



☆ ☆ Introduction ☆ ☆

Welcome to the INTRUTH Bible Study on The Early Church - Acts!

We believe that studying the Word of God transforms lives!

The Bible is God's message of redemption, as well as our instruction book for life. God wants us to search the Bible so we can understand the TRUTH of His character and His desire for us. Each lesson has 9-10 questions, a memory verse, a Believe the TRUTH, Pray the TRUTH, and a Walk in TRUTH application section.

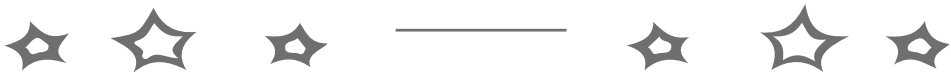
These lessons teach foundational Scriptural truths all age groups can enjoy but adjust them to make them work for your group. Younger children may need help to read and answer the questions or understand certain words or concepts. Older students might need help to dig in deeper.

The book of Acts tells the history of the early church as the disciples sought to continue the work the Jesus had begun. It was through the power of the Holy Spirit that the disciples were given courage, strength, and even miraculous power to proclaim the truth of the gospel.

Acts also tells of the dramatic conversion of Saul (Paul), the Jewish leader who went from despising and killing Christians to becoming the most influential man to ever serve the Lord.

These lessons are for you! Each week we will learn that we too can live a powerful life serving Jesus as the Holy Spirit empowers us.

Enjoy!



INTRUTH The Early Church - Acts



Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere.”

Lesson 1

2 Timothy 2:3

“Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”

Lesson 6

Acts 2:21

“But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Lesson 2

Galatians 5:25

“Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.”

Lesson 7

Psalms 16:11

“You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.”

Lesson 3

2 Corinthians 5:17

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun.”

Lesson 8

Acts 3:19

“Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.”

Lesson 4

Deuteronomy 3:16

“So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. **For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.**”

Lesson 9

Acts 4:12

“**There is salvation in no one else!** God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

Lesson 5

1 Corinthians 15:57

“But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Lesson 10

Jesus' Promise



MEMORY VERSE: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."

Acts 1:8



LUKE 23:44-49 The Death of Jesus

1. What amazing events happened as Jesus was dying?
2. How did each react to Christ's death, and why do you think they responded as they did?
the Roman officer

the crowd

Jesus' friends
3. Without Jesus we would not be able to have a relationship with God the Father. How do you react to Jesus' death and resurrection?



ACTS 1:1-5 The Promised Gift

4. What did Jesus do during the 40 days He was on earth after being raised from the dead?
v. 3
5. Why did He tell His disciples not to leave Jerusalem? v. 4
6. Who is the Holy Spirit and what is His role? See the definition of Holy Spirit on the Scripture page.



ACTS 1:6-11 The Holy Spirit

- 7. What will the disciples receive with the Holy Spirit? What were they to do? v. 8
- 8. What is a witness' main purpose? How can you be a witness for Jesus to every person in your life?
- 9. How does knowing that as a believer you have the power of the Holy Spirit inside you, impact how you tell others about Jesus?
- 10. Read verses 9-11. Who appeared to the disciples after Jesus went into Heaven? What did they promise? How does this promise make you feel?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

Jesus is no longer with us on earth physically but He is present with us through the Holy Spirit. What an incredible gift! Ask God to help you experience the power of the Holy Spirit in your own life as you are a witness for Christ until He returns - an amazing adventure for His glory.

PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Lord in heaven, thank You for Jesus who died for my sins and rose from the dead conquering death. Thank You for giving us your Holy Spirit. I am excited that You are coming back someday! Show me how I can be your witness here on earth until You return. In Your awesome name I pray. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



After studying about the death and resurrection of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit, how are you:
inspired?

encouraged?

challenged?



Luke 23:44-49; Acts 1:1-11 (NLT)

Luke 23:44-49 The Death of Jesus

44 By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. 45 The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. 46 Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last.

