



acts

O F T H E A P O S T L E S

Summer Quarter 2024

Sunday Mornings • Room B2

Class Schedule

July 7	Acts 1 • “You Will Be My Witnesses”
July 14	Acts 2 • “Men of Israel, Hear These Words”
July 21	Acts 3-4 • “We Cannot But Speak of What We Have Seen and Heard”
July 28	Acts 5-7 • “We Must Obey God Rather Than Men”
August 4	Acts 8-9 • “Saul, Why Are You Persecuting Me?”
August 11	Acts 10-11 • “God Shows No Partiality”
August 18	Acts 12 • But the Word of God Increased and Multiplied
August 25	Acts 13-14 • “Set Apart For Me Barnabas and Saul”
September 1	Acts 15 • After There Had Been Much Debate...
September 8	Acts 16-18 • “Come Over to Macedonia and Help Us”
September 15	Acts 19-21 • “Declaring to You the Whole Counsel of God”
September 22	Acts 22-26 • “Hear the Defense That I Now Make Before You”
September 29	Acts 27-28 • “And When We Came Into Rome...”

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OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson 1 • July 7

Acts 1 • “You Will Be My Witnesses”

After the four Gospels that begin the New Testament, *The Acts of the Apostles* begins like this:

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

(1:1-3)

Something was going to happen in Jerusalem. Jesus ordered the apostles not to leave. Listen carefully to what Jesus said to them in **Acts 1:8**:

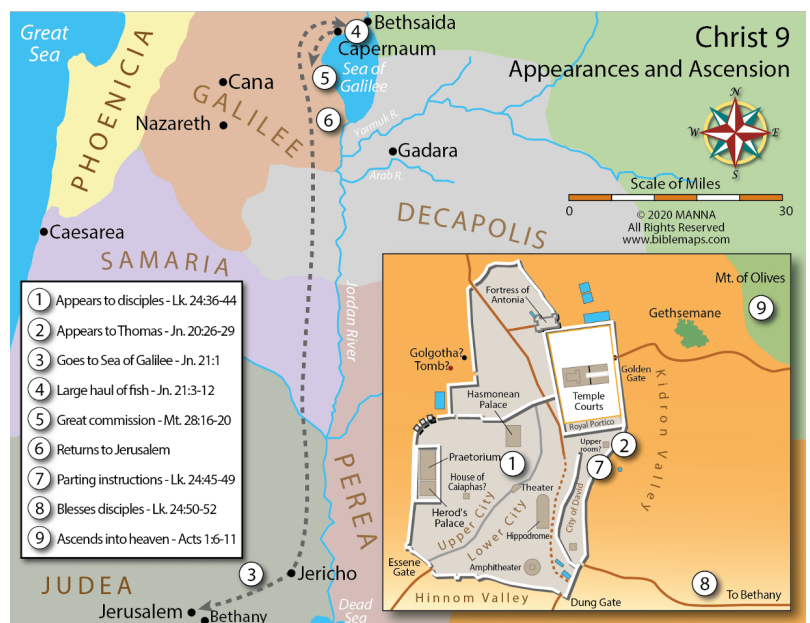
“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Something was going to *start* in Jerusalem, but it wouldn't end there. Everyone everywhere needed to hear about what Jesus had done and taught. Everyone everywhere needed to hear that Jesus had died for the sins of the world, that Jesus was alive, and that Jesus is going to come again. Just listen to what happened next in

Acts 1:9-11:

And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The Old Testament contains one giant message: Jesus is coming. The four Gospels at the beginning of the New Testament announce: Jesus is here. From the beginning of *The Acts of the Apostles*, we're told how this greatest story of all is going to end: Jesus is coming again. That's a message everyone everywhere needs to hear and the news started to spread from Jerusalem. Let's talk about it...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's start with **Acts 1:1**. Who is writing this book? What is “the first book” that they are talking about, and how are they trying to help this man named Theophilus by writing both of these books?
- Luke tells us that Jesus appeared to the apostles “during forty days” and spent time “speaking about the kingdom of God” (**1:3**). What is this “kingdom of God,” and why would Jesus spend so much time talking about it? What do you think the apostles had in mind when they asked about the kingdom in **1:6**?
- We'll spend a little more time talking about it in our next lesson, but according to **Acts 1:5**, who was going to come and help the apostles after Jesus had left?
- “You will be my witnesses” (**1:8**). In your own words, what is a witness? What does a witness do? What did Jesus expect these apostles to do?
- What do you think went through their minds when they heard Jesus talk about carrying the good news to Samaria (**1:8**)? But what does this teach us—from the very beginning of *Acts*—about the news these witnesses needed to spread?
- In **Acts 1:12-14**, Luke describes the apostles gathering with the other disciples of Jesus in Jerusalem, and he tells us something very important in **1:14**. Who do we need to notice is there, with the disciples? Why does this matter? What has changed their minds?
- In **Acts 1:15-26**, Peter leads the disciples in the appointing of another apostle to take the place of who? What had happened? Notice again in **verse 22**—what was the mission? Who gets “numbered with the eleven apostles”?
- If Jesus really is coming again, how should that shape the way we live this week?