thought. Let's go!! Instead they are told to wait. Jesus, risen King of all Creation, has defeated death but instead of leading them to the heights of earthly power, He ascends to His heavenly throne, promising to send them power to be His witnesses. So they wait not by sitting around, but by praying together. They trusted God to do what only He could by doing what they could in faith.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Acts 1:12-26; John 17:1-11**. DISCUSS, Why is our unity important? What does it mean to be unified in prayer? Compare and contrast these disciples with the Church today. PRAY for God to unite us in prayer for His Kingdom work each day.

Sunday PM

READ **John 20:24-31; Romans 15:4-7**. What are we supposed to do with God's Word? How does it work in us? PRAISE God for giving us this gift. REPENT of ways we disobey and disrespect His Word.

Monday

READ **Acts 1:12-14; Romans 15:1-6**. DISCUSS, How did their united prayer demonstrate faith? How does obedience train us? PRAY for your neighbors, peers, friends & family asking God to show them His glory in Christ.

Tuesday

READ **Acts 1:12-14; John 17:11**. DISCUSS, How is Jesus' prayer being answered by the Father? How should that motivate us? PRAY, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. *Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.* Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 1:15-22; Second Timothy 3:16-17**. DISCUSS, What does the Scripture accomplish? How? MEDITATE on the astonishing gift of God's Word. REJOICE if you are a witness to Christ's sacrifice for you. PRAY, "Lord, thank You for giving us Your sacred Word. Help us to submit to Your authority."

Thursday

READ **Acts 1:23-26; Titus 1:5-9**. DISCUSS, What is the role of an overseer? Why are they necessary for the Church's health? REJOICE in the certainty that Jesus is on His throne. PRAY, "Lord, enable to trust You and follow Your Holy Spirit's leading as we await Your return. Amen."

Friday

READ **Acts 1:12-26**. How have you been growing in your understanding and application of this passage this week? REJOICE for Christ has not left us alone, but given us His promised Holy Spirit! PRAY for your neighbors who are deceived and unable to even see their own sin for what it really is. Pray for their repentance (and our continuing repentance). Pray that God will use you to bring them into His kingdom to the honor and praise of His name.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ **Acts 2:1-13**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God and to learn more about our God together. Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area. Pray that He will use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.

John 17:11b

"Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."