

## Church Genome Project

# Acts Moment Devotionals

### Prayer and Devotional through Acts: The Spiritual DNA of a Missionary Church

- Week 1: Spiritual Preparation

#### Reading Acts 1:1-11

- Day 1: *“Jesus began to do and teach”* (Acts 1:1) Acts is a book of action. Jesus spiritually prepares us for the task through His missionary example. Note the order as He did first and then He taught. What does that say about spiritual preparation for you? Ask God to keep you focused on Jesus’ great mission announcement for you to be His Spirit-filled witnesses (Acts 1:8). Jesus is coming soon. Preparation is about going and not just gazing to the skies.

#### Reading Acts 1:12-26

- Day 2: *“They all were continually united in prayer...”* (Acts 1:14) As recorded in the gospels, God had especially prepared this Upper Room for the Lord’s Supper. In Acts, these disciples experienced spiritual preparation in the Upper Room. What was the topic of their prayer? One can only speculate, but it must have been characterized by submissive waiting and praise. The word supplication implies that they were asking God to meet needs. Later they prayed (v.24) and we do know the topic. They asked God to show them the one to take Judas’ office. They followed the Scriptures. Ask God to teach you how to pray as if you were in the Upper Room.

#### Reading Acts 2:1-13

- Day 3: *“How is it that each of us can hear them in our own native language?”* (Acts 2:8) God had in His sovereignty prepared a special time for this miracle. It was exactly when all the nations would be gathered in Jerusalem at Pentecost. The gospel was to go to all peoples. Often the focus of the miracle is on the speaking in languages. However, there was another miracle that day and it was the miracle of the hearing. God prepared the people’s hearts to receive the good news as they heard in their heart language—a reversal of the Tower of Babel. Ask God, by His Holy Spirit, to give you a readiness to share the gospel and for those hearing to really hear.

#### Reading Acts 2:14-41

- Day 4: *“Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them...”* (Acts 2:14) Peter’s sermon was brief and bold. He gave a clear interpretation of what had just happened before their eyes. The message was rooted in the Scriptures as he referred to Joel and the Psalms. Jesus’ death on the cross and resurrection was at the heart of the message. Peter gave a clear invitation for people to come to Christ. In terms of spiritual preparation, he was ready to give an answer for the hope within him. He did exactly that and 3,000 people were transformed through Jesus. Are you ready to share the gospel?

#### Reading Acts 2:42-47

- Day 5: *“Now all the believers were together and held all things in common.”* (Acts 2:44) God gave this church an incredible sense of community. They were a together kind of people. This was a tight knit fellowship. In community, God was at work spiritually preparing them through the apostle’s teaching, breaking of bread, prayer, and meeting needs. How is God preparing you through what is being said and done in the church? Ask God to use these times so that He might show His favor so that many people would be added to the family of the church daily.

- Week 2: Spiritual Authority

Reading Acts 3:1-10

- Day 1: “...*what I do have I give to you...*” (Acts 3:6) What do we have to give to a begging world? This man did not get what he asked for, as he asked for money and instead received a miracle. What we have to give is Jesus Christ, the hope of eternal life. Like Peter, we can boldly say with all spiritual authority, money is not the answer to your problems but the wholeness that only Jesus can give. As you go about your day, rely on the Holy Spirit. Look for those, who without even realizing it, are begging for life. You have the authority to give what you have, the good news of Jesus Christ.

Reading Acts 3:11-26

- Day 2: “*Why do you stare at us, as though we had made him walk by our own power or godliness?*” (Acts 3:12) Spiritual authority is not seen in an autocratic personality. Who received the credit for the beggar’s healing? Was it Peter and John? Was it their power or godliness? No, it was Jesus Christ! Holy Spirit reliance is a characteristic of someone who walks in spiritual authority. God receives the glory, honor, and praise. The gospel is advanced as people hear about Jesus Christ. Give God the glory today!

