

Acts of the Apostles, Selections—Inductive Lessons for Youth from Every Child Ministries

Acts 1:1-3

- What shows that this is the second Bible book written by the same author?
- To whom specifically is the book addressed? (If a Bible dictionary is available or can be borrowed, have a student read what is known about this person.)
- What was the first Bible book by the author about?
- With what event in Jesus' life did that Bible book end?
- What two events transpired just before that? (One was a series of events.)
- How did the apostles know that Jesus had really risen from the dead?
- For how many days after Jesus' resurrection did He show Himself alive to people on earth?
- What did He talk to people about after His resurrection? Had He ever talked to them about that before?
- What do we learn about the apostles from these verses?

Acts 6:8 Stephen's faith & ministry

- What do we find out about Stephen from verse 8?
- What two qualities filled Stephen's life?

Acts 6:9-14 Opposition to Stephen

- What groups began to dispute with Stephen?
- What was their religious background? How do you know?
- What was the result of their disputations?
- What did they do when they could not win the arguments?
- What was the false claim some made against Stephen?
- Compare this claim to Stephen's life and ministry? How do we know it was false?
- Who did they stir up?
- To whom did they bring Stephen?
- What false charges did they arrange to have brought against Stephen?
- At the end of verse 14, how much trouble do you think Stephen was in?
- How much of this trouble was his own making?

Acts 6:15 Stephen's face looks like an angel

- As everyone was looking at Stephen what unusual sight did they see?
- What do you think was happening here?

Acts 7:1-2a Stephen begins to answer courageously

- Who asked Stephen to respond?
- What question did he ask Stephen to answer?
- Did Stephen begin with a yes or no response? Why do you think he did not do so?

Acts 7:51-53 The end of Stephen's sermon

- Stephen is on trial for blasphemy, yet what serious charge did he make against his accuser?
- The Jews took great pride in obeying God's covenant of circumcision. What did Stephen mean when he called them uncircumcised in heart and ears?
- What does it mean to be stiffnecked? Under what circumstances might one be stiffnecked? Why is it not good to be stiffnecked toward God?
- Stephen said the Holy Spirit was trying to get their attention, but instead of listening, what were they doing?
- Why do you think he added, "as your fathers did, so did you"?
- What had their fathers done to all the prophets?
- What is Stephen implying when he said that their fathers had killed every prophet who spoke of the coming of the Just One?
- Who was the Just One?
- What does the word Just mean? Who did Jesus say was the only One who never sinned?
- What have they done to the Just One who was now sent?
- Who mediated the giving of the law?
- It was a great privilege to have received such a law directly from God. But what had they done with the law?

Acts 7:54 The council's angry reaction

- How did Stephen's words make them feel?
- Could Stephen have brought about such a reaction on his own? Who else was working in their hearts?
- What did they do as a result?

Acts 7:55-56 Stephen calmly prepares to face death

- What kind of emotion or spirit does Stephen seem to show as the council becomes furious with him?
- What vision did he see?
- Why do you think God gave him that vision at that time?
- What did Stephen do with the vision?
- What would it have meant to them that Jesus was standing on the right hand of God?

Acts 7:57-59a Stephen is stoned to death

- What five actions do we see that they took as a result of Stephen's words?
- Why did they stop their ears?
- Apparently they removed some outer clothing as they threw stones at Stephen. At whose feet did they lay their clothing?
- What were they trying to do to Stephen? Why?

Acts 7:59b-8:1 Stephen forgives his killers and dies

- As they stoned Stephen, what did he do?
- On whom did he call?
- What did he pray for?
- What were his last words?
- The young man Saul was not only watching the clothes of the killers, but also doing what?

Acts 8:9-11 Simon and his powers of sorcery over the people of Samaria

- What do we know about Simon?
- How had he been making a living? Was it an honest living doing useful work?
- What shows you that he was a proud man?
- Did he have a legitimate reason to be proud?
- How many of the people listened to him?
- Why did they listen to him?
- What did they claim about him?
- Is this a legitimate claim? Why not?

Acts 8:12-13 Philip introduces the power of the Gospel to Samaria

- What did Philip preach about?
- When they heard Philip preach, what did they do?

- What did their baptism mean?
- Who also believed?
- What signs did he show that he was truly saved?

