

EVENTS FOLLOWING JESUS' ASCENSION

Acts 1:12 - 26

Before Jesus was taken up into heaven, He had told the disciples that they should not leave Jerusalem, but should wait there until they were baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days later. See now what they did as they waited:

A. General Activities of the Group: Read Acts 1:12-14

1. Where had the disciples evidently been when Jesus ascended? Acts 1:12a and *THINK!*

2. Where did they go after Jesus had ascended? Acts 1:12a

3. To what place did they go there? Acts 1:13a, b _____
4. Who stayed in this place? Acts 1:13c

5. What did these all do in the days which followed? Acts 1:14a

6. Who joined them in these activities? Acts 1:14b, c, d

B. A Specific Suggestion From One Member: Read Acts 1:15-22

1. Who then stood up and addressed the others? Acts 1:15a

2. How many were there in the entire group? Acts 1:15b _____
3. Concerning what Scripture did Peter speak to the group? Acts 1:16b, c

4. What did he say concerning this Scripture? Acts 1:16b

5. List the various facts concerning Judas which Peter reviewed: Acts 1:16d-19
 - a. 16a _____
 - b. 17a _____
 - c. 17b _____
 - d. 18a _____
 - e. 18b-d _____
 - f. 19a _____
 - g. 19b _____
6. In what Bible book are the Scriptures to which Peter referred? Acts 1:20a

7. Compare the quotations in Acts 1:20 with their sources in Psalms 69:25 and 109:8.
8. In view of the fact that Judas was no longer with them, what did Peter feel the group should do? Acts 1:21, 22

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9. From among whom must Judas' successor be chosen? Acts 1:21, 22
- a. From among those who had _____
 - b. Beginning from _____
 - c. Until the day _____
10. What would the one chosen then become? Acts 1:22c
- _____

C. The Response of the Group: Read Acts 1:23-26

1. How many did the group find who seemed to meet the specified qualifications? Acts 1:23a _____ Name them
- _____
2. What did they do before seeking to determine which of these should be chosen? Acts 1:24a _____
3. What did they ask the Lord to show them? Acts 1:24c, 25
- _____
4. Why did they feel the Lord was better able to choose than they themselves were? Acts 1:24b
- _____
5. What method did they then use to determine which one the Lord had chosen? Acts 1:26a _____
6. Who was selected by this means? Acts 1:26b _____
7. What then became true of him? Acts 1:26c
- _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was it God's will that the disciples should choose someone to take Judas' place? Why? Did they use the right methods in deciding who should fill this position?
- _____
2. What important choice am I facing right now? What methods should I use in making this choice? What will happen if I do *not* use these methods? Will I be satisfied with the results of my choice? Will God be pleased? Will He be glorified?
- _____

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Notice that the book of Acts is a continuation of the narrative begun in the book of Luke. It was written by the same writer, Luke, to the same person, Theophilus (Acts 1:1; Luke 1:3b), who was possibly a Roman official, and probably a Christian. While the gospels tell what Jesus *began* to do and teach (Acts 1:1), the book of Acts tells what Jesus *continued* to do and teach--no longer in person--but through the apostles, as they were empowered by the Holy Spirit. Read about these events below:

THE PROMISE AND COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 1 and 2

A. Jesus' Last Command and Promise: Read Acts 1:1-26

1. What one thing had Jesus said He wanted His disciples to do after He returned to heaven? Acts 1:8b

2. In what four places were they supposed to do this? Acts 1:8c

3. For what must they wait before they could begin this work? Acts 1:4, 5

4. What one thing would this give them for their work? Acts 1:8a

5. About how many were in the group waiting for the fulfillment of this promise? Acts 1:15

6. What did they decide to do as they met continually in prayer together? Acts 1:16, 20-22

B. Jesus' Promise Fulfilled: Read Acts 2:1-13, 37-47

1. Where were the disciples when the day of Pentecost (the fiftieth day after the second day of the Passover) was fully come? Acts 2:1

2. What was their heart attitude at this time? Acts 2:1

3. What sound did they suddenly hear? Acts 2:2

4. What sight did they see? Acts 2:3

5. What happened in connection with these outward signs? Acts 2:4a

6. What was one of the first results of the disciples' receiving the Holy Spirit? Acts 2:4b

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7. For what very practical reason was this ability given to them at this time?

