



# THE BOOK OF ACTS

NEW TERRAIN: MOVEMENT GAINS MOMENTUM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



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THE BOOK OF  
**ACTS**

NEW TERRAIN: MOVEMENT GAINS MOMENTUM

# DEAR CHURCH

WE LEFT BASECAMP, THE TIME FOR TOOLING UP FOR OUR JOURNEY, RESOURCED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND OTHERS WHO WILL BE GOING ON THE JOURNEY WITH US. THEN WE BLAZED INTO THE TRAILHEAD, THE PLACE WHERE WE SAW THE CHURCH GROWING THROUGH THE BOLD TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLES, FUELED BY THE BOLD PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH, IN COOPERATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT IN KEEPING THEM A PURE CHURCH, AND THEREFORE, A POWERFUL CHURCH. WE SAW THE MANIFESTATION OF MIRACLES, WHICH AUTHENTICATED BOTH THE MESSAGE AND THE MESSENGER AS AMBASSADORS OF THE RESURRECTED JESUS.

NOW WE CONTINUE IN ACTS 6-8: NEW TERRAIN. ANY TIME THERE IS MOVEMENT, MOMENTUM, AND PROGRESS IN THE FORM OF ADVANCING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS PURPOSE ON THE EARTH, THERE WILL BE OPPOSITION. THIS SECTION OF THE JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS THE BOLD COURAGE OF ONE, AND HOW ONE BOLD TESTIMONY TRIGGERS A TSUNAMI OF PERSECUTION AGAINST THE CHURCH. SPEARHEADED BY ONE ZEALOUS PHARISEE, SAUL OF TARSUS. SAUL WAS TAUGHT BY THE ESTEEMED RABBI GAMALIEL OF THE HILLEL SCHOOL OF THOUGHT. HILLEL WAS THE GRANDFATHER OF GAMALIEL. SAUL WAS SIMPLY CARRYING OUT THE ZEAL OF PRESERVING THE TRADITIONS THAT HE HAD BEEN TAUGHT. YET IT WILL BE THROUGH THIS PERSECUTION THAT WILL SPUR ON OBEDIENCE TO JESUS' COMMAND TO GO BEYOND JERUSALEM, AND INTO JUDEA AND SAMARIA AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.

*Lord, help us persevere through the opposition to carry out the greatness of the Name of Jesus, the answer the world is so desperately needing.*

PASTOR BRYAN

# RESOURCES FOR THE JOURNEY

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## RIGHT NOW MEDIA:

ACTS FROM LAUSANNE MOVEMENT

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES FROM LOUIS GIGLIO

ACTS FROM EYEWITNESS

## APPS AND WEBSITES:

GSPATHWAY.ORG

BLUELETTER BIBLE

STEPBIBLE

VERSES APP

## BOOKS:

"THE CHALLENGE OF ACTS" BY N.T. WRIGHT

"THE BOOK OF ACTS" BY F.F. BRUCE

"THE FAMILIAR STRANGER" BY TYLER STATON

"MIRACLES" BY CRAIG KEENER

FOXES' BOOK OF MARTYRS

## FOR THE FAMILY:

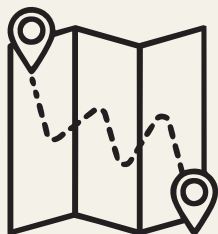
"ADVENTURES IN ACTS" BY DAVID LUCKMAN

AND SILVANA DI MARCELLO

SCAN THIS CODE OR USE THE LINK FOR  
SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS EACH WEEK.

[WWW.GRACESPRINGCHURCH.ORG/SERMON-SERIES](http://WWW.GRACESPRINGCHURCH.ORG/SERMON-SERIES)





# ACTS FROM THE AIR

THE BOOK OF ACTS IS THE SECOND BOOK WRITTEN BY THE PHYSICIAN, LUKE. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GOSPEL OF LUKE, ACTS WAS WRITTEN TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS AND POINT TO THE CONTINUED WORK OF THE CHURCH AFTER JESUS' ASCENSION. THE OVERALL THEME OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES COULD BE SUMMED UP AS 'THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST PERMEATING THE WORLD THROUGH THE FORMATION OF COMMUNITIES THAT FOCUS ON THE TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP OF JESUS.' WE SEE THIS WORK CARRIED FORTH THROUGH THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES AND THOSE WHO HAVE ENCOUNTERED AND BEEN CHANGED BY JESUS.

