

### March

|            |           |                    |
|------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Sat        | 1         | Acts 1:1-11        |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>2</b>  |                    |
| Mon        | 3         | Acts 1:12-26       |
| Tues       | 4         | Acts 2:1-21        |
| Weds       | 5         | Acts 2:22-41       |
| Thurs      | 6         | Acts 2:42 – 3:10   |
| Fri        | 7         | Acts 3:11-26       |
| Sat        | 8         | Acts 4:1-22        |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>9</b>  |                    |
| Mon        | 10        | Acts 4:23-37       |
| Tues       | 11        | Acts 5:1-16        |
| Weds       | 12        | Acts 5:17-42       |
| Thurs      | 13        | Acts 6:1-15        |
| Fri        | 14        | Acts 7:1-19        |
| Sat        | 15        | Acts 7:20-38       |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>16</b> |                    |
| Mon        | 17        | Acts 7:39-53       |
| Tues       | 18        | Acts 7:54 – 8:3    |
| Weds       | 19        | Acts 8:4-25        |
| Thurs      | 20        | Acts 8:26-40       |
| Fri        | 21        | Acts 9:1-19a       |
| Sat        | 22        | Acts 9:19b-43      |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>23</b> |                    |
| Mon        | 24        | Acts 10:1-23a      |
| Tues       | 25        | Acts 10:23b-48     |
| Weds       | 26        | Acts 11:1-18       |
| Thurs      | 27        | Acts 11:19-30      |
| Fri        | 28        | Acts 12:1-19a      |
| Sat        | 29        | Acts 12:19b – 13:3 |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>30</b> |                    |
| Mon        | 31        | Acts 13:4-22       |

### April

|            |           |                    |
|------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Tues       | 1         | Acts 13:23-41      |
| Weds       | 2         | Acts 13:42-52      |
| Thurs      | 3         | Acts 14:1-20       |
| Fri        | 4         | Acts 14:21 – 15:5  |
| Sat        | 5         | Acts 15:6-35       |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>6</b>  |                    |
| Mon        | 7         | Acts 15:36 – 16:15 |
| Tues       | 8         | Acts 16:16-40      |
| Weds       | 9         | Acts 17:1-15       |
| Thurs      | 10        | Acts 17:16-34      |
| Fri        | 11        | Acts 18:1-28       |
| Sat        | 12        | Acts 19:1-22       |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>13</b> |                    |
| Mon        | 14        | Acts 19:23-41      |
| Tues       | 15        | Acts 20:1-12       |
| Weds       | 16        | Acts 20:13-38      |
| Thurs      | 17        | Acts 21:1-26       |
| Fri        | 18        | Acts 21:27 – 22:11 |
| Sat        | 19        | Acts 22:12-29      |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>20</b> |                    |
| Mon        | 21        | Acts 22:30 – 23:22 |
| Tues       | 22        | Acts 23:23-35      |
| Weds       | 23        | Acts 24:1-27       |
| Thurs      | 24        | Acts 25:1-22       |
| Fri        | 25        | Acts 25:23 – 26:32 |
| Sat        | 26        | Acts 27:1-26       |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>27</b> |                    |
| Mon        | 28        | Acts 27:27-44      |
| Tues       | 29        | Acts 28:1-16       |
| Weds       | 30        | Acts 28:17-31      |

# An Introduction to Acts

If you want a more comprehensive introduction to Acts you could research that for yourself. There is plenty of information on the Internet, but some information is better than others. What follows is fairly brief but hopefully will be helpful as you follow the Bible Reading Plan and discuss it in the Connect Groups.

## A Simple Outline

**Author and Date:** It was written by Luke who also wrote the Gospel of Luke cf Luke 1:1-4

It was probably written between AD61 & 64 and almost certainly before AD70

### I. The Church Begins in Jerusalem (Acts 1-7)

- Acts 1 – Jesus' ascension and the promise of the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 2 – Pentecost: The Holy Spirit comes, and the church is born.
- Acts 3-5 – Miracles, preaching, and persecution of the apostles.
- Acts 6-7 – The selection of deacons and the martyrdom of Stephen.

### II. The Gospel Spreads to Judea & Samaria (Acts 8-12)

- Acts 8 – Philip shares the gospel with Samaritans and the Ethiopian eunuch.
- Acts 9 – Saul (Paul) is converted on the road to Damascus.
- Acts 10-11 – Peter's vision and the inclusion of Gentiles (Cornelius' conversion).
- Acts 12 – Persecution under Herod and Peter's miraculous escape from prison.

### III. The Gospel Goes to the Ends of the Earth (Acts 13-28)

- Acts 13-14 – Paul's first missionary journey.
- Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council: Salvation is by grace through faith.
- Acts 16-21 – Paul's second and third missionary journeys; churches are planted.
- Acts 22-28 – Paul's arrest, trials, and journey to Rome, where he continues preaching under house arrest.

**Key Theme:** Acts shows how the gospel spread from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8) through the power of the Holy Spirit, the boldness of believers, and God's unstoppable mission.

## Applying Acts to our lives today

1. **Empowered by the Holy Spirit** – Just as the early believers relied on the Holy Spirit for boldness and guidance (Acts 2:1-4), we too should seek the Spirit's power in our daily lives for strength, wisdom, and courage in sharing our faith.
3. **Commitment to the Gospel** – The apostles preached the gospel fearlessly despite persecution (Acts 4:29-31). Today, we are called to boldly share our faith, even in difficult circumstances, trusting that God will work through us.
4. **Community and Fellowship** – The early church devoted themselves to prayer, teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and meeting each other's needs (Acts 2:42-47). We should build strong, supportive Christian communities that do the same.
5. **Mission-Minded Living** – Acts shows the gospel spreading from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). We are also called to live missionally, reaching out to people of all backgrounds with the love of Christ, both locally and globally.
6. **Faithfulness in Trials** – Paul and the other apostles remained faithful despite persecution and suffering (Acts 16:25, 20:22-24). We can find encouragement to remain steadfast in our faith during challenges, knowing God is in control.
7. **God's Kingdom is for All People** - The conversion of Cornelius (Acts 10) and Paul's missionary journeys highlight that the gospel is for everyone. We too should love and accept people from all backgrounds, which may involve sharing Christ with those outside our comfort zone.
8. **Obedience to God's Calling** - Paul and others obeyed God's call on their lives (Acts 13:1-5) In the same way we should listen for God's direction in our lives and step out in faith when He calls us to act.
9. **Acts is a Call to Action** for every Christian today! It is not just a story or even a history book but reminds us that the Christian life is a journey of faith, courage, and action, with the Holy Spirit empowering us to live for Christ.

**As you read through Acts keep asking yourself how you should be applying what you read in your life?**