

Week 5

Small Group

1. Ask what they got out of reading last week. (5 Minutes)
2. Beginning Discussion Questions (5-10 Minutes):
 1. Was the book of John essential to be in the Gospels?
 2. Could you see the different writing styles and the different audiences they were writing to in the Gospels? Did this change your outlook as you were reading the gospels?
 3. What was your favorite book of the Gospels? Why?
3. Video: Week 5 (15:41):

Authorship: Luke is the traditional author

- The change from third narrative to first person (the “we sections”) in Acts 6:10-17; 20:6-21; and 27:1-16. This corresponds to the time Luke appears to begin with Paul.
- The use of medical terms in Luke’s Gospel and in Acts point to Luke, “the beloved physician” (Col. 4:14) as the probable author.
- The external evidence, starting in the second century is unanimous that Luke was the author.
- Luke was a gentile convert.
- Luke was the only Bible author who was not Jewish.

Written: early to mid-60’s

Peter and Paul are presented as still being alive (James and Steven are mentioned as having been killed) Peter and Paul died in the persecution under Nero in 68.

Place of Writing: Rome

Original Intended Audience: Theophilus and Gentile Readers

- The word “Theophilus” comes from two Greek words Theos meaning God and Philo meaning one who loves God, i.e. “a friend of God.”
- A common suggestion is that Theophilus was a Roman Official.

Key Verse: Acts 1:8 which can be used as an outline for Acts

- Witness in Jerusalem: Acts 1-7
- Witness in Judea and Samaria: Acts 8-12
- Witness to the ends of the earth: Acts 13-28

Key Chapter: Acts 2 - Birth of the Church on the day of Pentecost

Two main themes:

1. Unity and Fellowship in the church should result in caring for those in need.
2. Unity in Witnessing to the lost at home (evangelization) and abroad (missions).

Two Main People:

1. Peter (the apostle to the Jews)
2. Paul (the apostle to the Gentiles)

Nearly 100 people are mentioned in Acts.

There are 24 sermons or addresses in Acts.

Acts 10 the Holy Spirit was poured out to the Gentiles.

Within 30 or 40 years of the beginning of the church it had grown to the point that every major city in Asia Minor, Greece and Italy had at least one Christian congregation.

He mentions 95 different people, 54 cities, 32 countries and nine Mediterranean islands.

4. Go over and discuss video notes with group (5- 7 minutes)

5. Questions from the Video (5-10 Minutes):

1. Do you think that it is important that Luke (only gentile who wrote a book in the bible) wrote the book of Acts?
2. What is something that you learned from the video?

6. Discuss what they are hoping to get out of the reading this week (3-5 Minutes)

7. Prayer (5 Minutes)

- Take prayer requests.
- Pray together as a group.