Acts 2:5-11a

8. About what did the disciples speak, when they spoke in other languages? Acts 2:11b

9. How did the multitudes (Acts 2:6a) react when they heard the disciples?

a. Acts 2:12

b. Acts 2:13

10. What did Peter begin to do in answer to their words? Acts 2:14

11. About whom did he speak? Acts 2:22

12. Who did he say Jesus was? Acts 2:36

13. How did the people feel when they heard this? Acts 2:37

14. What did Peter tell the people they must do? Acts 2:38

15. How many of the people did this? Acts 2:41

16. What else was done by the apostles in the days which followed? Acts 2:43b

17. What was the result of this? Acts 2:47b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What was the *main* purpose for the Holy Spirit's coming? (See Acts 1:8a)

2. What do I expect the Holy Spirit to enable me to do today?

PETER'S FIRST MIRACLE

Acts 3

We have seen from our previous studies that the main purpose of the Holy Spirit's coming was to give the disciples power in their witness for Christ. The first power He gave them was the ability to speak in other languages, since there were foreigners in Jerusalem just for the feast who could not be reached except in this way. Then He gave to Peter the power to preach about Jesus, so that about 3,000 were saved. Now see what additional power was given to Peter in the following lesson:

A. The Miracle: Read Acts 3:1-8

1. On this particular day where were Peter and John going? Acts 3:1a

2. Why were they going there? Acts 3:1b

3. Whom did they see as they approached this place? What handicap did he have? Acts 3:2a

4. How long had he been that way? Acts 3:2b, 4:22

5. How often did he come there? Acts 3:2c

6. How did he get to the temple? Acts 3:2c

7. What did he spend his life doing? Acts 3:2d

8. When he asked *alms* (charitable gifts) of Peter and John what did Peter tell him? Acts 3:6a

9. Then what did Peter tell him to do? Acts 3:6b

10. What four things was he able to do after this? Acts 3:8

B. The People's Reaction to the Miracle: Read Acts 3:9-11

1. Who saw the man as he came into the temple? Acts 3:9

2. What did they know about him? Acts 3:10a

3. Therefore, how did they feel? Acts 3:10b

4. What did they do? Acts 3:11

5. How did they seem to think that Peter had done this miracle? Acts 3:12b
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C. Peter's Explanation of the Miracle: Acts 3:12-26

1. Since everyone was looking with wonder at Peter, what did Peter begin to do? Acts 3:12a
-
2. How did he say he had done this miracle? Acts 3:13, 16
-
3. What did he tell the people that they had done? Acts 3:14, 15
-
4. Why did Peter say they had done these things? Acts 3:17
-
5. Therefore, what should they now do? Acts 3:19
-
6. What had God said He would do to all those who would not hear Jesus? Acts 3:23
-
7. For what purpose had God sent Jesus unto them? Acts 3:26a
-
8. In what way could Jesus do this? Acts 3:26b
-
9. What happened as a result of this miracle and Peter's second sermon? Acts 4:4
-

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What do I do, when I am faced with opportunities to witness for Jesus? Do I expect His Spirit to work miraculously through me to win others?
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2. What are the results of my witness? Are others being won to Him through me?
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THE FIRST PERSECUTION

Act 4:1 – 31

In the first few chapters of Acts, we have seen something of the tremendous results of the disciples' witnessing, and especially of Peter's two sermons and his miracle. See now an additional result of these things:

A. The Religious Leaders' Reaction to the Miracle: Read Acts 4:1-12

1. As Peter and the other disciples spoke to the people in the temple, who came up to them? Acts 4:1

2. How did they feel about Peter's miracle, and about what he had preached to the people? Acts 4:2

3. Therefore, what did they do to the disciples? Acts 4:3

4. Notice all the people that gathered together to question the disciples the next day (Acts 4:5, 6). This group is called the Sanhedrin, the Supreme Court of the Jews. What was the main question this group asked of Peter and John? Acts 4:7

