



THE BOOK OF ACTS
DEVOTIONAL PART 1

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A STUDY OF THE BOOKS ACTS

We will be using the acronym SOAP to guide us along and help us unearth some of the truths found within the book of Acts. In the initial weeks of the study we will highlight the parts of SOAP with the corresponding letters. This will give us a feel for what we are doing.

Then as we progress through the book of Acts and become more familiar with process we will remove the letters within the study. The process of "SOAPing" will also provide an easy way of sharing what you're learning through the Word with those you do life with.

We pray that each of us would know the truth of God's Word, love Him more deeply, and live for Him more fully!

CONTEXT

Acts is a historical narrative, which simply means, it's a book written to tell a story or account of historical facts. Sometimes called the Acts of the Holy Spirit, the book of Acts introduces us to the Counselor or Helper Jesus referenced as His Father's gift (see Luke 24:49, Act 1:4, and John 14:16), the Holy Spirit.

It was written by Luke, who also wrote the Gospel of Luke. We see in the opening of the book that Luke is writing to Theophilus, to whom he had also addressed the book of Luke. As a doctor, and one of the Apostle Paul's traveling companions later, Luke offers a rather detailed account of the time following Jesus' resurrection.

There are about 30 years covered by the book of Acts, and these were important transition years for followers of Christ. Within the book we see Jesus' final instructions to his followers, the introduction of the Holy Spirit, the growth of the early church, and the spread of Christianity to all the known world. As in the rest of God's Word, we see in Acts God's presence and power to those who believe.

HOW TO SOAP

When you have your daily time with God, use SOAP to help you think through what you are reading.

Scripture | Pick a book of the Bible and read 1-2 chapters a day. Each day, write out the Bible verse that stood out the most to you.

Observation | What is God saying in this verse? What truth did you learn? Write down your observations, thoughts, or questions.

Application | How can you apply what you learned? What truths do you need to believe? Write down a practical way you can apply this truth

Prayer | Respond to God in prayer. Write down a short prayer thanking God for this truth and ask Him to help you apply it in your life.

EXAMPLE OF SOAP

Scripture | John 15:5 - "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

Observation | We don't naturally abide in Jesus so He commands us to abide. Following this command is not burdensome, but actually for our benefit. If we're not connected to Jesus, we can't do anything. Jesus is the true vine and if we abide in Him we will bear fruit. The fruit we bear brings glory to God.

Application | What are ways I can abide in Jesus? Jesus says I will abide in Him if I keep His commandments, but am I actually doing that? Abiding in Jesus allows me to experience the joy that Jesus has for me. I can continue to abide in Him through regularly reading the Bible and prayer.

Prayer | Jesus, thank You for saving me! Please always remind me of how amazing Your Gospel is. I confess that most of the time I would rather do my own thing than abide in You. Teach me more about what it means to abide in You and I pray that abiding in You would result in great fruit for Your glory!

WEEK 1 | ACTS 1

DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

S | Read Acts chapter 1.

Write down the thing that stood out to you most in this chapter. It could be a verse or simply a sentence.

O | Now that we've got our initial observation down on paper, let's spend a few minutes getting a little context for our passage.

In relation to the life of Jesus, when do the things in this chapter happen?

Where does this chapter take place?

Who are some of the people referenced in Acts 1?

What is a command we see from Jesus here?

A | Write down the names of 3 people you would love to experience Christ in a redeeming way.

P | Thank God for His Word! Ask Him to remind you of His truth often this week. Pray for the 3 people you wrote down.

DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read Acts 1 verses 1-11.

O | What do we learn about Jesus in these first 11 verses?

What did Jesus do after his suffering? (vs. 3)

In the final instructions Jesus gives we see him say to stay, wait, and then go. Why do you think the followers were told to stay and wait, before they were told to go? What do we learn that could be essential to the mission?

What do we learn about humanity in this passage?

A | Waiting can be hard. What does waiting look like in your life right now?

P | Write a short prayer below thanking God for what we've learned of His character in this chapter. Include anything personal that may have impacted you as you looked at His Word today.

DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

S | Read all of Acts 1 again. Try reading it out loud if you can, is there anything new you notice?

O | What is the thing that stood out most to you today as you read?

Do you have any questions about this passage? Take a couple minutes to write them down.

A | What truth about this passage do you need to believe?

P | Thank God for His Son Jesus and the power of His resurrection. Write a short prayer thanking God for a way He has been present in your life.

DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read Acts 1:12-26

O | What are some of the things the disciples do in these verses?

About how many believers were there at this time?

Note any references to other Biblical passages in the text.

Look at verse 14 and note one thing the followers of Jesus did while they waited.