Acts 8: 14 Peter and John come to help at Samaria

- Who heard that the people of Samaria had received the word of God?
- What did they do to help or to participate in the revival?

Acts 8: 15-17 Peter & John pray & the Samaritan believers receive the Holy Spirit

- What was the main ministry of Peter and John?
- Why had the Holy Spirit not yet come on them?
- Why do you think they were baptized only in the name of Jesus rather than in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- What did Peter and John do for them to receive the Holy Spirit?

Acts 8:18-19 Simon tries to buy the power of the Spirit

- Why did Simon offer the apostles money?
- What was he trying to do?
- Note that he is not just trying to receive the Spirit like the others. How does his request go beyond that?
- Think a little deeper, in terms of what Simon had been used to doing in the past, and the awe with which people had held him. What do you think he is really trying to get here?

Acts 8:20-23 Peter rebukes Simon for this

- How receptive was Peter to Simon's request?
- What does Peter say was wrong with his request?
- What does his request show about his heart?
- Rather than granting his request, what does Peter urge him to do?
- What does Peter perceived about him?
- Some people think Peter's response shows that Simon was not truly saved but had made an empty profession of faith without his heart being truly changed. Others think he was really saved, but since he had been in such deep darkness for a long time, he had not yet completely yielded his thinking to Christ in every area. What evidences might someone offer for the first view? What evidences tend to favor the second view? (Teacher, this can make an interesting class debate.)

Acts 8:24 Simon requests prayer

- What was Simon's response to Peter?
- What do you think he means by this response?
- How sincere do you think his prayer is? Why?
- Think about the two viewpoints as to whether Simon was really saved to begin with. How do you think your answer to that question will affect your feelings about whether his request for prayer was sincere?

Thinking about the story of Simon the sorcerer (8:9-24):

- What principles do we learn from this story?
- The idea of using sacred things for one's own financial gain is called simony, from this story. What examples of simony can you give from your culture?
- The Bible also says that the laborer is worthy of his hire, so what is the difference between receiving an acceptable wage for doing Gospel work, and using such work for one's own benefit?
- How could Christians stay away from simony in their own lives?

Acts 8:26-39 Philip preached the Good News

Acts 8: 26 An angel instructed Philip to leave Samaria and travel south into the desert

Acts 8:27-28 God had prepared The Ethiopian Eunuch to receive the Gospel

Acts 8:29-30 Philip followed the leading of the Spirit in approaching the Eunuch

Acts 8:31-34 The Eunuch invited Philip to teach him about the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah

Acts 8:35-36 The Eunuch learns of Jesus and asks to be baptized

Acts 8:37-38 The Eunuch professes faith in Christ and is baptized

Acts 8:39 Philip's job being over, the Spirit takes him elsewhere and the Eunuch goes on his way rejoicing

Acts 26:19-32

Acts 26:19-20 Paul told Agrippa he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision that he should preach the Gospel to the Gentiles.

- What subject had Paul just told Agrippa about?
- Where had Paul been proclaiming the message?
- What particular group of people had he targeted?
- What was his message to them?

Acts 26:21 Paul told Agrippa this was the real reason the Jews had seized him in the temple and wanted to kill him.

- What was the real basis for the Jews charge against him?
- What one word was especially obnoxious to the Jews? (Gentiles)

Acts 26:22-23 Paul outlined the Gospel for Agrippa

- Paul had been imprisoned since the Jews seized him in the temple, yet what had he been doing?
- To whom had he been witnessing of Christ?
- Why should the Jews not have been offended at Paul's teaching?
- What does the title "Christ" mean?
- What specifically did Paul teach about Christ?
- What do groups of people are mentioned to whom Christ brought light?

Acts 26:24-26 Paul responded to Festus' charge that he was mad

- What was the charge Festus made against him?
- Have you ever heard anyone make a similar charge against Christians today? Who and when?
- What was Paul's response to this charge?

Acts 26:27-28 Paul almost persuaded Agrippa to be a Christian

- To what other person does Paul turn his attention at this point?
- What is his question to him?
- What does Paul think he knows about Agrippa?
- What was Agrippa's response?
- Why is his response encouraging and sad at the same time?
- Will a person be saved if he is ALMOST persuaded to be a Christian? Why not?

