

## *Acts 1 Study and Discussion Questions*

### *Lesson One: Pentecost and the Young Church at Jerusalem – Acts 1-5*

*Unless otherwise noted, all questions in this and subsequent lessons refer to the underlined Scripture references listed at the beginning of each of the five sections within the lesson (often given as readings).*

Read Acts 1:1-11.

- 1) According to Acts 1:3-8 and Luke 24:44-49, what went on during the forty days between Jesus' resurrection and ascension (also skim John 20:19-21:14)?
  
- 2) With what did Jesus say His disciples were not to concern themselves and what *was* to be their concern?
  
- 3) Before whom will you intentionally represent Jesus as His witness today?

Read Acts 1:12 – 2:47.

- 4) An alternate name for the Feast of Pentecost in the Jewish calendar is the Feast of Weeks. From Leviticus 23:4-16 (especially verses 15-16), tell how the Feast of Weeks (or Pentecost, meaning “fiftieth”) got its name.
  
- 5) According to Acts 2:6-8, were the “tongues” heard by the large crowd at Pentecost unknown “heavenly” languages or known earthly languages?
  
- 6) Reread Acts 2:42-47.
  - a) What characterized the young church at Jerusalem?
  
  - b) What could you begin doing to foster one of these qualities among those with whom you fellowship?

Read Acts 3.

- 7) Describe the circumstance that brought unexpected attention to Peter and John in Acts 3?
- 8) Which verses and phrases give the immediate results of the healing?
- 9) Examine Peter's second spontaneous sermon to the crowd in Acts 3:11-26 and compare it with his first spontaneous sermon in Acts 2:14-39.
- a) What false impression does Peter correct in each?
  - b) What accusation does Peter make in both sermons?
  - c) What central truth(s) does Peter convey in Acts 2:31-36 and Acts 3:13-15?
  - d) What does Peter use to support his premises in both sermons (see 2:17-21, 2:25-30; 3:18-24)?
  - e) What explanation does Peter offer concerning the apostles' mindset and mission in Acts 2:32 and 3:15b?
  - f) What does Peter command of his listeners (2:38 and 3:19)?
  - g) In these sermons, Peter directly addressed the issues that prevented his contemporaries from receiving truth about Jesus and about their need of Him. What issues prevent your contemporaries from receiving these truths (be as specific as possible)?

Read Acts 4.

- 10) Acts 2:37-41 and 4:2-18 describe the responses of the crowd and the Jewish religious leaders to the work and words of the Holy Spirit through Peter. Which phrases summarize their responses (include the references)?

- 11) According to Acts 4:23-31, the Church responded to opposition with prayer.
- a) Analyze this prayer. What are its elements?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b) Why do you suppose this prayer resulted in such a powerful response from God (see Acts 4:31)?
- 12) Write out Acts 4:12 below and try to memorize it this week. How does this verse challenge the philosophy of the world in which you live?

Read Acts 5.

- 13) What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira (include verses or phrases that support your answer)? Can you suggest a possible reason why God might have judged Ananias and Sapphira with such severity and immediacy (consider Acts 5:11)?
- 14) What were Gamaliel's words of wisdom to the Sanhedrin? How could you apply this wisdom to a circumstance in your life today?
- 15) List evidences from each chapter (Acts 1-5) that Peter emerged as the leader of the early church and then list *specific* ways that *you* can demonstrate leadership within your areas of influence this week.