ACTS FOLLOWS PETER, PAUL, AND OTHERS AS THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS THEM TO REACH OUT TO THE KNOWN WORLD WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS. THROUGH VARIOUS MISSIONARY JOURNEYS, WE SEE THE GOSPEL GO FORTH IN POWER TO FORM NEW COMMUNITIES OF BELIEVERS. MANY OF THE RESULTS OF THESE JOURNEYS ARE DOCUMENTED THROUGH THE EPISTLES WRITTEN BY PAUL, PETER, AND OTHER DISCIPLES AS THEY WRITE TO STRENGTHEN, ENCOURAGE, AND ADMONISH THE CHURCHES THAT WERE PLANTED.

WE ULTIMATELY SEE THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES AS SOMETHING GREATER THAN THE WORK OF ANY INDIVIDUAL; RATHER AS THE WORK OF THE ASCENDED JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERING WILLING HUMANS TO SUBMIT TO THE RULE AND REIGN OF JESUS AS THEY MAKE DISCIPLES IN THE WORLD AROUND THEM. AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH ACTS, OUR DESIRE IS TO INSPIRE BELIEVERS TO NOT ONLY LEARN ABOUT JESUS, BUT TO TAKE ON HIS CALLING OF GOING, BAPTIZING, TEACHING, AND MAKING DISCIPLES OF THE PEOPLE THE LORD HAS PUT IN OUR LIVES.

LET'S JOURNEY TOGETHER!



# ACTS FROM THE GROUND

WE ARE ENTERING INTO A SECTION OF SCRIPTURE WHERE THE DISCIPLES AND FOLLOWERS OF JESUS HAVE EXPERIENCED LIFE CHANGE AND A SUPERNATURAL ADDITION TO THEIR FELLOWSHIP. THEY ARE MOVING FROM A PLACE OF WAITING AND SEEING GROWTH TO A PLACE WHERE THEY WILL BE SUPERNATURALLY SENT INTO THE KNOWN WORLD TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS. IN THE MIDST OF THIS TIME, THEY SEE TRIALS, PAIN, SORROWS, AND JOY. AS WE WALK WITH THEM THROUGH THIS JOURNEY, OUR HOPE IS THAT YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF IN SIMILAR PLACES.

WE WILL SEE GOD MOVE IN INCREDIBLE WAYS IN THEIR LIVES, AND WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL SEE GOD MOVE IN YOUR LIFE THROUGHOUT THIS SERIES. LET'S BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

# THE NEW WILDERNESS

ACTS TELLS US MULTIPLE TIMES THAT THE LORD SUPERNATURALLY ADDED MEMBERS TO THEIR FELLOWSHIP EACH DAY AS THEY PURSUED HIM THROUGH THEIR OBEDIENCE AND PASSION. AS WE LOOK AT THE NEW TERRAIN THAT THE DISCIPLES BEGIN TO EMBARK ON, WE'LL SEE DIFFERENT AREAS THAT WE SHOULD ALSO PAY ATTENTION TO.

**NEW HILLS** - THE SCRIPTURE GIVES US CONTINUAL NEW AREAS OF GROWTH. THE BIBLE IS ALIVE AND LIVING. WE BELIEVE THAT GOD'S WORD IS WRITTEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND CO-WRITTEN BY ITS HUMAN AUTHORS. THIS MEANS THAT EVERY TIME WE READ THE SCRIPTURE, WE SEE NEW AND DIFFERENT THINGS THAT GOD IS POINTING OUT TO US. AS WE EMBARK ON NEW JOURNEYS INTO THE WILDERNESS, MUCH LIKE THE DISCIPLES, WE SEE NEW WAYS THAT GOD IS INSPIRING US.

**VALLEYS** - IN THE NATURAL TERRAIN, THERE ARE VALLEYS. THESE ARE AREAS OF "DEPRESSION" IN THE NATURAL WORLD. FOR US, WE SEE VALLEYS AS AREAS OF DARKNESS AND SHADOWS. IN THE MIDST OF THE HARDEST THINGS IN OUR LIVES, WE CAN FIND JESUS AS OUR HELPER AND FRIEND. AS WE EXPERIENCE LIFE'S HIGHS AND LOWS, WE CAN EXPECT TO FIND GOD IN BOTH.





