



Note from Pastor Kermit:

Acts is the history of how Christianity was founded and organized and solved its problems. The community of believers began by faith in the risen Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, who enabled them to witness, to love, and to serve. The church did not start or grow by its own power or enthusiasm. The disciples were empowered by God's Holy Spirit. He was the promised Counselor and Guide sent when Jesus went to heaven.

Acts present the history of a dynamic, growing community of believers from Jerusalem to Syria, Africa, Asia, and Europe. In the first century, Christianity spread from believing Jews to non-Jews in 39 cities and 30 countries, islands, and provinces. Wow! Let's prepare to:

- ✚ Be engaged
 - Take notes, participate, commit to memorizing the verse of the week.
- ✚ Be prayerful
 - Pray that God will open up our understanding of His Word.
- ✚ Invite a friend

Holy Spirit, You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord
Your presence, Lord

Holy Spirit by Jesus Culture

Acts of The Holy Spirit

[Lesson 7: Value All](#)

[Lesson 8: Incomplete Picture](#)

[Lesson 9: Delivered](#)

[Lesson 10: The Testimony](#)

[Lesson 11: Answering Critics](#)

[Lesson 12: Always on a Mission](#)

Lesson 7: Value All (Acts 16:16-18; Psalm 139:13-16)

Background Scripture: Acts 16:1-15

Christ values every person, so we shouldn't exploit or disregard people.





What do our responses to a person's image reveal about whom we value and why?

Acts 16:16-18

16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. **17** This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." **18** And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

Discussion Questions #1 – 4

-  How did you experience spiritual bondage before coming to know God?
-  How would you describe the difference between Paul's view of the slave girl and the owner's views of her?
-  How would you define the motives of each man in the way he related to her?
-  In what ways do people today use the same justification as these slave owners to devalue human life?

Psalm 139:13-16 God Carefully Created Every Person

13 For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.

14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And *that* my soul knows very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,

Acts of The
Holy Spirit

[Lesson 7:
Value All](#)

[Lesson 8:
Incomplete
Picture](#)

[Lesson 9:
Delivered](#)

[Lesson 10:
The Testimony](#)

[Lesson 11:
Answering
Critics](#)

[Lesson 12:
Always on a
Mission](#)

And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.

And in Your book they all were written,

The days fashioned for me,

When *as yet there were* none of them.

Discussion Question #5 – 6



Why should we consider life valuable, based on the Bible?



How does your understanding of this passage affect your treatment of all people from conception to death?

Conclusion:

The Christian and the social order. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice; and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography.

What does Love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what Love looks like.

Saint Augustine

Acts of The
Holy Spirit

[Lesson 7:
Value All](#)

[Lesson 8:
Incomplete
Picture](#)

[Lesson 9:
Delivered](#)

[Lesson 10:
The Testimony](#)

[Lesson 11:
Answering
Critics](#)

[Lesson 12:
Always on a
Mission](#)

Lesson 8: Incomplete Picture (Acts 18:24-28; 19:1-7)

God uses believers to help other people better understand the gospel.

How can filling in the blanks in a story or picture get a person into trouble or how can knowing only part of the picture or story lead to confusion?

Acts 18:24-28

²⁴ Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. ²⁵ This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷ And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; ²⁸ for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Discussion Question #1 – 3

- ✚ How did the approach taken by Priscilla and Aquila strengthen Apollos instead of tearing him down?
- ✚ What is the danger of preaching a partial truth though it's taught well?
- ✚ How does your background increase your effectiveness in teaching the gospel?

Acts 19:2-7

2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."
3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism."
4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. 7 Now the men were about twelve in all.

Acts of The Holy Spirit

[Lesson 7: Value All](#)

[Lesson 8: Incomplete Picture](#)

[Lesson 9: Delivered](#)

[Lesson 10: The Testimony](#)

[Lesson 11: Answering Critics](#)

[Lesson 12: Always on a Mission](#)

Discussion Question #4 – 6

- ✚ How would you explain the value of baptism and its place in your life?
- ✚ What are the dangers of teaching a partial truth though it's taught well?
- ✚ How can you be certain of your salvation?