Reading Acts 4:1-22

- Day 3: “*Whether it’s right in the sight of God for us to listen to you rather than to God, you decide.*” (Acts 4:19) Peter and John were commanded not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. God’s Great Commission is to be obeyed. Both fully understood this reality. It was a byproduct of their confessing Jesus Christ as Lord. Lordship is defined by unwavering obedience to God. In order to live like a missionary, you must be willing to obey God no matter what the cost. Spiritual authority dictates that we obey Jesus. Is He your authority?

Reading Acts 4:23-31

- Day 4: “*When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly.*” (Acts 4:31) Peter and John reported back to the church all that had happened before the magistrates. What was their response? It was to pray. Notice that it was not a prayer for deliverance but one of confession of God’s spiritual authority over creation, nations, kings, rulers, and all. He is Sovereign Lord. It was not a reactive prayer but a proactive prayer. They asked to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to speak the Word of God with boldness. This kind of prayer shakes the place! Ask God to shake your place.

Reading Acts 4:32-37

- Day 5: “*With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on all of them.*” (Acts 4:33) God gave the apostles great Holy Spirit power and much grace. Great power and grace flow from spiritual authority. God is looking to outdo Himself in our lives. Are you ready to operate in God’s power? Notice where the great power was directed; it was given in order to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Notice where the grace was directed; it was given to those in need. Find someone in need of God’s grace and go to them in the great power of the Lord Jesus with all spiritual authority.

- Week 3: Spiritual Understanding

Reading Acts 5:1-11

- Day 1: “...*why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land?*” (Acts 5:3) Motivation gets to the heart of why we do what we do. This story is about deception. When considering spiritual understanding, beware of lying to the Holy Spirit. Do not take lightly God’s revelation to you; it will always involve obedience. Ananias and Sapphira misled people giving the appearance of generous giving. God dealt with their sin swiftly. God revealed to Peter their deception. Most importantly, God taught the church about the seriousness of sin. Do not believe for a moment that you can hide your sin. The root cause of Ananias and Sapphira’s lie was selfishness. Ask God to purge you from any selfish motive or prejudice action that may be hidden deep inside you.

Reading Acts 5:12-16

- Day 2: “*As a result, they would carry the sick out into the streets and lay them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on some of them.*” (Acts 5:15) What happens when your shadow passes by people? Have you thought about the kind of shadow you cast? It is true that where there is a shadow, there is a light. Jesus came to be the light to the world—all nations. Spiritual understanding points people to Jesus. The healing miracles in Acts served as “attention getters”. They were platforms from which the missionaries preached the gospel. Today, ask God to help you cast a shadow that points all people to Jesus. Oh, that we may live in the shadow of the cross...realizing the gospel is for all.

Reading Acts 5:17-42

- Day 3: “...*You may even be found fighting against God.*” (Acts 5:39b). Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, spoke to the Sanhedrin on behalf of the missionaries. He provided wisdom and encouragement which resonates with us today. If God is at work, no one can stop it. God’s purposes will stand; the gospel is to be carried to every place and to every people group. God can speak through an unbeliever like Gamaliel to remind us of His greatness. What is God revealing to you about His church, the unstoppable force in this world?

Reading Acts 6:1-7

- Day 4: “*So the word of God spread, the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly in number, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.*” (Acts 6:7) Everywhere are pockets of people that are being overlooked—in this case the widows. The Grecian Jews complained because their widows were being overlooked while the Hebraic Jews were being served. The church addressed this need as the first deacons became the channel of ministry. Another pocket of people (perhaps overlooked here) is the “priests”. God was at work drawing them to a point of belief in Jesus the Messiah. Which people group is God revealing to you? Pray for them today.

Reading Acts 6:8-15

- Day 5: “...*the Sanhedrin looked intently at him and saw that his face was like the face of an angel.*” (Acts 6:15) People are looking intently at you and your witness. Stephen was the first martyr (which literally means witness). God has revealed to us those who need to hear. God expects us to be faithful witnesses, in spite of opposition. What made the difference for Stephen? He was one of the deacons described as being “full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom”. The Holy Spirit produced a glow on his face that was recognizable. Are the people who you rub shoulders with daily seeing the glow of the Holy Spirit? Confess any sin and ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh.

