

## **The Book of Acts** **Study Guide for Individuals, Sessions, Small Groups...**

### **Watch - The Visual Bible's Acts: The Acts of the Apostles**

which uses only the Biblical text

It is free with Amazon Prime or Rent for \$3.99 at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Don't have Amazon Prime? You can also purchase the DVD at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

or

On YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBEKAGnylOk>

**Individuals, Families, Sessions, other Small Groups... have a movie night. Use the following study guide as you watch, reflect, discuss in preparation for the Presbytery ZOOM Mini-Conference where we will be discussing Acts May 15 & 16, 2020.**

#### Why Acts?

*"The book of Acts is full of the energy and excitement of the early Christians as they found*

*God doing new things all over the place and learned to take the good news of Jesus around*

*the world. It is also full of the puzzles and problems that churches faced then and face today—crises over leadership, money, ethnic divisions, theology, and ethics, ... "[finding new ways of being church when some existing patterns had to be adjusted.]*

N.T. Wright, Acts, 24 Studies for Individuals and Groups, p. 5.

When we study Scripture, we often take it in small passages. Yet, as we *Consider the Adventure God had for the early church* as presented in Acts, we can sometimes miss the complex challenges and choices, the depth and breadth of God's work through the Holy Spirit as the disciples entered into that adventure unless we take in the entire story at once. It is quite the adventure tale!

Make some popcorn and enjoy!

In addition to the following questions, please keep track of your musings, observations, and questions as the Holy Spirit prompts you. (*It can be helpful to write down the Scripture # where found*).

1. As you watch, *please keep a tally* of each location Luke, the physician disciple, writes about:

*If a group/session is watching, assign each person what they will be tallying/noting to share)*

a. When the Holy Spirit “fills” or is “poured out” on someone/a group and what occurs.

This book is often referred to as *The Acts of the Holy Spirit!*

b. “How their numbers were “increasing”, “added to”, “grew”

c. When something unexpected happened and they adapted.

When they faced an obstacle, crisis or persecution? Response(s)

d. A person/team/group “goes” or is “sent”, “scattered”

2. In what places, types of locations did the disciples and those who followed them, do their teaching, gathering with groups? (such as Acts 5:42, 10:22, 20:20...?)  
Site scripture passages and stories.

3. What practices, rhythms, actions were part of the disciples' lives?

4. Where was the gospel shared/spread, how and by whom?

5. Peter, Stephen, Philip and his daughters, Paul, a slave girl, a jailer, Priscilla and Aquila... each has been encountered/called by Jesus and goes and tells "God's Big Story", usually accompanied by

a. Their *personal* stories, encounters with Jesus

b. How has Jesus touched, encountered you? What is your Jesus Story?

c. How can you continue to be part of "the story"? What ideas is the Spirit stirring in you?

**6. NOW, we are living in and writing Acts 29!**

Were a modern-day Luke to write about you as a disciple, about you as a community of disciples, what would he record?

How are you, how is your church, being filled with the Spirit, living God's Adventure (March presbytery mini-conference) in Acts 29 as God's Big Story, God's mission of redemption and restoration, unfolds?

7. Is there a person or 2 with whom you identify in Acts? Why?

**Below is the 2<sup>nd</sup> movie/webinar to watch and reflect on AHEAD of our presbytery zoom mini-conference May 15-16:**

**FREE WEBINAR - RESET: Start Your Church Again After the Quarantine so you grow from this**

Have you ever wished you could just start over?

Despite its tragedy, the pandemic lockdown gives many of us the opportunity to do just that!

This webinar, with a diverse panel of mainline pastors and a former Harvard professor, contains practical lessons from today, from Acts & the church over the centuries for reimagining our future!

How can you *relaunch* with a new sense of purpose?  
Best practices for small home gatherings; and much more

<https://www.facebook.com/FExpressionsUS/>

Go to their Videos & play *Reset*

The **Study Guide for Reset** to help guide reflection, imagination and discussion *will be emailed out week of May 4 and posted on our website under the May Presbytery meeting.*