## MOUNTAINS -

IN THE SAME WAYS THAT THE VALLEYS ARE THE LOWS, MOUNTAINS REPRESENT THE HIGH POINTS IN OUR LIVES. VALLEYS MIGHT REPRESENT OUR SORROWS AND SADNESS, THE MOUNTAINS REPRESENT THE AREAS THAT WE SEE GOD SHOWING UP IN REAL WAYS. WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL TO SEE GOD IN THE HIGHS AND THE LOWS, BUT THE HIGHS ARE PLACES WHERE WE SEE GOD SHOWING UP IN REAL TIME.

## COMPANIONS -

ON THE JOURNEY, WE NEED PEOPLE TO WALK BESIDE US. THESE COMPANIONS SEE US WHEN WE FALL OR WHEN WE SUCCEED. THEY SEE US IN OUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES AND MEET US IN THOSE PLACES. WHO HAS GOD PLACED IN YOUR LIFE TO GO ON THE JOURNEY WITH YOU? HOW CAN BOTH OF YOU SUCCEED BY BEING PRESENT IN LIFE'S HIGHS AND LOWS?



# WEEK ONE | MEETING NEEDS WISELY

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"AND THE WORD OF GOD CONTINUED TO INCREASE, AND THE NUMBER OF THE DISCIPLES MULTIPLIED GREATLY IN JERUSALEM, AND A GREAT MANY OF THE PRIESTS BECAME OBEDIENT TO THE FAITH." ACTS 6:7

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ACTS 6 STARTS WITH THE DISCIPLES BEING MET BY A DILEMMA. THEY WERE DOING THE WORK OF MINISTRY BY PRAYING AND TEACHING, YET THERE WERE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY WHO FELT THEY HAD BEEN LOOKED OVER OR HAD THEIR NEEDS MISSED. THE WISE DIRECTION OF THE LORD WAS FOR THE DISCIPLES TO APPOINT PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE CONSIDERED DEACONS WHO WOULD HANDLE THE VERY PHYSICAL WORK OF CARE WHILE THE DISCIPLES CONTINUED TO PRAY, TEACH, AND CARE INSIDE OF THE CHURCH. THIS DISTINCTION DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE DISCIPLES DIDN'T LOVE THE PEOPLE THAT THE DEACONS WERE CARING FOR - THEY WERE CARING BY VIEWING THE GIFTINGS THAT GOD HAD GIVEN THEM AND THE GIFTINGS THAT GOD HAD GIVEN THE DEACONS. WHEN WE BUILD UP OTHERS, WE ALLOW THEIR GIFTS TO BECOME GIFTS TO OTHER PEOPLE.

THIS WEEK, SPEND TIME THINKING ABOUT THE NEEDS AROUND YOU. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.

WHO DO I NEED TO PRAY FOR?

WHO DO I NEED TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH ABOUT JESUS?

WHO DO I NEED TO SHOW UP FOR TO MEET A NEED?













# WEEK TWO | MÀRTYRDOM

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"AND STEPHEN, FULL OF GRACE AND POWER, WAS DOING GREAT WONDERS AND SIGNS AMONG THE PEOPLE. THEN SOME OF THOSE WHO BELONGED TO THE SYNAGOGUE OF THE FREEDMEN (AS IT WAS CALLED), AND OF THE CYRENIANS, AND OF THE ALEXANDRIANS, AND OF THOSE FROM CILICIA AND ASIA, ROSE UP AND DISPUTED WITH STEPHEN. BUT THEY COULD NOT WITHSTAND THE WISDOM AND THE SPIRIT WITH WHICH HE WAS SPEAKING." ACTS 6:8-10