5. What was Peter's answer to this question? Acts 4:10

6. What happened to Peter before he answered them? Acts 4:8

7. What did he do besides simply answering their question? Acts 4:8-12

B. The Religious Leaders' Decision Concerning the Disciples: Read

Acts 4:13-22

1. What three things did the religious leaders notice about Peter and John as they spoke? Acts 4:13a

2. What did this cause them to do? Acts 4:13b

3. Could they really find anything wrong with what Peter and John had done? Acts 4:14b, 16c

4. What did they have to acknowledge? Acts 4:16b

5. What would they like to have done? Acts 4:16c

6. Since they could not do this, what did they decide to do? Acts 4:17a

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7. Therefore, what did they do to the disciples? Acts 4:17b, 18

8. What was the disciples' answer to this? Acts 4:19, 20

9. What did the leaders then do? Acts 4:21a

10. Why could they not do more to them? Acts 4:21b

C. The Disciples' Reaction to this Decision: Read Acts 4:23-31

1. What did the disciples do as soon as they were released by the Leaders? Acts 4:23

2. What did all the Christians do when they heard what had happened? Acts 4:24-30

3. For what did they especially pray? Acts 4:29b

4. What happened to them all as a result of this prayer? Acts 4:31a

5. What did they all do after this? Acts 4:31b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What is MY reaction when something happens that would curb my witness for Christ?
Do I give up, or do I pray for boldness to continue.

2. Am I counting on the Holy Spirit's power to supply my every need for witnessing?

THE LIFE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Acts 4:32 - 5:11

We have noticed how the early church grew from the 120 who gathered in Jerusalem before Pentecost, with the addition of the 3,000 who were saved on that day, others who were saved daily after that (Acts 2:47), and the 5,000 who were saved after the healing of the lame man and Peter's second sermon. Now see something of how these believers lived in the early days:

A. The Life of the Believers: Read Acts 4:32

1. How many were now believers in Jesus? Acts 4:32a

2. How did all these people feel toward each other? Acts 4:32b

3. How did they feel about the things which they possessed? Acts 4:32c

B. The Life of the Apostles: Read Acts 4:33-35

1. What did the apostles spend their time doing? Acts 4:33

2. Did they run out of money because they did this? Acts 4:34a

3. Why was this true? Acts 4:34b, 35

C. The Life of Barnabas: Read Acts 4:36, 37

1. What was Barnabas' original name? Acts 4:36a

2. What did the name "Barnabas", which was given to him by the apostles, mean? Acts 4:36b

3. What did he do that caused everyone to take notice of him? Acts 4:37

D. The Life of Ananias and Sapphira: Read Acts 5:1-11

1. In what way were Ananias and Sapphira like Barnabas? Acts 5:1

2. What did they do with the money which they received from this sale?
 - a. Acts 5:2a _____
 - b. Acts 5:2b _____
3. What sin did they commit in doing this? Find one word in Acts 5:3 which tells you.

4. Who did Peter say had caused Ananias to do this? Acts 5:3a

5. Where did this sin begin? Acts 5:3a, 4c

6. To whom did Peter say Ananias had really lied? Acts 5:4d, 3b

7. As soon as Ananias heard Peter's words, what happened to him?
Acts 5:5a, 6

8. What happened about three hours later? Acts 5:7a, c

9. Did she know what had taken place concerning her husband? Acts 5:7b

10. What did she say when Peter asked her if they had sold the land for the amount her
husband had mentioned? Acts 5:8

11. What sin did Peter say she had committed? Acts 5:9a

12. Therefore, what did he say would happen to her? Acts 5:9b

13. Did this prophecy come to pass? Acts 5:10

14. What effect did this event have upon the church, as well as upon others who heard of it?
Acts 5:5b, 11

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What might have happened in the early church if God had not punished Ananias and
Sapphira so severely, but had allowed their sin to remain in the church?