- Week 4: Spiritual Leadership

Reading Acts 7:1-53

- Day 1: *“Brothers and fathers,” he replied, “listen:”* (Acts 7:2) Stephen exemplifies a spiritual leader. He was filled with the Holy Spirit. He was an effective communicator of the gospel who was focused on the Scriptures. He was courageous and bold. As he walked through God’s redemptive history in his message to the Jews, he sensed that they were resisting the Holy Spirit. Spiritual leadership is not about pleasing men, saying what they want to hear, but rather speaking the truth in love. Remember; a young man by the name of Saul was listening. Ask God to speak through you and make you into the spiritual leader that brings Him glory.

Reading Acts 7:54-8:3

- Day 2: *“...Jesus standing at the right hand of God.”* (Acts 7:55) Jesus is standing at the right hand of God when His servants are in trouble. There is not another occasion where Jesus is recorded as standing at the right hand of the Father. He is always pictured as sitting at the right hand of God. There is great significance for spiritual leadership in this passage. Stephen followed Jesus’ example from the passion. He prayed as Jesus did for those who were his accusers while praying in his dying breath, “receive my spirit”. True spiritual leaders follow the Leader, Jesus Christ. How is your fellowship this day?

Reading Acts 8:4-8

- Day 3: *“So there was great joy in that city.”* (Acts 8:8). When spiritual leaders are obedient to God, there is great joy in the city. Samaria was the second destination announced by God in Acts 1:8. Persecution was the means that finally drove the church into the hated land of Samaria. It was a spiritual leader, the evangelist Philip, who possessed a willingness to go. Lives were transformed through the proclamation of the gospel. The gospel was sown wherever they went. It is good news of great joy for all peoples. Are you willing to bring great joy to the city you live in or near?

Reading Acts 8:9-25

- Day 4: *“...he offered them money, saying, “Give me this power also so that anyone I lay hands on may receive the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 8:18b-19) Money makes a horrible master but a great servant. Godly spiritual leaders have the proper attitude about money. Simon, the sorcerer, offered money to Peter and John to purchase the ability to minister. The Holy Spirit does not work through self-centered, unregenerate imitators. Peter identified bitterness and captivity to sin as the real problem. Leaders are to be people of integrity and character, not of greed and bitterness. Ask God to make you holy spiritual leaders for His glory.

Reading Acts 8:26-40

- Day 5: *““Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is the desert road.).”* (Acts 8:26b) Interruptions can sometimes be the Holy Spirit’s appointments. Spiritual leaders, like obedient Philip, are willing to go, even if it is to a desert place. God had a strategic person of peace ready to hear the gospel. He was a eunuch from Ethiopia. God was at work in this man’s life as he was seeking God in His Word. Philip was willing to run up to his chariot. He explained the Isaiah Scriptures—preaching Jesus. The Ethiopian eunuch’s life was transformed by faith in Jesus’ work on the cross, the very Lamb of God. Today, do not see interruptions as something to avoid but as a divine appointment to share Jesus. A spiritual leader welcomes these kinds of interruptions.

- Week 5: Spiritual Synergy

#### Reading Acts 9:1-19

- Day 1: *“He placed his hands on him and said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road you were traveling, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’”(Acts 9:17).* Saul came to know salvation as he met the Lord Jesus. He was transformed by the gospel. He was instructed to meet Ananias, a man of prayer. God gave Ananias a vision of Saul’s arrival. In Damascus, there was a disciple, named Judas living on Straight Street. More than likely, the church met in his house. They were co-laborers with God—a powerful ministry team. God used Ananias who was open to God’s revelation. Judas was willing to open his home. The Lord saved Saul, a new brother in Christ. Ask God to show you with whom you can team up with for spiritual synergy.

