

God Milk
The Church: Christ's Continuing Ministry
(3 of 10: Trail Mix)

Crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

I Peter 2:2

“...you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8b

Find It

The Gospels, then Acts: “Some of the *Acts* of Some of the *Apostles*”

A Two-Book Series: Luke-Acts

Luke 1:1-2

Acts 1:1-5

The Spread of the Gospel

Outline *Acts 1:8* “Jerusalem, all Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth”

Acts 1-12 **Peter / Jews, and a few Gentiles**

Sermon to Jews Acts 2:1-41

Sermon to Jews Acts 3

Defense to Jewish Ruling Council Acts 4:1-21

Acts 13-28 **Paul / a few Jews and more Gentiles**

First Mission Trip 13-14 Saul & Barnabas

to Cyprus, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra & Derbe

Second Mission Trip 15-18 Paul & Silas

to Derbe, Lystra, & Iconium; then to Macedonia
(Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea), Athens, Corinth and Ephesus

Third Mission Trip 19-21 Macedonia, Greece, & Ephesus

Imprisonment 21-28 in Jerusalem & Caesarea

To Rome in chains 26-28 ends with Paul under house arrest
in Rome, but the gospel is “unhindered” (Acts 28:31)

Themes: conversions (faith, repentance, baptism), prayer,
preaching (Jesus is the Messiah/Christ!), prominent people (civic and
Roman officials), women (Dorcas, Lydia, Prisca), persecution, legality
& acceptability of gospel, possessions, the kingdom, church growth...

Conversions

First Jews, then God-fearing Gentiles, finally Greeks/pagans.

faith, repentance, baptism

[handout *conversions*]

Parallels with Christ, Peter, and Paul

Matthew 9:35 Christ

teaching Peter teaches in temple Acts 3

Paul usually went first to synagogue in every town (Acts
9:20, 13:14f; 14:1; **Acts 17:2**, 17:17, 18:4, 18:19, 19:8)

preaching Peter preaches first gospel sermon **Acts 2**

and first sermon to Gentiles (Cornelius) Acts 10:34-43

Paul preaches to Jews & Gentiles in Antioch Acts 13:13-48

to Gentiles in Lystra Acts 14:8-18

to Gentiles in Athens Acts 17

healing Peter heals lame man Acts 3:1-10

Paul heals lame man Acts 14:8-10

Main Actors

Peter Acts 1-5 sermons to Jews in Acts 3 & 4; defense to ruling Jewish Council in Acts 5 (persecuted; church grew Acts 4:3-4)

Jerusalem Also Acts 10-12 to ***Gentiles***

Stephen Acts 6-7 killed for testimony of Jesus ***Jerusalem***

Philip Acts 8:1 scattered by persecution ***Samaria***

Simon Acts 8:4-24 (flawed conversion)

Ethiopian eunuch Acts 8:26-40 (flawless conversion)

Saul/Paul Acts 13-28 ***Asia Minor, Greece, Rome***

And companions:

Barnabas on 1st trip Acts 13-14

Silas on 2nd trip Acts 15:36-18:22

Timothy Acts 16:1-3, and beyond

Luke “we” passages

Acts 16:11-40 (Troas, Philippi)

Acts 20:7-21:18 (Troas, Ephesus, Caesarea, Jerusalem)

Acts 27:1-28:31 (Caesarea to Rome with prisoner Paul)

(also in Paul’s last letter, from prison 2 Timothy 4:11)

Prisca (Priscilla) and **Aquila** Acts 18:2,18,26; 19:1-7

(also Romans 16:3-5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19)

Transition

While the Gospels and Acts are historical accounts, most of the rest of the New Testament is in the form of letters, both to churches and to individuals. Paul's letters are first, followed by those written by James, Peter, John, and Jude. We will begin next week with the longest of Paul's letters, that to the church in Rome where he lays out the gospel as he preaches it.

Further Study

Look up the references to Priscilla and Aquila to try to get a sense of this couple and what their lives might have been like. What can you see in them to imitate in your walk with Christ?

Choose one of the sermons in Acts and look for how it uses some of these characteristics of Apostolic preaching:

fulfilment of OT prophecy

Christ's mighty acts; Christ is Lord

cross and resurrection; apostles as witnesses

call to repentance and baptism

Read the first description of the first Christians in Acts 2:42-47 and consider how our church compares. Do our assemblies reflect this spirit? Are you doing things in your daily life which reflect the same joy?