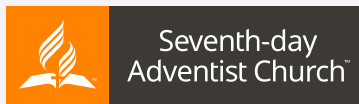


Acts

The Story of Us

Bible Reading Guide #4



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.

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, who called me here below
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine
You are forever mine



Monday Wrong Direction

Acts 9:1-2 (NRSV)

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Devotional Thought

Saul was passionate, committed, and convinced he was right yet he was moving in the wrong direction. His story reminds us that sincerity is not the same as alignment with God. It is possible to be deeply invested in something and still be far from where Jesus is leading. Direction matters more than intensity.

Reflect:

Are there areas in your life where you may be moving with passion but not in step with Jesus?

Prayer:

Jesus, gently redirect my heart toward Your will.

Tuesday The Encounter

Acts 9:3-6

³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told

Devotional Thought

Everything changes when Saul encounters Jesus. The one he opposed is alive, present, and personal. This moment is not just information it is revelation. Transformation begins when we move beyond knowing about Jesus to truly encountering Him.

Reflect:

When have you most clearly experienced the presence or voice of Jesus in your life?

Prayer:

Lord, help me to know You not just in my mind, but in my life.

Wednesday Seeing

Acts 9:7–9 (NRSV)

⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Devotional Thought

Saul's blindness is not just physical it reflects his spiritual condition. In losing his sight, he is invited into dependence, stillness, and surrender. Sometimes God slows us down so we can truly see. Transformation often begins in the pause.

Reflect:

Where might God be inviting you to slow down and become more aware of Him?

Prayer:

God, help me to see clearly by first learning to depend on You.

Thursday Grace

Acts 9:10-13

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your

Devotional Thought

Ananias is afraid and understandably so. Yet he obeys God and becomes part of Saul’s transformation. His first words are powerful: “Brother Saul.” Before Saul proves anything, he is welcomed. God often uses ordinary people to extend extraordinary grace.

Reflect:

Who might God be asking you to welcome, trust, or extend grace toward?

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, give me courage to see others the way You see them.

Friday A New Purpose

Acts 9:20–22 (NRSV)

²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” ²¹ All who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?” ²² Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

Devotional Thought

Saul’s life is not erased it is redirected. The same passion that once opposed Jesus is now used to proclaim Him. Grace does more than forgive; it transforms and gives new purpose. God does not waste our past He redeems it.

Reflect:

How might God be using your story as part of His mission?

Prayer:

Jesus, take my life and use it for Your purpose.

Sabbath

Take 5–10 minutes today.

Read Ezekiel 36:26-27 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.

Ezekiel 36:26–27 (NRSV)

26 A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.

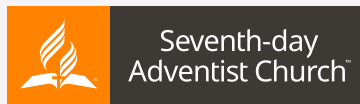
References

Lyrics: Chris Tomlin

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

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