Acts 26:29-31 Agrippa & the others with him found Paul not guilty

- What was Paul's response?
- What did he mean?
- Why would Paul wish such a thing?
- What did he mean by "except these bonds"?
- Who were some of the other people who had been listening?
- What did they discuss privately after they were away from Paul?

Acts 26:32 Agrippa honored Paul's appeal to Caesar.

- Since the officials recognized that Paul was innocent of the charges brought against him, why didn't they set him free?
- What do you think will happen next? (What is the next logical step in the story?)

Acts 27:33-44 Paul kept calm in the storm

Acts 27:33-36 Paul encouraged the other passengers

- What had the crew and passengers been doing because of their situation?
- What did Paul encourage them to do?
- How long had they been fasting?
- Why did he encourage them to break the fast?
- What assurance did he make to them?
- How did he know this? (Go back to 27:23-24)
- What demonstration did he make to encourage them?
- What are two things they did because of Paul's encouragement?

Acts 27:37-40 They all did what they could for their safety & headed for land

- How many people were on board the ship?
- When they were finished eating, what precautionary measure did they take?
- What did they throw overboard?
- What did they discover at daybreak?
- Where did they decide to try to aim the ship?

Acts 27:41 The ship was broken as it landed.

- What happened to the ship as they hit the shore?

Acts 27:42-44 Paul & all the passengers were saved.

- What were the soldiers planning to do? Why?
- Why were the soldiers concerned so much about that?
- Why did the centurion propose a different plan?
- What was a centurion? (A soldier in charge over 100 others)
- What two ways did the passengers get to land?
- How many of them escaped safely to land?

Acts 28:1-10 Paul helps others through faith.

Acts 28:1-2 Paul and the others from the ship were warmly welcomed by the people of Melita Island.

- What was the island called where the ship had crashed? (This is a small island located in the Mediterranean Sea.)
- Verse two shows both something negative and something positive about the people of Melita. What?
- In what practical way was the kindness of the people expressed?
- Why was the fire such a help to them?
- What practical things could you do for travelers in your area?

Acts 28:3-6 The islanders watched in amazement as a deadly snake bites Paul without causing harm.

- What was Paul doing to help?
- What fearful thing happened to him?
- What was first reaction of the people?
- What were they expecting to happen to him?
- What did happen to Paul as a result?
- How do you think it was that he suffered no ill result?
- What did the people think then after they had watched him awhile?

Acts 28:7-8 Paul healed the father of Publius, a leader on the island.

- Who specifically showed courtesy to them?
- What practical help did he give them?
- What problem did Publius have?
- What did Paul do for him?

Acts 28:9-10 Paul healed many others and they helped him in turn.

- How do we know that the news of the healing of Publius' father spread?
- What did Paul do as a result?
- How could he do this?
- It is not specifically mentioned that he did this healing in the name of Jesus, but knowing Paul, what do you think?

Acts 28:23-31 Paul spread the Good News, and we should too.

Acts 28:23 Paul, having arrived in Rome, proclaimed the Good News first to the Jews of the area.

- What was the purpose of the appointed day?
- Where did Paul talk with the Jews?
- Why there?
- What did Paul teach them?
- What was the source of his teaching?
- How long did he teach them?

Acts 28:24-27 The Jews were divided in their reception of the message.

- In what way were the Jews divided because of Paul's teaching?
- How do you know that they discussed the issue among themselves?
- What particular teaching caused them to leave?
- How was Paul applying this Scripture to them?
- If his listeners understood and were converted, what would God do for them?

Acts 28: 28-29 Paul announced that the Good News was being sent to the Gentiles, and they would hear it.

- Because so many of the Jews rejected the Good News, what good thing happened?

- What did God say about the Gentiles?
- Who were the Gentiles?
- Can you think of any Old Testament verses that showed in advance that the Good News was ultimately meant for the Gentiles as well as for the Jews?
- How do we know that the issue of Jesus' identity was not resolved amongst the Jews even after they left Paul's house?

Acts 28:30-31 For two years Paul preached and taught the Good News to all who came to him.

- What was Paul's condition in Rome? (see vs. 16)
- How long was he there in that condition?
- How did he use that time to spread the Good News?