47 When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, "Surely this man was innocent." 48 And when all the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw what had happened, they went home in deep sorrow. 49 But Jesus' friends, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching.

Acts 1:1-7 The Promise of the Holy Spirit

1 In my first book[a] I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. 3 During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

4 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

The Ascension of Jesus

6 So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

7 He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.

Acts 1:8-11

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. 10 As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

Holy Spirit: God's Spirit. Lives within all Christians to help them, communicate God's truth to them, convict them of sin, convince them that God's ways are right, empower them to obey Jesus and comfort them when sad.

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The Holy Spirit



MEMORY VERSE: "But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
Acts 2:21



ACTS 1:12-14 Waiting and Praying

1. What did the disciples do when they returned to Jerusalem? v. 14
2. Review Acts 1:8. What were they waiting for? Why was this so important?
3. How did the disciples pray? Why is it important to pray with others?



ACTS 2:1-13 The Gift Arrives

4. Review the definition of Pentecost on Scripture page. When the Holy Spirit came, what did it look like? vv. 1-3
5. What was the first thing the disciples did when the Holy Spirit filled them? v. 4
6. Read verses 11-13. God used this miracle to further His plan. What did each person hear? How do you think you would have reacted?



ACTS 2:14-21 Prophecy Fulfilled

7. Who stepped forward and what did he tell the crowd? vv. 14-16

8. What did the Old Testament prophet Joel say would happen in the last days? vv. 17-20

9. How do you see the Holy Spirit working today?

10. What do you think verse 21 means?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

Amazing things happened when God kept His promise and sent the Holy Spirit to those who believed in Him. The “last days” refer to the time between Jesus going up to heaven and the day He returns. If you have called on the name of the Lord, you are not only saved, but you have the Holy Spirit living in you.

PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Lord God, thank you for pouring out your Spirit on your people. May I call upon Your name and have the Holy Spirit comfort me, strengthen me and work in my life to further Your kingdom and glorify You! Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



Do you want more of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your life?

What should you do?



Acts 1:12-14; Acts 2:1-21 (NLT)

Acts 1:12-14

12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. 13 When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the Zealot), and Judas (son of James). 14 They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

Acts 2:1-13 The Holy Spirit Comes

1 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. 6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

7 They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, 8 and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! 9 Here we are — Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, 10 Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" 12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other.

13 But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!"

Acts 2:14-21 Peter Preaches to the Crowd

14 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. 15 These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. 16 No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

17 'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.

18 In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants — men and women alike — and they will prophesy.

19 And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below — blood and fire and clouds of smoke.

20 The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the Lord arrives.

21 But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Pentecost: an Old Testament celebration held at the end of the grain harvest. In the New Testament, it celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus; birth of the Church.

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Peter Preaches



MEMORY VERSE: "You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever."
Psalm 16:11



ACTS 2:22-31 Jesus - Endorsed by God

1. Peter continues to build his case of the truth about Jesus. How would the people have known that Jesus was sent by God? v. 22
2. What was God's prearranged plan? vv. 23-24
3. Peter quotes from the Psalms. David, a mighty King and hero of Israel, prophesied that Jesus (Holy One) would be raised from the dead (verse 27). What does Peter tell us King David was saying? v. 31
4. Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ important?



ACTS 2:32-36 Jesus - Prophesied by David

5. What had the apostles witnessed? v. 32
6. Where is Jesus now? What did the Father give Him? Why? vv. 33a



7. What did Peter want his listeners to know for certain? v. 36

“God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both _____ and _____!”



ACTS 2:37-41 Jesus - Savior and Lord

8. After hearing all this, what did the people ask? How did Peter answer them? vv. 37-38

9. What does it mean to repent? See definition on the Scripture page.

10. Why did Peter want the people to listen to him? How many did listen? vv. 40-41

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

Peter tells us that “God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this.” We know that Jesus’ death and resurrection was real because of their eye witness account. Not only was Jesus raised from the dead, but he is seated at the right hand of God. God did not leave us alone! Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, whose job it is to convict us to repent and change our ways to believe and follow Jesus.

PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Lord and Savior, I am sorry for my sins. Show me the path of life so I will not ever get lost. Fill me on the inside with Your joy so that I can be a light to my friends and family. Help me to shine for You, Jesus! Amen.


WALK IN TRUTH



The gospel was preached and the Holy Spirit convicted many.

Take a minute to talk to God and ask Him of what you might need to repent.





Acts 2:22-41 (NLT)

Acts 2:22-31

22 “People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. 23 But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. 24 But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip.

25 King David said this about him:

‘I see that the Lord is always with me.

I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

26 No wonder my heart is glad,
and my tongue shouts his praises!

My body rests in hope.

27 For you will not leave my soul among the dead
or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave.

28 You have shown me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence
and the pleasures of living with you forever.’

29 “Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn’t referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. 30 But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David’s own descendants would sit on his throne. 31 David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah’s resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave.

Acts 2:32-36

32 “God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. 33 Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. 34 For David himself never ascended into heaven, yet he said,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit in the place of honor at my right hand

35 until I humble your enemies,
making them a footstool under your feet.”’

36 “So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”

Acts 2:37-41

37 Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” 38 Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away — all who have been called by the Lord our God.” 40 Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” 41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day — about 3,000 in all.

Repent: regret something you have done; ask God to forgive you; and want to change your ways; turn away from sin.

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Faith and Community



MEMORY VERSE: "Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away."

Acts 3:19



ACTS 2:42-47 Christian Fellowship

1. What activities did the early Christians "devote themselves to" in verse 42?
2. What did these believers do together? What happened when people saw how differently they lived? vv. 44-47
3. Does the way you live draw people to Jesus? How do these verses encourage and challenge you?



ACTS 3:1-10 Faith and Healing

4. Who did Peter and John see as they went to the Temple? What did this person ask for? vv. 1-3
5. What did Peter do in the name of Jesus? vv. 4-7 What do you think about what the lame man wanted compared to what he got?
6. How did the lame man and all the people react to this miracle? vv. 8-10



ACTS 3:11-26 Jesus, the Messiah

- 7. Read verses 11-16. What caused the lame man to be healed, according to verse 16?

- 8. Review the definition of repent and sin on the Scripture page. Peter encouraged the crowd to repent of their sins and turn to God. What did he say would happen if they did this? v. 19

- 9. Peter mentioned prophets and how they told long ago about Jesus. What did Moses say about Jesus? What would happen if they refused to listen? vv. 22-23

- 10. God's desire to bless us and to do good for us includes His desire to turn us all away from our sins. How have you experienced blessing from turning away from sin in your life?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

People saw how the followers of Jesus lived and it made them want to follow Jesus, too. This is how we should live to honor God: walking in love instead of selfishness, anger or meanness! When Christians share, have grateful hearts and care for others, it makes people want to know Jesus Christ!

PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Lord Jesus, help me to be kind, generous, and to care about You and others as much as I care about myself. I cannot do it without the power of Your Holy Spirit. Please help me to be loving to others. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



In what ways can you make your relationship with God a priority today?

In what ways can you make your relationship with others a priority today?



Acts 2:42-3:26 (NLT)

Acts 2:42-47 The Believers Form a Community

42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. 43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — 47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Acts 3:1-10 Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar

1 Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. 2 As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. 4 Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" 5 The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. 6 But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" 7 Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. 8 He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. 9 All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. 10 When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded!

Acts 3:11-26 Peter Preaches in the Temple

11 They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John. 12 Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. "People of Israel," he said, "what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? 13 For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — the God of all our ancestors — who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate's decision to release him. 14 You rejected this holy, righteous one and instead demanded the release of a murderer. 15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact! 16 "Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed — and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes. 17 "Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance. 18 But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah — that he must suffer these things. 19 Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. 20 Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. 21 For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets. 22 Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your own people. Listen carefully to everything he tells you.' 23 Then Moses



Acts 2:42-3:26 (NLT)

said, 'Anyone who will not listen to that Prophet will be completely cut off from God's people.' 24 "Starting with Samuel, every prophet spoke about what is happening today. 25 You are the children of those prophets, and you are included in the covenant God promised to your ancestors. For God said to Abraham, 'Through your descendants all the families on earth will be blessed.' 26 When God raised up his servant, Jesus, he sent him first to you people of Israel, to bless you by turning each of you back from your sinful ways."