Conclusion:

Believers need to make sure boldness and eloquence are accompanied by depth of understanding when presenting the gospel. The church is strengthened when believers who have depth of understanding share a complete picture of the gospel.

The one indispensable requirement for producing godly, mature Christians is godly, mature Christians.

Kevin Deyoung

Acts of The
Holy Spirit

[Lesson 7:
Value All](#)

[Lesson 8:
Incomplete
Picture](#)

[Lesson 9:
Delivered](#)

[Lesson 10:
The Testimony](#)

[Lesson 11:
Answering
Critics](#)

[Lesson 12:
Always on a
Mission](#)

Lesson 9: Delivered (Acts 20:22-35)

Background Scripture Acts 20:1-15

Sharing the gospel is worth the sacrifice.

Acts 20:22-25

22 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself,[a] so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

25 “And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more.

Discussion Question #1

- ✚ How does understanding the value of the gospel give you strength to endure difficulties that result from sharing the gospel?

Acts 20:26-30

26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

Discussion Question #2 – 3

- ✚ What makes it hard to share the gospel with everyone you meet?
- ✚ In what ways are false teachers like savage wolves?

Acts 20:31-35

31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

Acts of The
Holy Spirit

[Lesson 7:
Value All](#)

[Lesson 8:
Incomplete
Picture](#)

[Lesson 9:
Delivered](#)

[Lesson 10:
The Testimony](#)

[Lesson 11:
Answering
Critics](#)

[Lesson 12:
Always on a
Mission](#)

32 “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. 34 Yes,[a] you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Discussion Question #4 – 5

- ✚ Why is it important for you to be aware of your motives for ministry?

- ✚ What truths in this passage show that sharing the gospel is worth the effort and expense?

Conclusion:

Believer’s experience contentment when we faithfully fulfill God’s purposes in our lives. Believers must remain diligent to recognize and confront divisive and false teachings.

The minister who caters his message to the whims of the world, telling unregenerate hearts only what they want to hear, has sold out.

John McCarthur

Acts of The Holy Spirit

[Lesson 7: Value All](#)

[Lesson 8: Incomplete Picture](#)

[Lesson 9: Delivered](#)

[Lesson 10: The Testimony](#)

[Lesson 11: Answering Critics](#)

[Lesson 12: Always on a Mission](#)

Lesson 10: The Testimony (Acts 22:1-8; 17-25)

Acts 22:1-5

“Brethren and fathers, hear my defense before you now.” 2 And when they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they kept all the more silent.

Then he said: 3 “I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers’ law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today. 4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, 5 as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished.

Discussion Question #1

- ✚ Why is it important to clearly contrast your life before and after your commitment to Christ as you tell your testimony?

Acts 22:6-8

6 “Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. 7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ 8 So I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’

Discussion Question #2 – 3

- ✚ How might a person’s past be perceived as an obstacle to accepting Christ?
- ✚ How might other people’s opinions reinforce that obstacle?

Acts 22:17-25

17 “Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance 18 and saw Him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of

Acts of The Holy Spirit

[Lesson 7: Value All](#)

[Lesson 8: Incomplete Picture](#)

[Lesson 9: Delivered](#)

[Lesson 10: The Testimony](#)

[Lesson 11: Answering Critics](#)

[Lesson 12: Always on a Mission](#)

Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.’ 19 So I said, ‘Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. 20 And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’ 21 Then He said to me, ‘Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.’”

22 And they listened to him until this word, and then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!” 23 Then, as they cried out and tore off their clothes and threw dust into the air, 24 the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, and said that he should be examined under scourging, so that he might know why they shouted so against him. 25 And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, “Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?”

Discussion Question #4 – 6

- ✚ What’s your strongest motivation for sharing about Jesus?
- ✚ How is your life purpose tied to Jesus’ commission recorded in Matt.28:18-20?
- ✚ How important is your testimony?

Conclusion:

Believers must help people understand that no good deed can secure salvation. We also will face persecution and rejection for telling the truth of the gospel.

To live by grace means to acknowledge my whole life story, the light side and the dark. In admitting my shadow side, I learn who I am and what God’s grace means.

