



ACTS 9-28

Term 3 2018

Narrabeen
ST. FAITH'S *Anglican Church*

ACTS

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INTRODUCTION

Unstoppable – Part 2

Welcome to the second half of our study series in Acts. Here we look at Acts chapters 9 - 28, in ten studies. We particularly follow the MISSION of the Lord Jesus, as it is carried forward by the Apostle Paul.

We do not have time to look at all the chapters of Acts in detail, so our studies will focus on selected passages. To get the bigger picture, it will help to do two things as you prepare each week.

First, read any sections that we “skip”, between studies so you get the “full story”.

Second, find a good map of the Mediterranean region so that you can follow the journeys of Paul and also the Apostle Peter. This will help you to understand better what our Lord Jesus Christ accomplished through these faithful servants of his.

May God both comfort and challenge us by His Holy Spirit as we see that same Spirit’s work through his gospel in Acts.

Kerry Nagel

June 2018

STUDY ONE: Power to Change

Acts 9:1-31

1/ Getting Started

- a) Do you know anyone who you think would never become a Christian? (Or is very unlikely to do so) Why do you feel that way? Discuss.

2/ Turning to the Bible

- a) Read Acts 7:54 – 8:3 and 9:1-2. How would you describe Saul? Why?

- b) Read Acts 9:3-9 What does Jesus accuse Saul of? Why?

- c) Read Acts 9:10-19. Why is Ananias concerned about instructions Jesus gives him?

- d) What job does the Lord Jesus have for Saul?

- e) Read Acts 9:20-31. How would you describe Saul now?

- f) Why were the Christians in Damascus and Jerusalem afraid of Saul? What do they struggle to believe?

4/ Getting Personal

- a) What does Paul's conversion show us about the extent of Jesus' forgiveness and mercy? Discuss.

- b) What does Paul's conversion teach us about the power of Christ to change people? (see 1Timothy 1:12-17 for Paul (Saul's) own testimony).

- c) Review your answer to question 1 above.

Praying for People who do not know Christ yet

Group member	Praying for...
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PRAYER POINTS

Include people who do not know Christ yet

STUDY TWO: God's Bigger Plan

Acts 10:1-48

1/ Getting started

- a) Have you ever seen someone else "show favoritism" to another person? (Because of their racial background, age, sex etc. etc.) How did you feel? Why?

2/ Turning to the Bible

- a) Read Acts 10:1-23. Cornelius a Gentile, not a member of God's chosen people, Israel. How would you describe his relationship to God?.

- b) What do you think is the point of Peter's vision in verses 9-16?

- c) Read Acts 10:24-33. What does Peter realise about God's ways? Why?

- d) What does Peter do as a result of what he has learnt?

- e) Read Acts 10:34-48. What unexpected thing happened as Peter was proclaiming the gospel?

- f) What did this prove to Peter? (See also Acts 11:15-18) Why?

3/ Getting personal

- a) Do you think you have "received the Holy Spirit"? Why or why not? Discuss.

- b) What is the significance of Peter's statement in verse 34, for us? Discuss.

PRAYER POINTS

Include people who do not know Christ yet

1/ Getting started

a) Have you ever been surprised when your expectations were not met? How did you feel? Discuss.

b) Expectations. As we have seen, most of the early followers of Jesus were Jews. And, they had been taught that to be saved, a Gentile (the word for those not of the Jewish race) had to "become" a Jew first. (See Acts 15:1, for example) And so the early Christian preachers expected that God would only save Jews. (see Acts 11:19)

However, God had shown Peter and then the Apostle Paul, that he intended to save Gentiles as well. In Acts chapters 13 and 14 we trace the first "Missionary Journey" of Paul, into "Gentile Nations".

2/ Turning to the Bible

a) Read Acts 13:1-3 and 14:26-28. What are the key points in Luke's summary of the Mission by Barnabas and Saul (Paul)?

b) What had God shown Paul and Barnabas through this?

- c) Find the places mentioned in the following verses on a map of the Mediterranean Region of the time.
- i) 13:4-5
 - ii) 13:13-14
 - iii) 14:1
 - iv) 14:8
 - v) 14:21, 24-25
 - vi) 14:26
- d) Why do you think Paul and Barnabas travelled as they did?

3/ A Sample of the Mission

- a) Read Acts 14:8-13. What does God do through Paul that gains attention?
- b) How do people respond to Paul's action?
- c) How does Paul correct their misunderstanding?

- d) What do the unbelieving Jews do and why?

- e) In what way does this fulfil Jesus' words to Paul in Acts 9:15-16?

- f) Read Acts 14:21-28. What does Paul warn the believers to expect? Why, do you think?

4/ Getting personal

- a) What surprises you about the events described in these chapters? Why? Discuss.

- b) What can we learn about God's purposes in our time, from these chapters?

PRAYER POINTS

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STUDY FOUR: Grace Applied

Acts 15:1-35

1/ Getting Started

- a) "Culturally Insensitive"- have you ever seen people offended by the actions of those from another culture? (e.g. offering pork to a Jewish person) How did you feel?

2/ Turning to the Bible

- a) Read Acts 15:1-5. What teaching caused a problem for Paul and Barnabas?

- b) Where do they go? Why, do you think?

- c) Read Acts 15:6-21. What do Peter and James say about the need for Gentiles to be circumcised? Why do they say this?