2. Can I ever be an effective witness for the Lord as long as there is sin in my life?

THE SECOND PERSECUTION

Acts 5:12 - 42

As a result of God's severe punishment of Ananias' and Sapphira's sin, the entire church was made to fear, and thus kept pure from weakening due to sin at the very beginning. Now see what happened following this event:

A. The Activities of the Church: Read Acts 5:12-16

1. Where did the apostles make their headquarters? Acts 5:12b

2. What unusual things did they do? Acts 5:12a, 15, 16

3. How did the people feel about the apostles? Acts 5:13b

4. What was the great result of their witness? Acts 5:14

B. The Reaction of the Leaders: Read Acts 5:17-26

1. How did the religious leaders feel about the activities of the church?

Acts 5:17

2. What did they do to the apostles? Acts 5:18

3. But what happened after this? Acts 5:19

4. What did he tell the apostles to do? Acts 5:20

5. What did the leaders do the next morning? Acts 5:21b

6. What did the officers discover when they went to bring the apostles to trial? Acts 5:22,

23

7. As they were wondering about this, what report came to them? Acts 5:24, 25

8. As the officers went to recapture their prisoners, how did they feel?

Acts 5:26

C. The Questioning of the Apostles: Read Acts 5:27-42

1. When the apostles were brought before the Sanhedrin, what did the high priest ask them? Act 5:28a

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2. What did Peter and the other apostles answer? Acts 5:29

3. What did Peter do besides answering their question? Acts 5:30-32

4. How were the leaders affected by this? Acts 5:33a

5. What did they plan to do? Acts 5:33b

6. Who objected to this plan? Acts 5:34

7. What did he warn them to do about the apostles? Acts 5:35, 38a

8. What did he say would eventually happen to their work if it were of men? Acts 5:38b

9. On the other hand, what if their work were of God? Acts 5:39

10. How did the leaders feel about Gamaliel's advice? Acts 5:40a

11. What three things did they therefore do to the apostles? Acts 5:40b

12. How did the apostles feel after this treatment? Acts 5:41

13. What was their daily occupation after this? Acts 5:42

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Could anything the leaders did or said stop the apostles from witnessing?

2. As I depend on God, should anything ever stop me from witnessing for my Lord?

THE THIRD PERSECUTION

Acts 6 - 7

In the past chapters of Acts it has been almost amusing to notice the absolute futility of the religious leaders' efforts to keep the apostles from witnessing for their Lord. Notice the next developments in the story:

A. The Problem in the Church: Read Acts 6:1-7

1. As the number of disciples increased, why did the Grecian believers complain against the Hebrew believers? Acts 6:1

2. What did the twelve feel that they should *not* do to solve this problem?
Acts 6:2

3. Who did they say should be appointed to take charge of such matters?
Acts 6:3

4. What would the twelve then do? Acts 6:4

5. How did the believers feel about this solution? Acts 6:5

6. Notice in Acts 6:5 the names of those whom they chose, who are commonly called the first deacons of the church. Which one is discussed in Acts 6 and 7?

7. Which one is discussed in Acts 8?

B. The Opposition to Stephen: Read Acts 6:8-15

1. What phrases are used to describe Stephen in Acts 6:5a and 8a?

2. For what works did he become well-known in Jerusalem? Acts 6:8b

3. What did some of the Jews then begin to do? Acts 6:9b

4. What was the outcome of this clash? Acts 6:10

5. Therefore, what two things did they do?

a. Acts 6:12 _____

b. Acts 6:13, 11 _____

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6. What did the Sanhedrin notice about Stephen even before he began to answer the charges against himself? Acts 6:15
-

C. The Answers of Stephen: Read Acts 7:1-53

1. When the high priest asked Stephen if these charges were true, what did Stephen do besides answer them? Acts 7:2-50
-
2. What counter-charge did Stephen make against his accusers? Acts 7:51
-
3. How did he say they were like their fathers? Acts 7:52
-

D. The Reaction to Stephen's Answer: Read Acts 7:54-60

1. How did Stephen's words affect his accusers? Acts 7:54a
-
2. What did they do to him after this?
- a. Acts 7:54b _____
 - b. Acts 7:57 _____
 - c. Acts 7:58 _____
3. What did Stephen say as he was enduring this persecution?
- a. Acts 7:56 _____
 - b. Acts 7:59 _____
 - c. Acts 7:60 _____
4. Of whom do his last words remind you?
-

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Could Stephen have done anything other than he did, and still be true to his Lord?
-
2. Am I willing to be faithful to my Lord, even at the cost of my life? (See Revelation 2:10)
-

