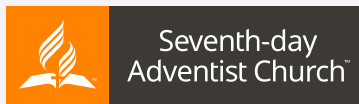


Acts

# The Story of Us

**Bible Reading Guide #2**



*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.

## Build your Kingdom Here

[Verse 1]

Come set Your rule and reign  
In our hearts again  
Increase in us we pray  
Unveil why we're made  
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope  
Like wildfire in our very souls  
Holy Spirit, come invade us now  
We are Your church  
We need Your power in us

[Verse 2]

We seek Your kingdom first  
We hunger and we thirst  
Refuse to waste our lives  
For You're our joy and prize  
To see the captive hearts released  
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace  
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause

[Pre-Chorus]

We are Your church  
We pray revive this earth

[Chorus]

Build Your kingdom here  
Let the darkness fear  
Show Your mighty hand  
Heal our streets and land  
Set Your church on fire  
Win this nation back  
Change the atmosphere  
Build Your kingdom here  
We pray

[Verse 3]

Unleash Your kingdom's power  
Reaching the near and far  
No force of Hell can stop  
Your beauty changing hearts  
You made us for much more than this  
Awake the kingdom seed in us  
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ

[Pre-Chorus]

We are Your church  
We are the hope on earth

[Chorus]

Build Your kingdom here  
Let the darkness fear  
Show Your mighty hand  
Heal our streets and land  
Set Your church on fire  
Win this nation back  
Change the atmosphere  
Build Your kingdom here!  
We pray!



# Monday Sent

## **Acts 8:26-29 (NRSV)**

*26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.”*

### **Devotional Thought**

Philip is sent to a desert road not a place of crowds, influence, or convenience. Yet this is where the Spirit is already at work. God often calls His people away from what feels productive and into places that seem unlikely. The gospel moves when ordinary people are willing to go where God sends them.

### **Reflect:**

Where might God be nudging you to go, even if it feels inconvenient or unexpected?

### **Prayer:**

Holy Spirit, help me to be willing when You say, “Get up and go.”

# Tuesday Near, Yet Far

## Isaiah 56:3-5

3 Do not let the foreigner joined to the LORD say,  
“The LORD will surely separate me from his people”;  
and do not let the eunuch say,  
“I am just a dry tree.”

4 For thus says the LORD:  
To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths,  
who choose the things that please me  
and hold fast my covenant,

5 I will give, in my house and within my walls,  
a monument and a name  
better than sons and daughters;  
I will give them an everlasting name  
that shall not be cut off.

## Devotional Thought

The Ethiopian eunuch was spiritually hungry, yet likely familiar with exclusion. He had gone to worship, but he would have known what it felt like to be near the things of God while still wondering if there was truly room for him. Yet long before Philip met him on the road, Scripture had already spoken a promise of inclusion. God sees those on the edge. He does not overlook those who wonder if they belong.

## Reflect:

Have you ever felt close enough to seek God, yet far enough to wonder if you truly belong?

## Prayer:

God of welcome, remind me that Your grace reaches even the places where I feel uncertain or unseen.

# Wednesday Where they Are

## **Acts 8:30–35 (NRSV)**

*30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”*

*31 He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:*

*“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.*

*33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.*

*Who can describe his generation?*

*For his life is taken away from the earth.”*

*34 The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.*

## **Devotional Thought**

Philip does not begin with a speech. He begins with a question. He listens before he speaks. He starts where the eunuch already is and gently leads him to Jesus. This is the posture of Spirit-led witness. We do not need polished answers for every moment. We need attentiveness, humility, and enough closeness to hear the questions people are already carrying.

## **Reflect:**

Who in your world may be carrying quiet spiritual questions that need a listening ear before a spoken answer?

## **Prayer:**

Jesus, teach me to listen well and to meet people with gentleness and wisdom.

# Thursday No Barriers

## Galatians 3:26–28 (NRSV)

*26 For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. 27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

### Devotional Thought

When the eunuch asks, “What is to prevent me from being baptised?” he is asking more than a practical question. He is asking a belonging question. Is there really room for me? In Jesus, the dividing lines that once shaped identity and exclusion no longer have the final word. The gospel does not erase difference, but it does remove every barrier that keeps people from the welcome of Christ.

### Reflect:

What barriers do people still experience when they approach church, faith, or belonging?

### Prayer:

Lord, make me someone who removes barriers to Jesus rather than adding to them.

# Friday Joy

## **Acts 8:36–39 (NRSV)**

*36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” 38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, 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 saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.*

### **Devotional Thought**

The story ends with joy. Not because every question in life has been answered, but because the eunuch has encountered Jesus and discovered that he is not shut out from God’s family. The gospel does more than inform us; it transforms us. It leads not only to understanding, but to joy. When people experience the welcome of Jesus, something deep begins to change.

### **Reflect:**

When have you most deeply experienced the joy of being welcomed by God?

### **Prayer:**

God, let the joy of Your welcome shape my life and overflow to others.

# Sabbath

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**Take 5–10 minutes today.**

Re-read Isaiah 56:1-8 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.

## **Isaiah 56:1–8 (NRSV)**

*56 Thus says the LORD:*

*Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance be revealed.*

*2 Happy is the mortal who does this,  
the one who holds it fast,  
who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it,  
and refrains from doing any evil.*

*3 Do not let the foreigner joined to the LORD say,  
“The LORD will surely separate me from his people”;  
and do not let the eunuch say,  
“I am just a dry tree.”*

*4 For thus says the LORD:  
To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths,  
who choose the things that please me  
and hold fast my covenant,*

*5 I will give, in my house and within my walls,  
a monument and a name  
better than sons and daughters;  
I will give them an everlasting name  
that shall not be cut off.*

*6 And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,  
and to be his servants,  
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,  
and hold fast my covenant—*

*7 these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples.*

*8 Thus says the Lord GOD,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,  
I will gather others to them  
besides those already gathered.*

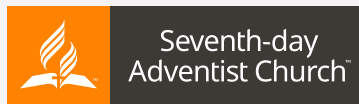
## References

Lyrics: Rend Collective

Scripture: The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version  
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# The Story of Us

## Bible Reading Guide



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