Brennan Manning

Acts of The Holy Spirit

[Lesson 7: Value All](#)

[Lesson 8: Incomplete Picture](#)

[Lesson 9: Delivered](#)

[Lesson 10: The Testimony](#)

[Lesson 11: Answering Critics](#)

[Lesson 12: Always on a Mission](#)

Lesson 11: Answering Critics (Acts 26:19-29)

Acts 26:19-23

19 “Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. 21 For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. 22 Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come— 23 that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”

Discussion Question #1 – 2

- ✚ Has your obedience to Christ ever led you to the same kind of treatment that Paul received?
- ✚ Why is it important to use scripture when you share the gospel?

Acts 26:24-29

24 Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!”

25 But he said, “I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason. 26 For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.”

28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”

29 And Paul said, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.”

Discussion Question #3 – 5

- ✚ How can you prepare to address potential objections to the gospel?
- ✚ How can you appeal to people to make a decision about Jesus.

Acts of The
Holy Spirit

[Lesson 7:
Value All](#)

[Lesson 8:
Incomplete
Picture](#)

[Lesson 9:
Delivered](#)

[Lesson 10:
The Testimony](#)

[Lesson 11:
Answering
Critics](#)

[Lesson 12:
Always on a
Mission](#)

- ✚ What roadblocks might you encounter when giving another person an opportunity to respond to the gospel?

Conclusion:

Believers can and should point to the Scriptures when presenting the gospel and be prepared to respond to objections with love and directness.

If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself.

Saint Augustine

Acts of The Holy Spirit

[Lesson 7: Value All](#)

[Lesson 8: Incomplete Picture](#)

[Lesson 9: Delivered](#)

[Lesson 10: The Testimony](#)

[Lesson 11: Answering Critics](#)

[Lesson 12: Always on a Mission](#)

Lesson 12: Always on a Mission (Acts 28:17-28)

Background Scripture Acts 27 – 28:1-16

The gospel message is for all people, some will believe, but others won't.

Acts 28:17-19

17 And it came to pass after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews together. So when they had come together, he said to them: "Men and brethren, though I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans, 18 who, when they had examined me, wanted to let me go, because there was no cause for putting me to death. 19 But when the Jews spoke against it, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, not that I had anything of which to accuse my nation.

Discussion Question #1 – 2

- ✚ What are some ways God made it possible for you to hear the gospel?
- ✚ How does His use of a variety of events and details demonstrate His sovereignty?

Acts 28:20 – 23

20 For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain."

21 Then they said to him, "We neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren who came reported or spoken any evil of you. 22 But we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere."

23 So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.

Discussion Question #3 – 4

- ✚ How can you approach people who are seeking to know more about the gospel?

Acts of The Holy Spirit

[Lesson 7: Value All](#)

[Lesson 8: Incomplete Picture](#)

[Lesson 9: Delivered](#)

[Lesson 10: The Testimony](#)

[Lesson 11: Answering Critics](#)

[Lesson 12: Always on a Mission](#)

✚ What make the gospel message intriguing to you?

Acts 28:24 – 29

24 And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.
25 So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, 26 saying,

‘Go to this people and say:
“Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand;
And seeing you will see, and not perceive;
27 For the hearts of this people have grown dull.
Their ears are hard of hearing,
And their eyes they have closed,
Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,
Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,
So that I should heal them.”’

28 “Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!” 29 And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves.

Discussion Question #5 – 6

✚ Have you seen the gospel divide and unite at the same time?

✚ To whom is God sending you?

Conclusion:

God uses a variety of means to bring believers into contact with other people who need to know the gospel, so we should be prepared and alert to share the gospel with all people, especially those who are seeking to know more.

Have you no wish for others to be saved? The. You’re not saved yourself, be sure of that!

Charles Spurgeon

Acts of The Holy Spirit

[Lesson 7: Value All](#)

[Lesson 8: Incomplete Picture](#)

[Lesson 9: Delivered](#)

[Lesson 10: The Testimony](#)

[Lesson 11: Answering Critics](#)

[Lesson 12: Always on a Mission](#)