- d) Read Acts 15:22-35. What do the Apostles and other Christian leaders in Jerusalem ask the Gentile believers to do, or not do?

- e) Why do you think they ask this?

3/ Getting personal

- a) How are we called on to defend the principle Paul states in verse 11? Discuss.

- b) When do we need to adjust our behaviour, to be sensitive to other's feelings? Why? Discuss.

PRAYER POINTS

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STUDY FIVE: Road Trip

Acts 15:36 – 17:15

1/ Getting Started

- a) When you go on a trip with others, what sort of travelling companions do you want? Why?

- b) In this story we look at Paul's "Second Missionary Journey". He takes Silas and Timothy with him (15:40, 16:1-4). How do you think Silas and Timothy felt about travelling with Paul? Why?

2/ Turning to the Bible

- a) Read Acts 16:6-15. Where does Paul go, and why?

- b) Read Acts 16:16-24. Who gets put into prison? Why?

c) Read Acts 16:25-40. Why does the jailor ask the question he does in verse 30?

d) Who is "saved" and how?

3/ Getting personal

a) Summarize the things God does to further his mission in Philippi.

b) What might this teach us to expect from God today? Discuss.

PRAYER POINTS

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STUDY SIX: The Latest Thing

Acts 17:16-34

1/ Getting started

- a) In pairs, share what you think is “trending” on social media, or in the news etc, that has got people talking. Why is this of interest to people do you think?

2/ Turning to the Bible

- a) Read Acts 17:16-21. Why is Paul invited to speak to the meeting of the Areopagus? Discuss.

- b) Read Acts 17:22-31. (Note: a sign with this “address” printed on it stands on the Areopagus Hill in Athens today – in Greek of course!). List the key points Paul makes in his talk.
 - i)

 - ii)

 - iii)

 - iv)

 - v)

- c) Which of these “surprises” you? Why?

- d) What point stands out to you?

- e) Do any of Paul’s points puzzle or confuse you? Why?

- f) Read Acts 17:32-34. Describe the responses to Paul’s address. Why do you think people responded as they did?

3/ Getting personal

a) Share your own response, personally, to what Paul had to say.

b) How might the contents of Paul's address help us - as a model - today? (if at all). Why? Discuss.

4/ For next week

Ask a group member to do some research on the worship of "Artemis". (Acts 19:27). Be ready to report for the next study.

PRAYER POINTS

Include people who do not know Christ yet

c) Read Acts 19:28-34. Why is the crowd in the amphitheatre at Ephesus in an uproar?

d) Read Acts 19:35-41. How does the town clerk “defuse” the situation?

3/ Getting personal

a) If you lived in Ephesus, and had become a Christian, how would you be feeling after all this? Why?

b) What do you think this incident shows about the spread of the gospel? (if anything).

PRAYER POINTS

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1/ Getting started

- a) Have you ever had to say “goodbye” to someone who had been ‘significant’ in your life? How did you feel?

2/ Turning to the Bible

- a) Read Acts 20:13-38. Summarize how Paul describes his service of the church in Ephesus.

- b) Where is Paul going, and what does he expect?

- c) From verses 25-31, what does Paul tell the leaders of the Ephesus church to expect?

d) What does he urge them to do?

3/ Getting personal

a) What principles in this passage are applicable to every Christian, do you think? Discuss.

b) Are there any warnings or instructions you need to consider, personally? Pray about these.

PRAYER POINTS

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STUDY NINE: Hope and Fear

Acts 24:1-27

1/ Getting started

- a) Have you ever been unfairly accused? If you can think of such an occasion, discuss how you felt.

- b) How did you respond to the unfair accusation? Why did you respond this way? Discuss.

2/ Turning to the Bible

- a) We are not studying the events in Acts 22 – 23, where Paul is in Jerusalem, and falsely accused. The Jews plot to kill him, but the Roman soldiers take him to the Governor of Caesarea. Read Acts 24: 1-9. Who accuses Paul, and what do they say he has done, that deserves punishment?

- b) Read Acts 24:10-21. What does Paul say in his own defence? How does he answer each of the charges laid against him?

3/ Getting personal

a) In what way is Paul an example to us, in this section of Acts? Discuss.

b) What does this section of Acts show us about the early spread of the gospel?

PRAYER POINTS

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1/ Getting started

- a) Have you ever been badly or unfairly treated because of your gender, age or racial background? If so, how did it feel? How did you react? Discuss.

2/ Turning to the Bible

- a) In our last study we left Paul in a prison in Caesarea. Now we pick up the events in Rome. God has miraculously protected Paul (Acts 25-27).
Read Acts 28:11-16. Describe Paul's situation in Rome.

- b) Read Acts 28:17-22. Why is Paul in chains in Rome?

- c) Read Acts 28:23-31. What does Paul try to convince his Jewish visitors about? Why do you think he does this?

- d) How do his hearers respond?

- e) Do verses 26 and 27 sum up the responses of Jewish groups that Paul has spoken to, through Acts. If so, in what way?

- f) Why do you think Paul makes the statement he does in verse 28? Discuss.

- g) Why do you think Luke concludes 'Acts' as he does with verses 30 and 31?

3/ Getting personal

a) What passage or event has most comforted or encouraged you, as you have studied Acts? Why?

b) What has most challenged you, as you have read Acts? Pray about these things.

PRAYER POINTS

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