Repent: regret something you have done; ask God to forgive you; and want to change your ways; turn away from sin.

Sin: any action or attitude that falls short of God's perfect standard; separates us from a holy God. When we sin we show contempt for God. Sin keeps the world from working as God originally intended it to.

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The Name of Jesus



MEMORY VERSE: **“There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”**
Acts 4:12



ACTS 4:1-12 Salvation in Jesus Alone

1. What happened to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people? What was the total of Christ followers now? vv. 3-4

2. The council demanded the two disciples tell them, “by what power, or in whose name” have you healed the lame man. What brilliant answer did the Holy Spirit lead Peter to give? vv. 7-11

3. What does verse 12 tell us? Why is it so important?



ACTS 4:13-22 Whom Shall We Please - God or Man?

4. What was the reaction of the council to Peter’s boldness? Why? vv. 13-14a

5. The officials told Peter and John never to speak or teach in the name of Jesus again. How did they answer the officials? vv. 16-20

6. Why did the council let Peter and John go? vv. 21-22



ACTS 4:23-31 Preaching with Boldness

7. Where did the apostles go and what did they do immediately after being released by the council? v. 23-24a

8. The disciples prayed words given by God to King David over a 1000 years earlier (vv. 25-26). God's Word helped them not be troubled by this opposition. How does God's Word help you when you face troubles?

9. Read verses 27-30. What did the believers request of God, specifically, in verses 29-30?

10. What happened when they finished their prayer? v. 31

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

Jesus told us in the Bible there would be trouble in this world, but He promised that the power of God is stronger than the evil in the world. Be bold for Jesus and keep doing acts of kindness in His name! May we live to please God and boldly draw others to Him.

PRAY THE TRUTH


Dear God, thank you for sending your Son Jesus Christ to save us. We know that it is through Him alone that we find salvation. It is better to obey you than anyone or anything else. Please help me to live boldly for you and declare your glory wherever I can. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



What do you think it means for you right now to be bold in the name of the Lord?

One way I could have great boldness would be to:



Acts 4:1-31 (NLT)

Acts 4:1-12 Peter and John before the Council


1 While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees. 2 These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead. 3 They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning. 4 But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of believers now totaled about 5,000 men, not counting women and children. 5 The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem. 6 Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. 7 They brought in the two disciples and demanded, “By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?” 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of our people, 9 are we being questioned today because we’ve done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? 10 Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. 11 For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’ 12 “There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:13-22

13 The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. 14 But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say. 15 So they ordered Peter and John out of the council chamber and conferred among themselves. 16 “What should we do with these men?” they asked each other. “We can’t deny that they have performed a miraculous sign, and everybody in Jerusalem knows about it. 17 But to keep them from spreading their propaganda any further, we must warn them not to speak to anyone in Jesus’ name again.” 18 So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? 20 We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.” 21 The council then threatened them further, but they finally let them go because they didn’t know how to punish them without starting a riot. For everyone was praising God 22 for this miraculous sign—the healing of a man who had been lame for more than forty years.

Acts 4:23-31 The Believers Pray for Courage

23 As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. 24 When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: “O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth,



Acts 4:1-31 (NLT)

the sea, and everything in them— 25 you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, ‘Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? 26 The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the Lord and against his Messiah.’ 27 “In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. 28 But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will. 29 And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. 30 Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

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Persecution



MEMORY VERSE: "Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus."
2 Timothy 2:3



ACTS 5:16-21a Facing Opposition

1. What did the crowds from the villages around Jerusalem do? What happened? v. 16
2. Why did the religious leaders arrest the apostles again? What happened during the night? vv. 17-19
3. Read verses 20-21a. What did the apostles do? What does this tell you about them?



