
Study Series: Acts

Questions about Acts 1.1 – 8.3

1. Read the two accounts of Jesus' departure in Luke 24.44-53 and Acts 1.1-11. Which information and emphases are the same in each presentation, and which points differ? What, in your opinion, is the role of this episode for (a) the Gospel; (b) Acts; and (c) Luke-Acts as a two-volume work?
2. Reread Acts 2.38 in which the writer describes the criteria for membership in the Christian community. Look at other instances throughout Acts where people became believers and see to what extent that pattern is reproduced. Do you think the writer intends 2.38 to set a normative pattern?
3. Reread Acts 2.42 where the writer describes several behaviors of early church life. Examine other depictions of community life in Acts. How closely do they resemble what is described in 2.42? Do you think the writer is advocating these behaviors as necessary for church life?
4. Describe how the early followers of Jesus lived and worshiped (4.32-37). What does this say to you about the purpose of possessions? What happened to Ananias and Sapphira (5.1-11)? Why?
5. In what way are churches today like the early church? In what ways are they different?
6. Why did the religious leaders in Jerusalem continue to make trouble for the apostles (5.12-42)? Has anyone ever opposed you for doing something you knew was right? How did you handle the situation?
7. What special problem that early church faced is described in 6.1-7? How did the apostles feel about it? How does your church handle conflicts and differences of opinion?

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Questions about Acts 8.4 – 15.35

1. What happened when Philip explained the good news about Jesus to the Ethiopian official (8.26-40)? Have you ever told anyone about Jesus? If so, what did you say? How did the person react?
2. Why was Saul going to Damascus? What happened to change his plans (9.1-19)? How did Ananias help Saul? How does this account of Saul's conversion compare and contrast to the accounts in Acts 22.3- 21; 26.12-23; and Galatians 1.11-17?
3. What did God tell Saul to do (9.19-31)? What caused the change in Saul's attitude? How does God "change" lives today?
4. What is the significance of Peter's experience and his vision in chapter 10? What did Peter's statement, "God treats all people alike" (10.34, CEV), mean for the early church, and what might it mean for Jesus' followers today? How does this relate to the events of chapter 15?
5. Why did God's message continue to spread, even though some people tried to stop this from happening (chapter 12)? Why does God's message still continue to be spread in today's world?
6. What major problem was discussed in Jerusalem (15.1-21)? What decision was made about the problem (15.22-35)? What effect did their decision have on the early church?

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Questions about Acts 15.36 – 28.31

1. What happened in the jail at Philippi (16.16-40)? How did the jailer react? What did Paul and Silas do? People today visit prisons for the purpose of spreading the good news about Jesus. Why is this important (cf. Matthew 25.31-46)?
2. What was Paul's message to the people of Athens (17.16-34)? How did Paul get the people to listen to what he had to say? What were some of the different ways people responded to what Paul said? Have you shared your faith with others? If so, how did they respond?
3. What was the cause of the riot in Ephesus (19.21-41)? How was peace restored? What kinds of things cause riots in our world today? What needs to be done in order to restore peace? How can you be a "peacemaker" right where you are?
4. What was Paul's life like in Rome? Name people in today's world who are able to offer hope and encouragement to others, even though they are in difficult situations like being imprisoned, suffering from some kind of illness, or experiencing a tragedy.