A | Is God inviting you to lean on him in prayer for anything?

What is it? Make a plan to intentionally pray for this over the next couple weeks.

P | Take time right now to start praying for whatever God has laid on your heart.

DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

- S** | Read through Acts 1 one more time. Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.
- O** | Were there any parts you found yourself almost saying by memory? We are trusting that we might be so saturated with God's Word that the truth in it would be forever imprinted on our hearts.

How does what you've observed this week help you better understand the verse you noted?

- A** | Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

Remember to share this with a friend, your huddle, or your City Group!

- P** | Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you. Pray specifically for the individuals you wrote down in Day 1.

WEEK 2 | ACTS 2

DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

S | Read Acts chapter 2.

O | Write down one thing that stood out to you most in this chapter.

Now that we've got our initial observation down on paper, let's spend a few minutes getting a little context for our passage.

When do the things in this chapter happen?

Where does this chapter take place?

Who is introduced at the start of Acts 2?

Who gave the sermon to the crowd?

A | Write down the names of 3 people you would love to experience Christ in a redeeming way.

P | Thank God for His Word! Ask Him to remind you of His truth often this week. Pray for the people you've wrote down.

DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read Acts 2 verses 1-36.

O | What do we learn about Jesus in these first 36 verses?

We see in verse 5 that “there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven”. Why might this be significant here?

What do we learn about humanity in this passage?

A | We don't always understand what we see God doing. What truth from this passage stirs your heart to wonder?

P | Write a short prayer below thanking God for what we've learned of His character in this chapter. Include anything personal that may have impacted you as you looked at His Word today.

DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

S | Read all of Acts 2 again. Try reading it out loud if you can, is there anything new you notice?

O | What is the thing that stood out most to you today as you read?

Do you have any questions about this passage? Take a couple minutes to write them down.

A | What truth about this passage do you need to believe?

P | Thank God for His Son Jesus and the power of His resurrection. Write a short prayer thanking God for a way He has been present in your life.

DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read Acts 1:37-47

O | What is the people's response to Peter's sermon?

What are some of the things the followers of Jesus do in these verses?

About how many believers were there at this time?

A | What for you is the most challenging as you read how the community of believers lived in these verses?

P | Take time right now to start praying for whatever God has laid on your heart.

DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

- S |** Read through Acts 2 one more time. Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.
- O |** Were there any parts you found yourself almost saying by memory? We are trusting that we might be so saturated with God's Word that the truth in it would be forever imprinted on our hearts.

How does what you've observed this week help you better understand the verse you noted?

- A |** Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

Remember to share this with a friend, your huddle, or your City Group!

- P |** Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you. Pray specifically for the individuals you wrote down in Day 1.

WEEK 3 | ACTS 3

DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

S | Read Acts chapter 3.

Write down one thing that stood out to you most in this chapter. It could be a verse or simply a sentence.

O | Now that we've got our initial observation down on paper, let's spend a few minutes getting a little context for our passage.

Where does this chapter take place?

Who are the main people in this chapter?

Note any references to other Biblical references in the chapter. (These can be quoted verses or people elsewhere in the Bible.)

A | Take a moment to appreciate how God connects His Word and helps us see His bigger picture.

Write down the names of 3 people you would love to experience Christ in a redeeming way.

P | Thank God for His Word! Ask Him to remind you of His truth often this week. Pray for the people you've wrote down.

DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read Acts 3 verses 1-10.

O | What do we learn about Jesus in these first 10 verses?

Look at verse 2. What do we learn about the man who experienced the miracle?

What do you notice about the crowd's response?

What do we learn about humanity in this passage?

A | Think of a time you were filled with wonder and amazement at what God had done. Who in your life might be encouraged to hear this?

P | Write a short prayer below thanking God for what we've learned of His character in this chapter. Include anything personal that may have impacted you as you looked at His Word today.

DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

S | Read all of Acts 3 again. Try reading it out loud if you can, is there anything new you notice?

O | What is the thing that stood out most to you today as you read?

Do you have any questions about this passage? Take a couple minutes to write them down.

A | What truth about this passage do you need to believe?

P | Thank God for His Son Jesus and the power of His resurrection. Write a short prayer thanking God for a way He has been present in your life.

DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read Acts 3:11-26

O | What is the people's response to the miracle?

How does Peter point the crowd to Jesus?

In verse 19 we see one thing that Peter encourages the crowd to do in the middle of his speech. What is it?

A | How can you apply what you've learned?

P | Take time right now to start praying for whatever God has laid on your heart.

DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

- S |** Read through Acts 3 one more time. Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.
- O |** Were there any parts you found yourself almost saying by memory? We are trusting that we might be so saturated with God's Word that the truth in it would be forever imprinted on our hearts.