ACTS 5:21b-33 Miraculous Freedom

4. Read verses 21b-23. The doors of the jail were locked with guards at the door, but the apostles weren't there. Why do you think God did this?
5. Read verses 24-33. What did Peter and the other apostles say to the high council? v. 29
What do you think this means?
6. Why does God want this "message of life" (Gospel) to be taught? v. 31b



ACTS 5:34-41 Suffering for Jesus

- 7. A Pharisee named Gamaliel reminds the high council of two men before Jesus who claimed to be “someone great” but the whole movement came to nothing. What was his advice to the council? vv. 38-39

- 8. How did the council respond to Gamaliel’s advice? v. 40

- 9. How did the apostles react to their flogging? vv. 41-42

- 10. Where do you think the apostles got the courage to keep telling the people about Jesus?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

The “message of life”, the Gospel, is that Jesus came to take away our sins by dying on the cross and resurrecting to life again to save all who trust in Him. God did this because He loves us so much! The apostles boldly shared this message instead of hiding from their enemies. That takes great faith! The Holy Spirit will help you share this message.

PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Father, help me understand the Gospel - understand all that Jesus has done for me! Thank You for loving me so much. May the Holy Spirit give me the strength and courage to boldly tell others about Jesus and what He is doing in my life. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



Who can you tell about Jesus and what He is doing in your life?



Act 5:16-41 (NLT)

Acts 5:16-21a The Apostles Meet Opposition

16 Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed. 17 The high priest and his officials, who were Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. 18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. 19 But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, 20 “Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!” 21 So at daybreak the apostles entered the Temple, as they were told, and immediately began teaching.

Acts 5:21b-33

When the high priest and his officials arrived, they convened the high council — the full assembly of the elders of Israel. Then they sent for the apostles to be brought from the jail for trial. 22 But when the Temple guards went to the jail, the men were gone. So they returned to the council and reported, 23 “The jail was securely locked, with the guards standing outside, but when we opened the gates, no one was there!” 24 When the captain of the Temple guard and the leading priests heard this, they were perplexed, wondering where it would all end. 25 Then someone arrived with startling news: “The men you put in jail are standing in the Temple, teaching the people!” 26 The captain went with his Temple guards and arrested the apostles, but without violence, for they were afraid the people would stone them. 27 Then they brought the apostles before the high council, where the high priest confronted them. 28 “We gave you strict orders never again to teach in this man’s name!” he said. “Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!” 29 But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. 30 The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead after you killed him by hanging him on a cross. 31 Then God put him in the place of honor at his right hand as Prince and Savior. He did this so the people of Israel would repent of their sins and be forgiven. 32 We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who obey him.” 33 When they heard this, the high council was furious and decided to kill them.

Acts 5:34-41

34 But one member, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, who was an expert in religious law and respected by all the people, stood up and ordered that the men be sent outside the council chamber for a while. 35 Then he said to his colleagues, “Men of Israel, take care what you are planning to do to these men! 36 Some time ago there was that fellow Theudas, who pretended to be someone great. About 400 others joined him, but he was killed, and all his followers went their various ways. The whole movement came to nothing. 37 After him, at the time of the census, there was Judas of Galilee. He got people to follow him, but he was killed, too, and all his followers were scattered. 38 “So my advice is, leave these men alone. Let them go. If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. 39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting



Act 5:16-41 (NLT)

against God!” 40 The others accepted his advice. They called in the apostles and had them flogged. Then they ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus, and they let them go. 41 The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus.

Gospel: story of Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection. The message that God sent His Son Jesus to take away our sins by dying on the cross and resurrecting to life again to save all who trust in Him.

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Listening to the Holy Spirit



MEMORY VERSE: "Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."