THE FOURTH PERSECUTION

Acts 8

We have noticed in previous lessons: (1) the many different powers the Apostles received from the Holy Spirit as they needed them in their witness for Christ; (2) the two great reactions to their witness, as many believed and were saved, while others refused to believe and persecuted the Christians; and (3) the growing severity of this persecution until one of the Christians was actually *martyred* (put to death for his belief in Christ). Now see what happened following Stephen's death:

A. The Effects of the Persecution: Read Acts 8:1-4

1. Against whom was this persecution aimed? Acts 8:1a

2. What happened as a result of this persecution? Acts 8:1b

3. To what places did they go? Acts 8:1c

4. What did the Christians do everywhere they went? Acts 8:4

5. Who stayed in Jerusalem throughout the persecution? Acts 8:1d

B. An Example of this Effect: Read Acts 8:5-25

1. Where did Philip go as a result of this persecution? Acts 8:5a

2. What did he do there? Acts 8:5b

3. How did the people receive his witness there? Acts 8:6a

4. What was one of the main things which caused them to do this? Acts 8:6b, 7

5. What was the result of his witness to that city? Acts 8:8

6. Who was one of the outstanding men converted through Philip's witness? Acts 8:9-13

7. Who came up from Jerusalem to help Philip in his work? Acts 8:14

8. How much of Samaria heard the gospel as a result of their witness?
Acts 8:25

C. A New Mission For Philip: Read Acts 8:26-40

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1. While Philip was in the midst of the great revival in Samaria, who spoke a message to him? Acts 8:26a

2. Where was he told to go? Acts 8:26b

3. What did he do when he received this message? Acts 8:27a

4. Whom did he meet there as a result? Acts 8:27b

5. Where had this man been? Acts 8:27c

6. What was he doing now as he returned home? Acts 8:28

7. Who then spoke to Philip? Acts 8:29a

8. What did He tell Philip to do? Acts 8:29b

9. When Philip obeyed, what did the man ask him to do? Acts 8:31b

10. What did Philip do as they rode along? Acts 8:35

11. What did the man ask when they reached some water? Acts 8:36

12. On what condition did Philip say that he might do this? Acts 8:37a

13. What then happened to Philip as soon as he had done this? Acts 8:39a, 40

14. What did the man do after this? Acts 8:39b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. In what ways did God guide His servants in their witnessing for Him?

2. Am I careful to obey the Spirit's leading through circumstances, and through His own voice to my heart? (See Isaiah 30:21)

INTRODUCTION TO SAUL'S LIFE

Acts 9:1 - 31

The martyrdom of Stephen and the persecution which followed brought about the fulfillment of the second part of Jesus' prediction in Acts 1:8, that His disciples would be witnesses for Him in all Judea and in Samaria. Now see what followed this:

A. Early Glimpses of Saul: Read Acts 7:54-8:3, 9:1, 2

1. What was Saul doing when he is first mentioned in the Bible?
 - a. Acts 7:58b _____
 - b. Acts 8:1a _____
2. What did Saul begin to do immediately after this? Acts 8:3

3. What was Saul still doing even after many of the Christians had been imprisoned and scattered to other places? Acts 9:1a

4. Because of this attitude, where did he plan to go? Acts 9:2a

5. Locate this place on a map. What did he have permission to do there?
Acts 9:2a

B. Saul's Experience on His Trip to Damascus: Read Acts 9:3-19

1. As Saul journeyed, what sight did he see? Acts 9:3

2. As he fell to the earth, what sound did he hear? Acts 9:4

3. Did he know immediately who was speaking to him? Acts 9:5a

4. How do you think he felt when he heard that it was Jesus who was speaking to him?
Acts 9:4

5. What did he say? (See Acts 22: 10)

7. Do you think Saul was really willing to do what Jesus wanted him to do?
Acts 9:6c, 8b

8. What effect did this experience have on Saul? Acts 9:8, 9

9. Who was told to go and help Saul? Acts 9:10-12

9. What two things did he do for Saul? Acts 9:17b

C. The Results of Saul's Experience: Read Acts 9:20-31

1. What was the immediate result of this experience in Saul's own life?
Acts 9:20

2. What effect did this have upon those in Damascus who heard him? Acts 9:21

3. Where did Saul go after his conversion? (See Galatians 1:15-17)

4. What did the Jews of Damascus do, probably after his return from this place? Acts 9:22-25

5. Notice the effect Saul's conversion had on the disciples at Jerusalem. How did they feel when after three years (See Galatians 1:18) he tried to join them? Acts 9:26

