

Reformed University Fellowship

How to Study the Bible Conference

Session 1: Introduction and Overview of Acts 1-12

- I. Introduction.
 - A. Questions.
 - 1. How much do you value the Bible?
 - 2. How convinced are you that God helps us everyday?
 - B. Psalm 1.
 - 1. Is the Word of God your delight?
 - 2. Do you meditate on it day and night?
 - 3. The contrast shows that those who do not love the scriptures are like chaff: unfruitful, fit to be blown away or burned.
 - 4. This Psalm continually challenges me.
 - C. Psalm 119:49-56.
 - 1. Is scripture your comfort? (v. 50) Does it revive you and give you new strength?
 - 2. Do you strongly adhere to scripture? (v. 51)
 - 3. Are you indignant about those who forsake scripture? (v. 53)
 - 4. Is scripture your song? (v. 54)
 - 5. Do you remember scripture in the night? (v. 55)
 - 6. Let's pray that God would change us, and conform us to be like this.
(Lead group in prayer.)
- II. Acts: Observations.
 - A. As we are busy doing the work of the kingdom of God and engaging in spiritual warfare, we expect the church to grow. The book of Acts gives us an exciting picture of the growing church. Here we will see principles which we can apply to our lives as Christian students.
 - B. Initial Impressions. Everyone get out your pre-course assignments. Initially, what impressions did you have of the book of Acts?
(Record on overhead.)
 - C. What repeated or prominent words or ideas did you observe?
(Record on overhead.)
 - Be sure they mention:
 - Holy Spirit Power
 - Witness Signs and Wonders
 - Unity Growing/Increasing
 - Prayer
- III. Major Sections.
 - A. Have two or three volunteers (or conscripts) write their outlines of Acts 1-12 on the blackboard. Affirm their efforts and comment on the good points. Address errors only if they are serious.
 - B. State that our purpose is to **begin** to understand Acts. We will not try to agree on an outline now, however there clearly would be one best outline if we had enough time to study it.

- C. Show **your** outline on the overhead projector.
 - 1. 1:1-26 Preparation.
 - 2. 2:1-6:7 Growth in Jerusalem.
 - 3. 6:8-9:31 Growth in Samaria and Ethiopia.
 - 4. 9:32-12:24 Gentiles included.
 - D. Point out that preparation ends and growth begins with the coming of the promised Holy Spirit at Pentecost in chapter. 2:1-4.
 - E. Draw attention to the summary phrases “the Word of God spread”, and “the numbers increased”.
 - 1. 6:7 Conclusion of the section on Jerusalem.
 - 2. 9:31 Samaria.
 - 3. 12:24 Gentiles.
 - F. At the end of this section, we are left with the impression that this growth in the church is still flourishing. The story merely shifts to focus on a different area where the gospel begins to spread.
- IV. Main Theme.
- A. Ask for several people to share (audibly, not on the blackboard) their main theme of Acts 1-12. Remind them that it is really premature to pick a main theme without studying the whole passage; this is just an initial attempt. Comment briefly and affirmatively on their suggestions.
 - B. Share your main theme (use overhead). “The Lord causes the church to grow”. Comment briefly.
- V. Applications.
- A. Ask for several applications we might make from Acts 1-12. Comment briefly and share yours.
 - B. Basic Applications.
 - 1. Expect God to act with power.
 - 2. Expect (seek) growth in the church.
 - 3. Seek first God's Kingdom, not personal pleasures.
 - C. Share two or three concrete ways an individual or group would incorporate these applications into his life.
 - D. Be open to God this weekend. Our hope is that His word will transform our lives, even this weekend at this training conference.
- VI. Prayer.
- A. Have each small group respond to the study of Acts 1-12 by praying.
 - B. The small group leader should close by 8:35.

Reference Verses

	<i>Chapter 1</i>	<i>Chapter 2</i>	<i>Chapter 3</i>	<i>Chapter 4</i>	<i>Chapter 5</i>	<i>Chapter 6</i>	<i>Other</i>
Holy Spirit	2, 5, 8	4, 18, 33, 38, 42-47		8	3, 9	3, 10	8:15-20
Witnesses	8	32	15	33	20, 42		
Unity	14	1, 14	4	32-35	12		
Prayer	14, 24	42	1	23-32		4, 6	
Power	8		12	7, 33		8	
Wonders and Signs		19, 22		16, 22, 30	12	8	
Scripture		all		all			
Growing/ Increasing		41			14, 42	7	9:31, 12:24