



ACTS

book overview

Author and Date

Acts is a sequel to the Gospel of Luke. Both were written by Luke, a physician who traveled with the apostle Paul. Acts ends with Paul under house arrest, awaiting trial before Caesar, c. A.D. 62. Many scholars assume Acts was written then because it does not record Paul's defense, release, and further gospel preaching.

Theme

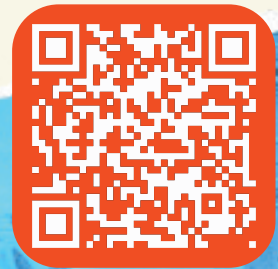
The Holy Spirit empowers believers to declare the gospel among all people groups. In doing so, they establish the church. The church is the fulfillment of God's promises from the beginning of time.

Purpose

Luke's purpose for writing his Gospel (see Luke 1:3–4) applies to Acts as well: to give an "orderly" account of the early church after Christ's resurrection. Dedicating the two-volume work to Theophilus, Luke wanted him to have "certainty" about what he had been taught.

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Interested in diving even deeper than the 4 questions included with the reading plan? Try one of these Bible reading methods!

The SOAP Method

The **SOAP Method** is a proven and effective approach to Bible study built on four practices:

- **SCRIPTURE:** Read through the chapter or passage that you want to study. Read it over several times, and see if something new stands out to you each time. Write out 1-2 specific verses by hand in a journal.
- **OBSERVATION:** Take a moment to ask questions of the text (who, what, where, when, how). What does this passage tell you about God? What does it tell you about yourself? Write your thoughts down.
- **APPLICATION:** Consider how you should respond to what you've read. How can you apply this passage to your life? What needs to change in light of this passage?
- **PRAYER:** Respond to what God is saying to you through prayer. Thank God for what He's shown you, ask Him to help you hold what you've learned in your heart. Journaling your prayers can be a great way to stay focused on God.

The TEXT Method

The **TEXT Method** is an accessible and community based Bible study approach using four steps:

- Talk to God in prayer before you read.
- Encounter God and humanity in Scripture as you reflect on two simple questions: *What does this passage say about God? What does it say about humanity?*
- **eXamine** your heart, considering what needs to be confessed, added, taken away, or maintained as a follower of Jesus.
- Talk to God and others, thanking God for what he has shown you in Scripture, and sharing what he's shown you with someone else.