How does what you've observed this week help you better understand the verse you noted?

- A |** Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

Remember to share this with a friend, your huddle, or your City Group!

- P |** Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you. Pray specifically for the individuals you wrote down in Day 1.

WEEK 4 | ACTS 4

DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

S | Read Acts chapter 4.

Write down one thing that stood out to you most in this chapter. It could be a verse or simply a sentence.

O | Now that we've got our initial observation down on paper, let's spend a few minutes getting a little context for our passage.

Who enters the scene at the start of chapter 4?

How do we see the believers living life in this chapter?

A | Write down the names of 3 people you would love to experience Christ in a redeeming way.

P | Thank God for His Word! Ask Him to remind you of His truth often this week. Pray for the people you've wrote down.

DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read Acts 4 verses 1-22.

O | What does verse 13 reveal about Jesus?
Note any references to other Biblical references in the chapter. (These can be quoted verses or people elsewhere in the Bible.)

What do we learn about humanity in this passage?

A | What truth challenges you the most today?

P | Write a short prayer below thanking God for what we've learned of His character in this chapter. Include anything personal that may have impacted you as you looked at His Word today.

DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

S | Read all of Acts 4 again. Try reading it out loud if you can, is there anything new you notice?

O | What is the thing that stood out most to you today as you read?

Do you have any questions about this passage? Take a couple minutes to write them down.

A | What truth about this passage do you need to believe?

P | Thank God for His Son Jesus and the power of His resurrection. Write a short prayer thanking God for a way He has been present in your life.

DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read Acts 4:23-37.

O | What was the response of the believers after Peter and John were released?

What were some of the things the believers asked for in their prayer (vs. 29-30)?

What is true about the community of believers at this point?

A | How does this passage challenge or encourage your heart?

P | Take time right now to start praying for whatever God has laid on your heart.

DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

- S |** Read through Acts 4 one more time. Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.
- O |** Were there any parts you found yourself almost saying by memory? We are trusting that we might be so saturated with God's Word that the truth in it would be forever imprinted on our hearts.

How does what you've observed this week help you better understand the verse you noted?

- A |** Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

Remember to share this with a friend, your huddle, or your City Group!

- P |** Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you. Pray specifically for the individuals you wrote down in Day 1.

WEEK 5 | ACTS 5

DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

S | Read Acts chapter 5.

Write down one thing that stood out to you most in this chapter. It could be a verse or simply a sentence.

O | Now that we've got our initial observation down on paper, let's spend a few minutes getting a little context for our passage.

Do we have new people in this chapter? Who are they?

Where does it say the believers met together?

A | Write down the names of 3 people you would love to experience Christ in a redeeming way.

P | Thank God for His Word! Ask Him to remind you of His truth often this week. Pray for the people you've wrote down.

DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read Acts 5 verses 1-26.

O | What do we learn about God in this passage?

It's interesting to note how the opening verses in chapter 5 connect to the end of chapter 4. What stands out to you about these accounts?

What do we learn about humanity in this passage?

To help us understand the difference between the Sadducees and the Pharisees while we read Acts, look up Acts 23:8. If it helps, write the difference here:

A | What truth about this passage do you need to believe?

P | Write a short prayer below thanking God for what we've learned of His character in this chapter. Include anything personal that may have impacted you as you looked at His Word today.

DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

S | Read all of Acts 5 again. Try reading it out loud if you can, is there anything new you notice?

O | What is the thing that stood out most to you today as you read?

Do you have any questions about this passage? Take a couple minutes to write them down.

A | What truth about this passage do you need to believe?

P | Thank God for His Son Jesus and the power of His resurrection. Write a short prayer thanking God for a way He has been present in your life.

DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read Acts 5:27-42.

O | Where do you see the Gospel in this passage?

What is the wisdom Gamaliel shares?

A | How does this passage challenge or encourage your heart?

P | Take time right now to start praying for whatever God has laid on your heart.

DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

- S |** Read through Acts 5 one more time. Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.
- O |** Were there any parts you found yourself almost saying by memory? We are trusting that we might be so saturated with God's Word that the truth in it would be forever imprinted on our hearts.

How does what you've observed this week help you better understand the verse you noted?

- A |** Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

Remember to share this with a friend, your huddle, or your City Group!

- P |** Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you. Pray specifically for the individuals you wrote down in Day 1.

WEEK 6 | ACTS 6

DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

S | Read Acts chapter 6.

Write down one thing that stood out to you most in this chapter. It could be a verse or simply a sentence.

O | Now that we've got our initial observation down on paper, let's spend a few minutes getting a little context for our passage.