6. Who caused them to accept Saul as a believer? Acts 9:27

7. What happened after Saul boldly preached in Jesus' name in Jerusalem? Acts 9:29 (See Acts 22:17-21)

8. Where did the disciples send Saul after this? Acts 9:30

9. What was the result in all the churches now that Saul was saved? Acts 9:31

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. After Saul's conversion, was he *at all* like he had been before?

2. Has there ever been such an absolute change in *my* life? (See 2 Corinthians 5:17, 18a)

PETER' JOURNEY TO LYDDA, JOPPA AND CAESAREA

Acts 9:32 - 11:18

After their chief persecutor had been saved, the Christians continued their task of witnessing for their Lord with new vigor. Read the following to see what Peter did:

A. Peter's Visit to Lydda and Joppa: Read Acts 9:32-43

1. Locate these cities on a map. What unusual thing did Peter do?
 - a. in Lydda? Acts 9:33, 34 _____
 - b. in Joppa? Acts 9:36-41 _____
2. What happened as a result of these miracles? Acts 9:35, 42

3. With whom did Peter stay for many days in Joppa? Acts 9:43

B. Unusual Events in Caesarea: Read Acts 10:1-8

1. What important man lived in Caesarea? Acts 10:1

2. Notice what we know about his religious life in Acts 10:2.

3. What unusual thing happened one day as he was praying? Acts 10:3-6, 30-32

4. Although Cornelius was very religious, what message was Peter to bring to him? Acts 10:6b, 11:14

5. Why didn't the angel himself give this message to Cornelius? (*THINK!*)

C. Unusual Events at Joppa: Read Acts 10:9-22

1. As Cornelius' messengers neared Joppa, what was Peter doing? Acts 10:9

2. After he became very hungry, what kind of animals did he see in a vision? Acts 10:10-12

3. What did a voice tell him to do? Acts 10:13

4. Why did Peter not want to do this? Acts 10:14 (See also Leviticus 11:3, 4, 13, 20, 23, 46, 47)

5. But what was he told? Acts 10:15

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6. Did Peter know at first what this vision meant? Acts 10:17a

7. What did God tell Peter when Cornelius' messengers arrived? Acts 10:20

8. Then what did Peter realize his vision meant? Acts 10:28

D. Peter's Visit to Caesarea: Read Acts 10:23-48

1. When Peter and the Christians from Joppa arrived in Caesarea, what did they find? Acts 10:24b, 27

2. After Cornelius had explained the purpose for this gathering, about whom did Peter preach to them? Acts 10:36-42

3. What was the climax of his message? Acts 10:43

4. What happened even while Peter was preaching this simple message to them? Acts 10:44

5. Why did this surprise the Jews who were there? Acts 10:45

E. Peter's Explanation of This Event: Read Acts 11:1-18

1. What did the Jews in Jerusalem do when they heard of what Peter had done? Acts 11:2

2. But what did they decide after Peter explained to them why he had done it? Acts 11:18

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is God's message of salvation for all peoples of the earth today?

2. Am I willing to take this message even to those who are looked down upon and despised by others? Or must I minister only to "respectable" people? (See Acts 10:34)

THE FIFTH PERSECUTION

Acts 12:1 - 24

Not too long after Peter returned to Jerusalem with the astounding news that God had led him to preach the gospel to the Gentiles, another period of persecution against the church began. See now who started this persecution, and against whom it was especially directed:

A. The Persecution: Read Acts 12:1-4

1. Who was the leader of this persecution? Acts 12:1

(This Herod was the son of Herod Antipas who had killed John the Baptist and mocked Christ; and the grandson of Herod the Great, who had killed the children of Bethlehem in an effort to kill Christ.)

