

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

The book of *Acts* gives the account of God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

APPLYING GOD’S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Admit Your Need! Acknowledge all the ways you need Christ.

Use the Gifts Christ Has Given You! He enabled the lame man to walk. What has He enabled you to do? Use it to God’s glory!

Praise the Lord! Recount the blessings He has showered on you.

Daniel—Series Overview

Holy Living in a Hostile World

The book of *Daniel* was written to console and motivate God’s people during desperate times. It shows us how to live faithfully in the midst of a faithless world. It is a book-long treatment of Christ’s command to be in the world but not of it (John 15:17). But the book of Daniel is far more than a “how-to” manual. It sets in context the whole flow of history. It shows that all of history is *His story*—the story of God’s redeeming work for His people. From the horrific discipline of the exile to the horrors of the cross, God is sovereignly directing all human history for the redemption of His saints.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren

March 1st, 2020

Morning Service:

Acts 3: 1 – 10

Walking and Leaping and Praising God

1. On the Outside Looking In (1-3).
2. Lame Man Was Transformed and Brought In by Christ (4-7).
3. His Transformation Led to Praising God (8-10).

We are given this account of a man healed, transformed, and praising God so that we might see the wonder of Jesus. He is still powerfully working through His Spirit in His people. He is still bringing outsiders into His Kingdom through us. Join in singing His praises! Delight in the God who is not far off, but draws us near!

Evening Service:

Daniel 2: 1 – 16

The Revealer of Mysteries

1. The True God Is Knowable.
2. God Makes Himself Known Through His People.
3. All His Self-Revelation Culminates in Jesus.

God is knowable. If you don’t already know Him, you can know Him right now. If you already know Him, but struggle like I do, this same Jesus still calls us to see His light and walk in it.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Crippled. Left out. Pitied. His whole life defined by disability when there were no accommodations, only mockery. And then an encounter with Jesus through His followers changed everything. Transformed. Made New. Welcomed in. And a chorus of praise for God erupted.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ.

Sunday AM

READ **Acts 3:1-10; First Peter 1:3-9**. DISCUSS, How does this man's healing demonstrate Christ's mercy? How is Christ faithful to His promise to the Church? What did his resurrection, ascension, and pouring out the Spirit accomplish? PRAY for God to bring us renewal as individuals, as families, as a congregation. Ask the Lord to renew us.

Sunday PM

READ **Daniel 2:1-16; Hebrews 1:1-4**. How has God revealed Himself? PRAISE God for making Himself known to us.

Monday

READ **Acts 3:1-3; Leviticus 21:18-24**. DISCUSS, Why were the lame kept out? Why does that seem off to us? Is God uncaring? How are you following His commands? PRAY for your neighbors, peers, friends, & family asking God to show them His power in Christ.

Tuesday

READ **Acts 3:4-7; Second Corinthians 5:17-21**. DISCUSS, How was the lame man transformed in Christ? How are we? MEDITATE on Christ's goodness in transforming us. REJOICE if you enjoy newness in Christ. PRAY, "Lord, thank You for making us new and drawing us into Your presence through Your sacrifice."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 3:8-10; Romans 15:8-13; Hebrews 13:12-16**. DISCUSS, Why should we praise God? What are the ways you praise God? TELL others of Christ's goodness in your life. REJOICE in Christ's sacrifice for you. PRAY, "Lord, You have given us life, brought us near, and made us Your own. We praise You!"

Thursday

READ **Acts 3:1-10; Hebrews 13:12-16**. DISCUSS, How do you (we) acknowledge Jesus' name? What does it look like in your life to walk, leap, and praise God? REJOICE in the salvation that Jesus provided us. PRAY, "Lord, enable us to praise You and follow Your Holy Spirit's leading as we await Your return."

Friday

READ **Acts 3:1-10**. How has God been teaching you from this passage this week? REJOICE for Christ has not left us outside, but brought us near to Him! PRAY for our neighbors to know God and themselves as they truly are and so run to Christ.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ **Acts 3:1-21**. Invite others to come with you to worship tomorrow. Pray for God's glory to be shown through us as we extend His grace and celebrate it together.

First Peter 1: 3 – 9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to **result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ**. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.