Who are the people referenced in this chapter?

What is the problem that is presented?

How do we see the believers living life in this chapter?

A | Write down the names of 3 people you would love to experience Christ in a redeeming way.

P | Thank God for His Word! Ask Him to remind you of His truth often this week. Pray for the people you've wrote down.

DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read Acts 6 verses 1-7.

O | What do we learn about God in this passage?

What did the twelve apostles consider their responsibility?

What were the qualities of the 7 men they chose to serve the new need they had?

What truth is found in these 7 verses?

A | What gifts and qualities have you been given that might be used to serve God's people?

P | Write a short prayer below thanking God for what we've learned of His character in this chapter. Include anything personal that may have impacted you as you looked at His Word today.

DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

S | Read all of Acts 6 again. Try reading it out loud if you can, is there anything new you notice?

O | What is the thing that stood out most to you today as you read?

Do you have any questions about this passage? Take a couple minutes to write them down.

A | What truth about this passage do you need to believe?

P | Thank God for His Son Jesus and the power of His resurrection. Write a short prayer thanking God for a way He has been present in your life.

DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read Acts 6:8-15.

O | What do we learn about humanity in this passage?

We see Jews from outside of Jerusalem getting involved.
Where does it say they were from?

What verse or phrase stands out to you most in this passage?

A | How does this passage challenge or encourage your heart?

P | Take time right now to start praying for whatever God has laid on your heart.

DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

- S |** Read through Acts 6 one more time. Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.
- O |** Were there any parts you found yourself almost saying by memory? We are trusting that we might be so saturated with God's Word that the truth in it would be forever imprinted on our hearts.

How does what you've observed this week help you better understand the verse you noted?

- A |** Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

Remember to share this with a friend, your huddle, or your City Group!

- P |** Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you. Pray specifically for the individuals you wrote down in Day 1.

WEEK 7 | ACTS 8

DAY 1

Pray that God would make His Word alive to you this week and that His Spirit would fill you and give you understanding and wisdom as you read.

S | Read Acts chapter 8.

Write down one thing that stood out to you most in this chapter. It could be a verse or simply a sentence.

O | Now that we've got our initial observation down on paper, let's spend a few minutes getting a little context for our passage.

Who are we introduced to in verse 1 of chapter 8? Who else is talked about in this chapter?

Up to this point our chapters have primarily taken place in Jerusalem. Here at the start of chapter 8 we see a shift. Where did the believers go? And how does this tie to what Jesus said in Acts 1:8?

A | Write down the names of 3 people you would love to experience Christ in a redeeming way.

P | Thank God for His Word! Ask Him to remind you of His truth often this week. Pray for the people you've wrote down.

DAY 2

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read Acts 8 verses 1-25.

O | What caused the believers to scatter outside of Jerusalem?

What do we learn about Saul?

If you recall, we also met Philip in chapter 6 verse 5. What does this communicate to you about the faith of those selected to serve the widows?

What do we learn about God or the Holy Spirit in this passage?

A | How have you experienced something hard that ended up advancing the Gospel?

P | Write a short prayer below thanking God for what we've learned of His character in this chapter. Include anything personal that may have impacted you as you looked at His Word today.

DAY 3

Pray that God's Spirit would fill you, reveal His truth, and give you understanding as you read.

S | Read all of Acts 8 again. Try reading it out loud if you can, is there anything new you notice?

O | What is the thing that stood out most to you today as you read?

Do you have any questions about this passage? Take a couple minutes to write them down.

A | What truth about this passage do you need to believe?

P | Thank God for His Son Jesus and the power of His resurrection. Write a short prayer thanking God for a way He has been present in your life.

DAY 4

Take a moment to invite God into this time and ask Him for eyes to see the truth of His character in His Word.

S | Read Acts 8:26-40.

O | From whom did Philip get his instructions?

Note any references to other Biblical references in the chapter.

What stands out to you about how Philip communicates with the eunuch?

A | How can you apply what you've learned?

P | Take time right now to start praying for whatever God has laid on your heart.

DAY 5

Pray and ask God for wisdom as you read His word and apply it to your life.

- S** | Read through Acts 8 one more time. Write down the Bible verse that stands out to you most in this chapter.
- O** | Were there any parts you found yourself almost saying by memory? We are trusting that we might be so saturated with God's Word that the truth in it would be forever imprinted on our hearts.

How does what you've observed this week help you better understand the verse you noted?

- A** | Write down a practical way the truth you've learned this week can be applied to your life.

Remember to share this with a friend, your huddle, or your City Group!

- P** | Pray for an opportunity to show Christ to those around you. Pray specifically for the individuals you wrote down in Day 1.



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