

Bible Exploring, Second Adventure
The Study of Acts
(based on *Life Application Bible Studies: Acts*)

1. May 31, 2011: Our Place in the Story

Introduction to the history and writer/reader of Acts.

Acts 1: 1- Acts 2: 13.

Question: How do we see the Holy Spirit in our lives?

2. June 7: Turning on the Power

The growth of the church and the power of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2: 14-47

Questions:

To whom is the power of the Holy Spirit available?

How does a person become empowered and led by the Spirit?

What programs / structures in FCC facilitate the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit?

What keeps people from experiencing God's power?

What can you do to be more open to the Spirit's work in your life?

3. June 14: Speak Up!

Opposition and being bold for Christ

Acts 3:1-4:31

Questions:

What are ways we can be bold for Christ?

How have your friends, neighbors, and coworkers reacted to your Christian faith?

When were you afraid to speak up for Christ?

What can Christians do to overcome the "bad press" that Christianity has received?

Do you know of any people who don't know about Christ?

4. June 21: Famous Last Words

What are you willing to risk or lose for Christ?

Acts 4:32-8:1a

Questions:

What might cause religious leaders today to try to silence Christians who speak the truth?

When are you likely to be quiet even though you know you should speak up?

What institutions, organizations, or individuals in your

community need to be confronted about their policies or actions? Or should we never confront another? How do we decide?

What could you do this week to speak up for truth or to speak out against evil in your community? How do you decide what is evil in the community? Should you ever do that as a Christian?

5. June 28: It Takes All Kinds

The variety of the young church outside of Jerusalem. Whom have you thought was outside of God's reach?

Acts 8: 1b-10: 48

Questions:

How could FCC make outsiders feel welcome?

What social barriers might keep people away from FCC?

What kinds of people do you tend to assume would never become Christians? Why?

What kinds of people might be threatening to our church?

6. July 5(?): A Night Surprise

When you pray, do you expect God to act, or are you surprised when he does?

Acts 11:1-12:25

Questions:

How do you think this experience affected the future prayer meetings of the early church?

When and where does FCC pray together?

What has been an answer to prayer for FCC? For you?

How have you reacted to the answers to your prayers?

7. July 12(?): Bringing out the Best

Who has encouraged you in the faith?

Acts 13:1-14:28

Questions:

Barnabas encouraged Saul (Paul) and John Mark. When do Christians need encouragement?

What discourages Christians today? What encourages them?

How do we encourage one another?

What young Christians need to be encouraged in the faith?

8. July 19: Coming Together

Division in the church

Acts 15:1-35

Questions:

What process does FCC use to resolve serious conflicts?

What recent conflict has FCC worked through? How would Paul, Peter, and James have resolved it?

What can you do to be a peacemaker and resolve conflict?

When is compromise appropriate in church disputes? When is it wrong?

9. July 26: Land of Opportunities

Wherever the Spirit led them, Paul, Silas, and Timothy saw it as an opportunity to share the Good News of Christ.

Acts 15:36-18:23

How did Paul react to misfortune?

How do you react when things go wrong?

How did Paul approach sharing the Gospel in Athens, in Tyrannus?

What gifts, talents, and resources do you have that God could use to spread his word?

10. August 2: New Worth

How is God changing lives where you live? What differences are Christians making in your community?

Acts 18: 24-21:14

Questions:

What changes would take place in Baltimore if a lot of people lived according to the rule of “love your neighbor?”

In what ways does your faith in Christ change your life? Where would you like for it to have more impact?

How do you reinforce your faith so that you live as God would like you to live?

11. August 9: Don't Confuse Me with the Facts

It's easy to react emotionally, impulsively, to something that we hear or see; how do we show Christ's love in the face of hatred and violence?

Acts 21:15-23:22

Questions:

What are the emotional issues in our community, state, nation?

What are the issues at FCC?

Why do people become so close-minded that nothing can change their mind?

Is there a situation or person when you had a closed-mind about them? How can you be more open-minded and search to appreciate another point of view?

12. August 16: Follow the Leader

When have you had a clear sense of God's leading?

Acts 23: 23-26:32

Questions:

How does God reveal God's will to Christians today? How do we know what God wants us to do?

When have you followed God's leading to go someplace? How did you know where God wanted you to go? What is your discernment process?

Have you ever ignored God's messages?

13. August 23: He's God the Whole World in His Hands

How does God protect us and provide for us?

Acts 27:1-28:31

Questions:

Do you know a situation where God protected someone from danger, serious injury, or illness?

It has been said that nothing can harm one of God's children unless God allows it. What do you think of that statement?

We know that Jesus suffered, we have read of the sufferings of the early Christians and the persecutions and dangers they encountered. Why do we so often think that God keeps us from suffering with all of this evidence to the contrary?

How does believing in Jesus Christ, resurrected and risen, protect us and provide for us?