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STEPHEN WAS CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE DEACONS, AND HIS WORDS WERE OFFENSIVE TO THE WORLD AROUND HIM. HE WAS AN EXAMPLE OF JESUS' POWER, PASSION, AND THE GOSPEL. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS EXAMPLE ISN'T UNCOMMON THROUGH THE YEARS, BUT STEPHEN STANDS AS THE FIRST FOLLOWER OF JESUS WHO WAS A MARTYR (WHICH IN THE ORIGINAL GREEK MEANS A WITNESS). THIS WEEK, SPEND SOME TIME LOOKING UP STORIES OF OTHERS WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES FOR JESUS. AS YOU DO THIS, PLEASE BE AWARE THAT SOME OF THE STORIES ARE GRAPHIC OR COULD BE TRIGGERING. WE ARE INCLUDING THIS MATERIAL TO SHOW WHAT OTHERS HAVE GONE THROUGH FOR THEIR FAITH IN JESUS, NOT TO HURT OR CAUSE TRAUMA.

CHECK OUT THE LINK FOR SOME OF THESE STORIES:

[WWW.CHRISTIAN-HISTORY.ORG/CHRISTIAN-MARTYRS.HTML](http://WWW.CHRISTIAN-HISTORY.ORG/CHRISTIAN-MARTYRS.HTML)



SPEND TIME USING THE SPACE ON THE NEXT PAGE TO PROCESS HOW THESE STORIES HAVE MADE YOU FEEL.





NAME OF MARTYR

WHO THEY WERE A WITNESS TO:

PARTS OF THEIR STORY THAT STOOD OUT TO ME:

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MAJOR TAKEAWAY FROM THEIR STORY:

NAME OF MARTYR

WHO THEY WERE A WITNESS TO:

PARTS OF THEIR STORY THAT STOOD OUT TO ME:

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MAJOR TAKEAWAY FROM THEIR STORY:









# WEEK THREE | OPPOSITION ARRISES

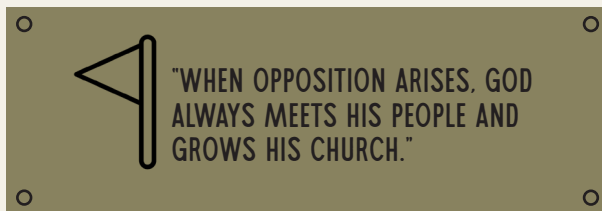
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"AND THE CROWDS WITH ONE ACCORD PAID ATTENTION TO WHAT WAS BEING SAID BY PHILIP, WHEN THEY HEARD HIM AND SAW THE SIGNS THAT HE DID. FOR UNCLEAN SPIRITS, CRYING OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, CAME OUT OF MANY WHO HAD THEM, AND MANY WHO WERE PARALYZED OR LAME WERE HEALED. SO THERE WAS MUCH JOY IN THAT CITY." ACTS 8:6-8

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AFTER THE MARTYRDOM OF STEPHEN, THE GOSPEL STARTED TO CATCH THE CURRENT CHURCH ON FIRE. WITH THE GROUND SWELL, THE PEOPLE OF JESUS WERE MET WITH ALMOST IMMEDIATE OPPOSITION. WE SEE SAUL, WHO WOULD BECOME PAUL, PERSECUTE THE CHURCH MORE, AND THE CHURCH OF JESUS BEGIN TO SCATTER. THIS IS A DIRECT AND IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR US AS WE LIVE OUR LIVES IN THE NAME OF JESUS. WHEN OPPOSITION ARISES, GOD ALWAYS MEETS HIS PEOPLE AND GROWS HIS CHURCH.

THIS WEEK, SPEND SOME TIME THINKING ABOUT THE QUESTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.





WHAT IS A DIFFICULT OR SAD SITUATION THAT YOU HAVE ENDURED?

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS THAT YOU WERE IMPACTED?

HOW DID GOD SHOW UP IN THAT SPACE?

HOW HAVE YOU RESPONDED SINCE THEN?

HOW HAS THIS SPACE MADE YOU THINK ABOUT GOD?





# NOTES FOR THE SERMON

USE THIS SPACE TO TAKE NOTES DURING THE SERMON THIS WEEK.

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I SAW GOD IN...

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I NOTICED GOD WHEN...

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GOD BROUGHT TO MIND...

A large rectangular area filled with a light gray dot grid pattern, intended for handwritten notes.

GOD MOVED POWERFULLY TO...

A large rectangular area filled with a light gray dot grid pattern, intended for handwritten notes.