#### Reading Acts 9:20-31

- Day 2: *“but his disciples took him by night and lowered him in a large basket through an opening in the wall.” (Acts 9:25).* Barnabas shows up again. He believed in Saul. He mentored him, forming a new powerful ministry team. God had His hand on Saul as he boldly preached Jesus the Messiah. It baffled the religious leaders. There was a plot to kill him. God made a way of escape through those who lowered him in a basket from the wall. As we think of spiritual teamwork, God put together some unnamed individuals willing to hold the rope for Saul. This illustrates team—holding the rope for others. Who is holding the rope for you and believing in you? Thank God for them and express your gratitude to them today.

#### Reading Acts 9:32-43

- Day 3: *“This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.” (Acts 9:42).* News spread all over Joppa, how God used Peter to raise Tabitha. Earlier the paralytic named Aeneas from Lydda was healed also. Believers were already in these cities; this is a reminder of the spread of the gospel. In each case, people were gathered to hear the gospel because God used an “attention getter”. Although Peter was the leader, there were two men who had teamed together to come and call for him (v. 38). Believers and widows were sharing the gospel after the raising of Tabitha. Spiritual synergy was the result as believers worked together. Be faithful to team up to spread the good news.

#### Reading Acts 10:1-8

- Day 4: *“Now send men to Joppa and call for Simon, who is also named Peter.” (Acts 10:5).* God supernaturally orchestrated the meeting of Peter and Cornelius. Cornelius was a seeker who was a centurion from Caesarea. Cornelius knew all about teamwork because a soldier depends on his companions for his life. A new gathering of believers were formed after he came to Christ along with his entire household. God is at work in the partnership of the gospel. Who might be that Cornelius that God is leading you to today? Be alert for the work of the Holy Spirit in leading you to that seeker.

#### Reading Acts 10:9-23

- Day 5: *“...and some of the brothers from Joppa went with him.” (Acts 10:23).* What does it mean to go along? The concept of team is embedded in this phrase. There is accountability in team. There is a collective wisdom in team. There is mutual support in team. A team carries one another’s burdens and shares each other’s joy. A reading through Acts, reminds us that the missionaries usually operated by teams, exemplifying spiritual synergy. Triune God has modeled spiritual synergy for us. Are you willing to go along the journey of team? Thank God for those serving the Lord with you.
- Week 6: Spiritual Receptivity

Reading Acts 10:23-48

- Day 1: *“The following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.”* (Acts 10:24). People have a relational network as did Cornelius, a person of peace. Later his entire household comes to Christ as the Holy Spirit came upon them like at Pentecost. Cornelius gathered people together for the purpose of hearing the gospel through Peter’s gospel message. They followed the Lord in believer’s baptism. Never underestimate the influence of one new believer in whom the Holy Spirit is at work. A new gathering of believers was established in Caesarea—even from those people some called unclean—Gentiles. Who may be a person of peace in your relational network?

Reading Acts 11:1-18

- Day 2: *““So then, God has given repentance resulting in life even to the Gentiles.”* (Acts 11:18b). In Acts, God’s people often hear reports of His work. In this occasion the Jerusalem church accepted the fact that the Gentiles were a receptive people to the gospel. They praised God for Peter’s report of the household’s conversion. God is the One who grants repentance, so we must share the gospel with all. It is the only way to know which hearts are receptive and which ones are hardened to the gospel. Thank God for His granting repentance to you. Salvation is not earned; it is a gift. Who do you know that needs to receive that gift today?

Reading Acts 11:19-30

- Day 3: *“But there were some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus.”* (Acts 11:20). Praise the Lord for the unnamed missionaries responsible for seeing the new church start at Antioch. They were unsung heroes of the faith. They told everyone including Greeks who readily responded. God does tremendous things when we only care that He alone receives the glory and credit. Spiritual receptivity was at a high level here. The fact that they were first called Christians in Antioch marked this church. This badge of honor (to them) was a simple reflection of their following Jesus’ example. What would it look like if we told everyone the good news of the Lord Jesus?