2. What did he do first? Acts 12:2

3. What effect did this have on the Jews? Acts 12:3a

4. Therefore, what did he do next? Acts 12:3b, 4a

5. By how many *quaternions* (sets of four) of soldiers was Peter guarded until he could be brought to trial after Easter (really, the Passover)? Acts 12:4

B. The Church's Response to the Persecution: Read Acts 12:5

1. What did the church do while Peter was in prison? Acts 12:5a

2. How did they do this? Acts 12:5b

C. God's Response to the Church: Read Acts 12:6-11

1. What was Peter doing the night before his trial and probable execution? Acts 12:6a

2. By whom was he guarded? Acts 12:6b

3. What suddenly happened? Acts 12:7a

4. What three things was Peter told to do? Acts 12:7b, 8a, 8b

5. What did Peter think was happening? Acts 12:9

6. What four barriers did Peter leave behind as he went? Acts 12:7b, 6b, 10a,

7. What did Peter realize after this? Acts 12:11

D. The Church's Response to God's Answer: Read Acts 12:12-17

1. Where did Peter go after this? Acts 12:12a

2. What were many of the Christians doing there? Acts 12:12b

3. What did they say when they were told that Peter was at the gate? Acts 12:15a, 15b

4. How did they feel when they saw him for themselves? Acts 12:16

5. What did Peter do after telling them what had happened? Acts 12:17b

E. The Results of This Persecution: Read Acts 12:18-24

1. What did Herod do when he could not find Peter the next day?
Acts 12:18, 19

2. What happened to Herod shortly after this? Acts 12:21-23

3. What happened to the Christians and their work? Acts 12:24

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Have I ever prayed so earnestly and continuously that God worked a miracle in response to my prayer?

2. What humanly impossible situation is facing me right now, for which God would have me earnestly and continuously seek His face? (See James 5:16b)

THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH

Acts 11:19 - 30, 12:25 - 13:4

In the first great division of the book of Acts, *chapters 1-12*, the main character was Peter, and he ministered mainly to the *Jews* in the city of *Jerusalem*. But in chapter 13, the second main division begins, and all this is changed. In the following lessons, seek to discover why, and to learn the new main character, city, and people reached:

A. The Founding of the Church at Antioch: Read Acts 11:19-21

1. To what three places did some of those who were scattered because of the persecution connected with Stephen's death go? Acts 11:19a

2. Locate these places on a map. To whom did they preach? Acts 11:19b

3. What happened when some of them preached to the *Grecians* (or *Hellenists*, who were Grecian Jews) in Antioch? Acts 11:21

B. Early Leaders of the Church at Antioch: Read Acts 11:22-30, 12:1, 25

1. When news of this reached Jerusalem, whom did the church there send to Antioch? Acts 11:22 (See also 9:26, 27, 4:36, 37)

2. How did he feel when he saw what had happened? Acts 11:23a

3. What did he teach them? Acts 11:23b

4. What happened as a result of his ministry there? Acts 11:24b

5. Where did he then go, and why? Acts 11:25

6. Trace this journey on a map. What did Barnabas and Saul do when they returned to Antioch? Acts 11:26a

7. Had Saul had any previous experience in Christian service? Acts 9:20-30

8. What new name was given to the disciples in Antioch? Acts 11:26b

9. When the prophet Agabus, from Jerusalem, prophesied that there would be a great famine throughout all the world of their day, what did the church at Antioch decide to do? Acts 11:29

10. By whom did they send these gifts to Jerusalem? Acts 11:30

11. What happened about the time they arrived there? Acts 12:1

12. When Barnabas and Saul returned to Antioch after this event, whom did they take with them? Acts 12:25, 12

C. God's Message to the Church at Antioch: Read Acts 13:1-4

1. After their return to Antioch, what were Barnabas and Saul and the other leaders of the church doing? Acts 13:2a

2. What message came to them as they did this? Acts 13:2b

3. What did the church do as a result? Acts 13:3b

4. But what did they do first? Acts 13:3a

5. Who was it that really sent Barnabas and Saul out as missionaries? Acts 13:4a

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was Barnabas' and Saul's call to be missionaries the first step in their service for the Lord?

2. If I would be called of the Lord for great tasks in the future, what must I begin doing right now? (See 1 Corinthians 4:2; Luke 16:10, 12)
