

God's Big Ideas

The Acts of the Apostles – Bible study (for personal or group use)

In using this study, you may find it helpful to have the transcript of the teaching and/or the PowerPoint presentation to hand for reference.

1. *Read Acts 2:16-21, 32-33.* In the quote from Joel, what is the principal activity of the Spirit? What might this look like in our own context? What does the outpouring of the Spirit by *Jesus* suggest about the Spirit's ministry (compare 1:8)?
2. *Read Acts 2:37-38; 19:5-6.* In what context is the Spirit normally received? How are the exceptional cases in 8:14-17 and 10:42-48 different, and what do they have in common? How did you receive the Spirit?
3. *Read Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37; 5:12-16.* List the various features of the Jerusalem church's common life. How might we follow their example in (a) sharing our possessions; (b) meeting with each other; (c) winning approval from outsiders?
4. Look at 4:33 alongside 2:43 and 5:12. What does this suggest about how mission is done in the church of Acts? In what ways can we shape our mission on similar lines? (Note who else performs signs: 6:6; 8:6; 14:3; compare 9:37-39.)
5. *Read Acts 4:24-31.* How does this passage demonstrate (a) the fulfilment of the Old Testament in Jesus and the early church; (b) the invincibility of God's saving purpose?
6. *Read Acts 15:1-21.* What is the issue that leads to the Jerusalem council? What are Peter and James' arguments and conclusions? How should we put them into practice? In particular, what might be the proper contemporary application of verses 20-21?