Reading Acts 12:1-19

- Day 4: *“She recognized Peter’s voice, and because of her joy, she did not open the gate but ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the outer gate.”* (Acts 12:14) Rhoda was surprised by the answer to prayer. Should it surprise us that God answers prayer? God delivers His people when it is His will. (Note: James was executed but Peter was delivered) When it comes to spiritual receptivity, do you believe that God answers prayer? Pray for laborers for the harvest. Pray for receptive hearts—good soils. Pray for those who seem hard to the gospel. Ask God to soften hearts. You might be pleasantly surprised how He answers.

Reading Acts 12:20-25

- Day 5: *“But the word of God flourished and multiplied.”* (Acts 12:24). Herod refused to give God the glory. Immediately, he was struck down by an angel of the Lord. God ordains governmental officials. He even allows the ungodly to hold office. He lifts up one and puts down another. As recorded in Acts, the Word of God continued to increase and spread through human history. The increase comes as God demonstrates His power and might. The word is the seed planted in a human heart by the sower. Ask God to give the increase as you spread His word to those receptive people.

- Week 7: Spiritual Sowing

Reading Acts 13:1-3

- Day 1: “*“Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”* (Acts 13:2b). The missionary team was formed. The Antioch church sent out their best and brightest to go with the gospel to the ends of the earth. They had been set apart for the work. The essence of the work is gospel sowing. People need to hear the hope of the resurrection. Have you been sowing the seeds of the gospel? God commissions His people to go into the fields. Ask the Lord to set you apart for gospel sowing.

Reading Acts 13:4-12

- Day 2: “*...he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord*” (Acts 13:12b). The team would start at the synagogue in order to find a spiritual bridge to sow the gospel. They traveled through the whole island by the time they had come to Paphos. There the proconsul heard the gospel message from Paul and Barnabas. He saw how Paul had dealt with the sorcerer Elymas and the ensuing blindness that came upon him. The proconsul was amazed. It led to his salvation. How about your witness? Does it lead to amazement about the teaching of the Lord?

Reading Acts 13:13-52

- Day 3: “*When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and honored the word of the Lord, and all who had been appointed to eternal life believed. 49 The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.*” (Acts 13:48-49). They entered Pisidian Antioch, first going to the synagogue to sow the gospel. It was initially a receptive place. The response was that some believed the message and others rejected the message. This led to the team being kicked out of the synagogue causing them to go to the Gentiles to sow the gospel. This pattern would be repeated throughout the missionary journeys. God expects us to sow the gospel and leave the results to Him. Ask God to give you the boldness to share Jesus in your receptive place.

Reading Acts 14:1-20

- Day 4: “*People! Why are you doing these things? We are people also, just like you, and we are proclaiming good news to you, that you turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them.*” (Acts 14:15). God had the people’s attention in Lystra through the healing of a lame man. The people wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas connecting them to a local legend of the gods, Hermes and Zeus. The missionaries had to adjust their approach. They dealt with the Lystra worldview sowing the gospel in terms of not worshipping idols but worshipping the living God. Notice how they state, “we are bringing you good news.” This is gospel message sowing at its core. Today, look for opportunities to share the good news with those worshipping idols.

Reading Acts 14:21-28

- Day 5: “*...that he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles*” (Acts 14:27). There were large numbers of new believers that had been won to the Lord through the sowing of the gospel in Antioch in Syria—the sending church. The mission team made return visits to all the previous cities where the gospel had gone during the first journey. The missionaries appointed spiritual leaders to nurture and develop the new churches at each stop. The door of faith had been opened to the Gentiles. God was doing a new thing among His people. Who do you know that the Lord may be opening the door of faith? Pray for them and ask God to give you an opportunity to sow the gospel.

- Week 8: Spiritual Bridges

Reading Acts 15:1-35

- Day 1: *“For it was the Holy Spirit’s decision—and ours—not to place further burdens on you beyond these requirements...”* (Acts 15:28). The Jerusalem Council convened to deal with the question of those who desired to have Gentiles be circumcised and obey the Law of Moses. One by one church leaders spoke to the issue. The focus was on the grace of God. They were more concerned about reaching the Gentiles, instead of putting a burden on them. This attitude illustrates the need for preaching the gospel with an “I have become all things to all men” attitude (1 Corinthians 9:22). The Holy Spirit is a missionary Spirit. Do what it takes to reach others without compromising the gospel of grace. Ask God to help you follow what the Holy Spirit says is good, as you build spiritual bridges.