Galatians 5:25



ACTS 6:8-15 Stephen Is Arrested

1. Stephen was one the early Christ followers serving along side the apostles. How is Stephen described in verse 8?
2. Read verses 10-12. What happened when some of the Jews debated Stephen? v. 10
What happened to Stephen when the men lied about him? v. 12
3. What happened to Stephen's face? v. 15 What do you think God did this?



ACTS 7:51-60 The Stoning of Stephen

4. After Stephen recapped the history of Israel and their continual rejection of God (7:1-50), he spoke directly to the Jewish leaders. He said that they _____ disobeyed God's law. v. 53
5. The leaders decided to kill Stephen with rocks. This is called "stoning." What did Stephen see before he was killed? v. 56
6. Read verses 58-60. Why do you think this is what Stephen prayed? How can we be more like Stephen?



ACTS 8:26-40 Being Available for God

7. Why did Philip go down the road from Jerusalem to Gaza? Who did he meet? vv. 26-27

8. Read verses 28-35. Why was it so important that Philip listened and obeyed the Holy Spirit? Can you share an experience in your life when the Holy Spirit nudged you?

9. Read verses 36-38. What happened after Philip explained the Good News (Gospel) to the man? The man went away rejoicing. Why is the Gospel worth rejoicing over?

10. What miracle happened after Philip baptized the Ethiopian? vv. 39-40

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

The Good News about Jesus was spread by people who were made bold by the Holy Spirit. Some, like Stephen, told about Jesus in Jerusalem. Others, like Philip, went to new places. Both men did mighty work for God simply by being available. Wherever we are, we can ask God to help us see opportunities and make us bold so we can tell others the Good News!


PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear God, please protect the Christians and missionaries who are hurt and even put in jail because of their love for You. Give me the words and actions so I can tell the Good News about Jesus to my family and friends. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



Do you feel that you listen to the Holy Spirit? In what ways are you good at listening to the Holy Spirit? In what ways could you do better?



Acts 6:8-15; Acts 7:51-60; Acts 8:26-40 (NLT)

Acts 6:8-15 Stephen Is Arrested

8 Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people. 9 But one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves, as it was called, started to debate with him. They were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and the province of Asia. 10 None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke. 11 So they persuaded some men to lie about Stephen, saying, "We heard him blaspheme Moses, and even God." 12 This roused the people, the elders, and the teachers of religious law. So they arrested Stephen and brought him before the high council. 13 The lying witnesses said, "This man is always speaking against the holy Temple and against the law of Moses. 14 We have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy the Temple and change the customs Moses handed down to us." 15 At this point everyone in the high council stared at Stephen, because his face became as bright as an angel's.

Acts 7:51-60

51 "You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That's what your ancestors did, and so do you! 52 Name one prophet your ancestors didn't persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One — the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered. 53 You deliberately disobeyed God's law, even though you received it from the hands of angels." 54 The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage. 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. 56 And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!" 57 Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him 58 and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died.

Acts 8:26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

26 As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza." 27 So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 29 The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage." 30 Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 The man replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him. 32 The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this:
"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.
And as a lamb is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth."



Acts 6:8-15; Acts 7:51-60; Acts 8:26-40 (NLT)

33 He was humiliated and received no justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?”

35 So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus. 36 As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There’s some water!

Why can’t I be baptized?” 38 He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the

water, and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. 40

Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He preached the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.

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God Changes People



MEMORY VERSE: "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun."
2 Corinthians 5:17



ACTS 9:1-9 A Light from Heaven

1. Saul hated Christians and even held the coats of the men that killed Stephen. What was Saul eager to do? What did he hope to achieve in Damascus? vv. 1-2
2. What happened to Saul as he headed to Damascus on his mission? vv. 3-6
3. How did Saul's friends react? What happened to Saul when he got up off the ground? vv. 7-9



ACTS 9:10-16 God's Plan for Saul

4. Who was Ananais? What did God tell him to do? vv. 10-12
5. Why did Ananais not want to go? vv. 13-14
6. The Lord revealed to Ananias that Saul is His "chosen _____ to take My message to the _____." v. 15
How does this encourage you that God can use you too?



