

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Introduction:

[Acts](#) is a sequel (*continuation*) to the Gospel of Luke. Luke, a physician who travelled with the apostle Paul, wrote both his Gospel and “Acts”, to a man called Theophilus. Theophilus comes from two Greek words – **theo** meaning “God” and **philein** which means, “to love” – meaning ‘lover of God’. Luke addresses him as “Your Excellency” indicating that he was a highly placed Roman Official and he seemed to be converted to Christianity.

Luke wanted to show how the Church spread from Jerusalem all over Palestine and then to the Gentiles. One of the major themes in the book is the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding and strengthening the church as it spread across the world.

After the Ascension, Jesus left a promise of sending the Holy Spirit who would be their **advocate**, **consoler**, and **guide**, who would lead them into all truth. Whenever the followers of Jesus face opposition, a supernatural breakthrough occurs. In the early chapters of Acts, the apostles are repeatedly arrested, jailed, and beaten, yet the church continues to grow. Stephen is martyred for his witness and the church is scattered; but wherever they go they proclaim the gospel. Herod Agrippa executes the apostle James and Peter is imprisoned awaiting execution. However, an angel releases Peter and Herod dies a gruesome death as judgment from God. The same theme appears throughout Paul’s ministry. He is repeatedly beaten and imprisoned. He suffers stoning, shipwreck, and even snakebite! Yet the gospel advances.

The simple message: the gospel is unstoppable because it is the work of God. “Acts” inspires us to open our hearts to the Spirit and to open our eyes to see how God is acting in our life today. The Holy Spirit guides, strengthens, heals and leads us to be God’s people.

SUMMARY: As we take this trip together through the Book of Acts, we will witness some amazing things happening in the lives of the Apostles and the Christians thereafter.

Acts is a book of history. This book tells of:

- the final instruction of Jesus to the apostles
- His ascension
- the descent of the promised Holy Spirit on the 12 apostles at Pentecost
- the forming of the church in Jerusalem
- other cases of conversion
- the ministry of Philip, Peter, John, and others
- the missionary journeys of Paul
- in general, the history of the early church.



ACTIVITY - This puzzle is called a Cryptogram.

Directions: Each of the letters has a corresponding number. The bottom part contains a secret phrase. Each of the blanks has a number underneath it. Fill in the letters that correspond to the numbers below the blanks to solve the phrase.



Matthew 28:18-20

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
19	17	15	16	5	18	6	4	7	25	8	1	13	12	2	10	21	11	22	24	20	9	26	23	14	3

A L L
 19 1 1 19 20 24 4 2 11 7 24 14 7 12 4 5 19 9 5 12

A N D
 19 12 16 2 12 5 19 11 24 4 4 19 22 17 5 5 12

6 7 9 5 12 24 2 13 5. 6 2 24 4 5 11 5 18 2 11 5

A N D
 19 12 16 13 19 8 5 16 7 22 15 7 10 1 5 22 2 18

12 19 24 7 2 12 22, 17 19 10 24 7 3 7 12 6 24 4 5 13

7 12 24 4 5 12 19 13 5 2 18 24 4 5

A N D
 18 19 24 4 5 11 19 12 16 2 18 24 4 5 22 2 12

A N D
 19 12 16 2 18 24 4 5 4 2 1 14 22 10 7 11 7 24,

A N D
 19 12 16 24 5 19 15 4 7 12 6 24 4 5 13 24 2

2 17 5 14 5 9 5 11 14 24 4 7 12 6 24 4 19 24 7

4 19 9 5 15 2 13 13 19 12 16 5 16 14 2 20. **A N D**
 19 12 16

11 5 13 5 13 17 5 11, 7 19 13 26 7 24 4 14 2 20

19 1 26 19 14 22, 24 2 24 4 5 5 12 16 2 18 24 4 5

19 6 5.