Reading Acts 15:36-41

- Day 2: *“They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company”* (Acts 15:39). Paul and Barnabas decide to part ways over John Mark. Paul was primarily concerned with the task and Barnabas was primarily concerned about the person. This tension between task and personhood is representative of the missionary principle of spiritual bridges. We must never lose sight of the integrity of the gospel while engaging the people of a lost culture. These missionaries gave us a good example of dealing with conflict in church life, but additionally they provide a window into the balance needed to be an effective missionary. Ask God to help you strike the balance in ministry.

Reading Acts 16:1-5

- Day 3: *“...so he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, since they all knew that his father was a Greek.”* (Acts 16:3b). Paul had Timothy circumcised because he did not want anything to become a barrier to the preaching of the gospel. This had to be incredibly painful and uncomfortable to Timothy. Has God asked you to do something painful and uncomfortable for the sake of the gospel? Spiritual bridge builders are willing to do whatever it takes to see someone come to Christ, even at their personal expense. What discomforting thing is God asking you to do to build a bridge to a lost person?

Reading Acts 16:6-10

- Day 4: *“...but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.”* (Acts 16:7b). The missionary team was seeking God’s direction. They sought the Spirit’s leadership with a check at every turn. The Spirit of Jesus is characterized by compassion. The call was a vision of a Macedonian begging for help. God used this vision to confirm His will to the team (spiritual revelation). The Spirit of Jesus understands and hears those asking for help. Who is asking for help in your circles of influence? Are you willing to find a spiritual bridge that will lead you to those asking for help? Follow the Spirit of Jesus as He leads.

Reading Acts 16:11-40

- Day 5: *“On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate by the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer.”* (Acts 16:13). The team continued their strategy of going to receptive places. The place of prayer would serve as a spiritual bridge. Lydia, a seller of purple, and the women meeting by the riverside, heard the gospel in their setting. The Lord opened their hearts. Paul and Silas knew how to identify with people using the spiritual bridges. Take note that Lydia was from Thyatira. There was a church recorded in Revelation from that city. Did Lydia have something to do with it? Bridges are everywhere. Ask God to show you where the spiritual bridges are in your community?



- Week 9: Spiritual Giftedness

Reading Acts 17:1-9

- Day 1: *““These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too, and Jason has welcomed them.” (Acts 17:6b-7).* The church start in Thessalonica is esteemed as a model church. Jason opened his home for the sowing of the gospel. After Paul and Silas were ejected from the synagogue, they sought refuge with Jason. His hospitality was warm and costly. The city officials made him post bond. Jason provides us an example of one willing to use what God has given him for the sake of the gospel. Is your house available for God’s mission? Today use your spiritual gifts for God’s glory. It can turn the world upside down or more accurately right side up.

Reading Acts 17:10-15

- Day 2: *“The people here were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, since they received the word with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” (Acts 17:11).* As Paul and Silas entered the synagogue, they found a very receptive audience to the gospel. They were eager to receive the message and examine the Scriptures. God has blessed His church with those who have the gift of teaching and other spiritual gifts. A church with a hunger for the Word of God will make an eternal impact on the community. The Word of God is the greatest physical resource that the church possesses because there is life-changing power in it. The need is to sow the Word into a person’s heart. Today, ask God to give you a new hunger for His Word.

Reading Acts 17:16-34

- Day 3: *“However, some people joined him and believed, including Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.” (Acts 17:34).* By some measures, Paul was considered a failure in Athens. However, there was some response to the gospel. These people mentioned here are a gathering of believers in Athens. Only heaven will reveal what these leaders accomplished in Athens for the gospel’s sake. The spiritual leaders are in the harvest waiting to be claimed by his missionaries. The results are in God’s hands as He calls us to faithfully share the message. Ask God to give you an opportunity to lead someone to Christ today.