7. Describe what happened to Saul. vv. 17-19

8. When did Saul begin to preach? What did he preach? v. 20

9. How did the people react to Saul's preaching? How did the change in Saul affect all who heard him? vv. 21-22

10. Saul's preaching became more and more powerful. What does this tell you about:
Saul

God

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

God helped Saul to understand that Jesus was truly the Son of God and Savior of the world. Saul did not waste time feeling bad about his past. Saul submitted to God, and God changed him permanently. He will do this with you too if you ask Him. God saves us so we can tell people the Good News: Jesus came to forgive our sins so we can have a new and forever relationship with God.


PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Almighty God, nothing is impossible with You. Thank You for forgiving my sins. Help me to remember that you can change anyone, including me. Help me show all people Your love in my words and in my actions. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



How has God changed you? How would you like Him to change you?



Acts 9:1-22 (NLT)

Acts 9:1-9 Saul's Conversion

1 Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. 2 He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them — both men and women — back to Jerusalem in chains.

3 As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" 5 "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked. And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!" 6 Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7 The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone's voice but saw no one! 8 Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. 9 He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink.

Acts 9:10-16

10 Now there was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord!" he replied. 11 The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. 12 I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again." 13 "But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! 14 And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name." 15 But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. 16 And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake."

Acts 9:17-22 Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem

17 So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. 19 Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength. Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. 20 And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is indeed the Son of God!" 21 All who heard him were amazed. "Isn't this the same man who caused such devastation among Jesus' followers in Jerusalem?" they asked. "And didn't he come here to arrest them and take them in chains to the leading priests?" 22 Saul's preaching became more and more powerful, and the Jews in Damascus couldn't refute his proofs that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

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Saul and Peter



MEMORY VERSE: "So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. **For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.**"

Deuteronomy 3:16



ACTS 9:23-26 An Evil Plot Against Saul

1. How did the Jewish community in Damascus react to Saul and his preaching?
vv. 23-24

2. How did the Jewish Christian community in Jerusalem react to Saul? vv. 25-26

3. There was a wide range of reactions toward Saul, just like there was with Jesus and with the spread of the church. Why do think that is?



ACTS 9:27-31 Encouragement

4. Barnabas means, "son of encouragement." What did he do as a friend and brother in Christ? v. 27

5. What did Saul do in Jerusalem? Why did he have to leave town? vv. 28-29

6. What reasons does verse 31 give for the peace and growth of the church?



ACTS 9:32-41 Power Over Sickness and Death

7. As Peter continued his ministry in Judea, what happened in Lydda? vv. 32-35

8. How is Tabitha (Dorcas) described? vv. 36-37

9. What happened when Peter went to Joppa to see Tabitha? vv. 38-41

10. How did the people respond to Peter's healings? vv. 34, 42 Why do you think God wanted these two miracles recorded in Scripture?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

Some will see how God has changed you and want to know more about Him, but others will turn away because you love Jesus. If we are living to please God instead of people, our reward will come from Him rather than from the world. If you make it your goal to love, encourage and pray for those God brings into your life, you will one day hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."


PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Amazing and Powerful God, Thank You for giving Your Holy Spirit to teach me how to live for You. Help me to be an encourager and to believe in Your power. Let me see wonders from You. May everyone that I meet this week see the love of Jesus in my life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



What inspires you about Saul, Barnabas, Peter or Tabitha from the Scripture in this lesson?



Acts 9:23-42 (NLT)

Acts 9:23-36

23 After a while some of the Jews plotted together to kill him. 24 They were watching for him day and night at the city gate so they could murder him, but Saul was told about their plot. 25 So during the night, some of the other believers lowered him in a large basket through an opening in the city wall. 26 When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer!

Acts 9:27-31

27 Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus. 28 So Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He debated with some Greek-speaking Jews, but they tried to murder him. 30 When the believers heard about this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus, his hometown. 31 The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.

