

Acts

The Story of Us
Bible Reading Guide



Forresters Beach

Introduction

The Book of Acts is not just the story of the early church. It is the story of what happens when ordinary people are filled with the Spirit of God.

Over the next few weeks, we will journey together through Acts The Story of Us. Each Sabbath we will open a new chapter of this story in worship, and throughout the week you are invited to continue the journey through these daily devotionals.

Each sermon will be followed by a new week of guided reflections simple readings, short devotional thoughts, questions to consider, and prayers to help you listen for the Holy Spirit in your everyday life.

Acts does not end with a tidy conclusion. It ends with the story still unfolding.

That is because the story continues through us.

As you read, reflect, and pray this week, may you discover not just what the Spirit did then but what the Spirit is doing now.

The Story of Acts is not just our history. It is invitation to mission and ministry guided by the Holy Spirit.

Sunday

Listen to the song linked in the QR code or read the lyrics below. Reflect on sabbath's service and what the Holy spirit is doing today.

VERSE 1:

Spirit sound
Rushing wind
Fire of God fall within
Holy Ghost
Breathe on us we pray

VERSE 2: As we repent

Turn from sin
Revival embers smouldering
Breath of God
Fan us into flame

CHORUS:

We need a fresh wind
The fragrance of heaven
Pour Your Spirit out
Pour Your Spirit out

VERSE 3:

For hearts that burn
With holy fear
Purified in faith and deed
Refiner's fire
Strengthen what remains

VERSE 4:

So we the church
Who bear Your light
Lamp aflame City bright
King and kingdom
come Is what we pray

CHORUS 2: We need a fresh wind

The fragrance of heaven
Pour Your Spirit out
Pour Your Spirit out
A holy anointing
The power of Your presence
Pour Your Spirit out
Pour Your Spirit out



Monday Waiting

Acts 1:12-14 (NRSV)

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Devotional Thought

Before wind. Before fire. Before boldness. In Acts 2 There was waiting. The foundations of the church began not with activity, but with presence. They didn't rush ahead. They didn't manufacture momentum. They stayed together and They prayed. Sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is not act but wait.

Reflect:

Where in your life are you being invited to wait rather than rush?

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, teach me to wait with trust.

Tuesday Presence

John 14: 23-27 (NRSV)

23 Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

25 "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid

Devotional Thought

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not about spectacle. It is about presence. God no longer dwelling in a building, rather God dwelling in (amongst) His people. A way we can reframe this is you are not just attending church, you are becoming His dwelling place.

Reflect:

What would change if you truly believed God makes His home in you?

Prayer:

God, make Your home in me today.

Wednesday Wind

Acts 2:1-4

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Devotional Thought

The Holy Spirit does not always arrive quietly. Sometimes He disrupts. Sometimes He awakens. Sometimes He moves things that have been still for too long. The wind, fire and noise provided the impetus to help get things moving. Whilst we may not have the same level of drama today the Holy Spirit is still moving in our space, we are called to be willing to listen to him as we move.

Reflect:

Where might God be stirring something new in you?

Prayer:

Spirit of God, move where I have grown still and where are you calling me?

Thursday For All

Acts 2:5–8 (NRSV)

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?”

Devotional Thought

They were bewildered because God was speaking in their language. The day of Pentecost reverses Babel, where division once ruled, the Spirit now unites. The miracle wasn't just linguistic. It was missional, we are called to reach all people do matter the barriers placed by ourselves or society No one is outside the reach of God.

Reflect:

Who might God be inviting you to speak hope to this week?

Prayer:

Spirit, give me eyes to see who You are already reaching.

Friday Boldness

Acts 2:14–17 (NRSV)

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 17 ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

Devotional Thought

Peter the one who had denied Jesus now stands publicly, the Spirit doesn’t just comfort, the Spirit empowers. From hiding away from who Peter followed, to declaring the same Spirit that filled Peter is still filling people today empowering us to declare his message through the love, kindness and generosity Jesus first showed us.

Reflect:

Where do you need courage right now?

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, give me boldness rooted in love.

Sabbath

Take 5–10 minutes today.

Re-read Acts 2:1–12 slowly. Sit quietly and ask: Holy Spirit, what are You already doing and how can I join You?

Write one word above that captures what this week has meant to you.

Acts 2:1–12 (NRSV)

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. 5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

References

Lyrics: Fresh Wind Words and Music by Matt Crocker, Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood & David Ware © 2020 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia

Scripture: The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989)

The Story of Us

Bible Reading Guide



Forresters Beach