Reading Acts 18:1-17

- Day 4: *“The Lord said to Paul in a night vision, “Don’t be afraid, but keep on speaking and don’t be silent. For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to hurt you, because I have many people in this city.” (Acts 18:9-10).* These are from Jesus, Himself. God provides protection and expects His people to keep speaking. The sin of silence may be the greatest sin of the church. If we do not speak out, we will not know who He has in His city. The church start in Corinth serves as a lesson of spiritual giftedness. Be obedient and courageous knowing the Lord has His people there already...resources in the harvest.

Reading Acts 18:18-28

- Day 5: *“He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. After Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the way of God to him more accurately.” (Acts 18:26).* Aquila and Priscilla took Apollos to their home and shared the gospel with him. He responded becoming a spiritual leader who eventually served in the church at Corinth. Every spiritual leader the church needs is to be found in the harvest fields. This story provides a clear word concerning spiritually gifted leaders. Where will we find the Aquila and Priscillas of today? They opened their hearts and homes to those young men like Apollos who was ready to be enlisted into Lord’s army. As you go about your daily activities, look for those next generation leaders God may be calling.

- Week 10: Spiritual Warfare

Reading Acts 19:1-22

- Day 1: *“The evil spirit answered them, ‘I know Jesus, and I recognize Paul—but who are you?’”* (Acts 19:15) These were the words of a demon speaking to the seven sons of Sceva (a Jewish priest). They had attempted to engage in spiritual warfare without a personal relationship to Jesus Christ. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, the devil will have your lunch. The seven sons of Sceva were shamefully beaten and stripped by the demonic. A question to ponder is: do you put fear into the demons of hell? Do they know your name? Are you fighting the good fight of faith—armed with the spiritual weapons and the full armor of God? Today ask the Lord to equip you for the battle ahead.

Reading Acts 19:23-41

- Day 2: *“In this way the word of the Lord flourished and prevailed.”* (Acts 19:20). A huge bonfire blazed as the new believers burned their occult items. They openly confessed their evil deeds. The repentance, breaking from the old life, was a glorious sight. The great value of the items indicates just how large the church had grown in Ephesus. What caused the word of the Lord to spread widely and grow in power? The people were transformed by the gospel of Jesus and set free from the bondage of Satan. This resulted in a great disturbance in Ephesus. Are you creating disturbances in the battlefield of your ministry? Ask God to use you as a disturber for the gospel’s sake.

Reading Acts 20:1-12

- Day 3: *“After the uproar was over, Paul sent for the disciples, encouraged them, and after saying farewell, departed to go to Macedonia.”* (Acts 20:1). Warriors in spiritual battle need encouragement. Battle fatigue can set in. Be sure to find those encouragers that can help to recharge your supernatural passion. It is critical that we gather with other believers in the midst of the war. Encouragement serves as a wonderful motivator. God has given you the Holy Spirit, His Word and other believers. How has God encouraged you through these sources? Be an encourager. Look for that battle weary warrior today.

Reading Acts 20:13-38

- Day 4: *“But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God’s grace.”* (Acts 20:24b). Paul prepares to head to Rome: he is aware of the prisons and hardships facing him. He is determined to continue the course of taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. Finishing the race is what he did...Paul said to Timothy late in life, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”* (2 Timothy 4:7). Are you determined to take the gospel to all peoples pushing back the spiritual darkness? Ask God to give you the power to finish strong.

Reading Acts 28:17-31

- Day 5: *“proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.”* (Acts 28:31). The chapters recorded from Ephesus to Rome focus on Paul’s court trials traveling to Rome. The ending of Acts is thought by some to be incomplete. However, it is very fitting that the words “boldly and without hindrance” describe how Paul ministered in Rome in the first century. The last verse (31) is open-ended for a reason. Of course, the New Testament canon was closed in the early church. Yet symbolically, new twenty-first century stories of missionary action are still being experienced by His church today—Acts all over again! This kind of God-movement is only possible as the missionary principles of Acts are daily lived out by His people.