Acts 9:32-42 Peter Heals Aeneas and Raises Dorcas

32 Meanwhile, Peter traveled from place to place, and he came down to visit the believers in the town of Lydda. 33 There he met a man named Aeneas, who had been paralyzed and bedridden for eight years. 34 Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up, and roll up your sleeping mat!" And he was healed instantly. 35 Then the whole population of Lydda and Sharon saw Aeneas walking around, and they turned to the Lord.

36 There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor. 37 About this time she became ill and died. Her body was washed for burial and laid in an upstairs room. 38 But the believers had heard that Peter was nearby at Lydda, so they sent two men to beg him, "Please come as soon as possible!" 39 So Peter returned with them; and as soon as he arrived, they took him to the upstairs room. The room was filled with widows who were weeping and showing him the coats and other clothes Dorcas had made for them. 40 But Peter asked them all to leave the room; then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said, "Get up, Tabitha." And she opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up! 41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called in the widows and all the believers, and he presented her to them alive.

42 The news spread through the whole town, and many believed in the Lord.

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Victory in Jesus



MEMORY VERSE: "But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 15:57



ACTS 12:1-5 Hatred for Christ's Disciples

1. Acts is all about the start and spread of the "church." What exactly is the church? See definition on the Scripture page.

2. How did King Herod Agrippa show his hatred for the church? Who was he trying to impress?

3. How did the church respond to the King's actions? Why is this so important to do?



ACTS 12:6-11 A Miraculous Escape

4. List the many impossible things that happened during Peter's escape from prison.

5. God took care of every single aspect of Peter's escape, in what ways do you see God taking care of things you don't even know or think about?

6. What does this miracle tell you about how God works?



ACTS 12:12-17 Glory to God!

- 7. What is the first thing Peter did upon being set free from prison? v. 12
- 8. Read verses 13-17. Compare the reaction of Rhoda and the disciples.
- 9. Why do you think the disciples did not believe at first? Have you ever been surprised when God answered your prayers? Explain.
- 10. Peter wanted all of his friends to know what had happened to him. Why is it so important to share what God is doing in our lives?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

As believers we may face trials or opposition for our faith, but we can rest assured that the all powerful God has a plan. When we are part of God's church and work to spread the Good News about Jesus Christ... We have victory in Christ!

PRAY THE TRUTH


Dear God of the Universe, help all the children in the world know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Help me pass the Good News about Jesus on to all the people I know through the power of Your Holy Spirit. In the powerful name of Jesus, Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



Are you a believer and part of God's church family? Are you spreading the Good News about Jesus Christ?

What obstacles keep you from spreading the Good News?



Acts 12:1-17 (NLT)

Acts 12:1-5 James Is Killed and Peter Is Imprisoned

1 About that time King Herod Agrippa began to persecute some believers in the church. 2 He had the apostle James (John's brother) killed with a sword. 3 When Herod saw how much this pleased the Jewish people, he also arrested Peter. (This took place during the Passover celebration.) 4 Then he imprisoned him, placing him under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring Peter out for public trial after the Passover. 5 But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him.

Acts 12:6-11 Peter's Miraculous Escape from Prison

6 The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate. 7 Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, "Quick! Get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists. 8 Then the angel told him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." And he did. "Now put on your coat and follow me," the angel ordered. 9 So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a vision. He didn't realize it was actually happening. 10 They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, and this opened for them all by itself. So they passed through and started walking down the street, and then the angel suddenly left him. 11 Peter finally came to his senses. "It's really true!" he said. "The Lord has sent his angel and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish leaders had planned to do to me!"

Acts 12:12-17

12 When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer. 13 He knocked at the door in the gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to open it. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the door, she ran back inside and told everyone, "Peter is standing at the door!" 15 "You're out of your mind!" they said. When she insisted, they decided, "It must be his angel." 16 Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. When they finally opened the door and saw him, they were amazed. 17 He motioned for them to quiet down and told them how the Lord had led him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers what happened," he said. And then he went to another place.

Church: groups of believers; people are the church. When we become Christians we're born into the church family.

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