



BIBLE Reading

JUNE 2024

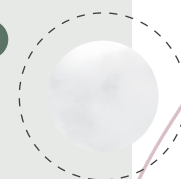
- ☐ DAY 1: Acts 1:1-3
- ☐ DAY 2: Acts 1:4-8
- ☐ DAY 3: Acts 1:9-11
- ☐ DAY 4: Acts 1:12-14
- ☐ DAY 5: Acts 1:15-20
- ☐ DAY 6: Acts 1:21-26
- ☐ DAY 7: Acts 2:1-4
- ☐ DAY 8: Acts 2:5-8
- ☐ DAY 9: Acts 2:9-13
- ☐ DAY 10: Acts 2:14-21
- ☐ DAY 11: Acts 2:22-24
- ☐ DAY 12: Acts 2:25-28
- ☐ DAY 13: Acts 2:29-31
- ☐ DAY 14: Acts 2:32-36
- ☐ DAY 15: Acts 2:37-38
- ☐ DAY 16: Acts 2:39-40
- ☐ DAY 17: Acts 2:41-42
- ☐ DAY 18: Acts 2:43-47
- ☐ DAY 19: Acts 3:1-5
- ☐ DAY 20: Acts 3:6-8
- ☐ DAY 21: Acts 3:9-10
- ☐ DAY 22: Acts 3:11-16
- ☐ DAY 23: Acts 3:17-20
- ☐ DAY 24: Acts 3:21-23
- ☐ DAY 25: Acts 3:24-26
- ☐ DAY 26: Acts 4:1-4
- ☐ DAY 27: Acts 4:5-7
- ☐ DAY 28: Acts 4:8-12
- ☐ DAY 29: Acts 4:13-18
- ☐ DAY 30: Acts 4:19-20

JULY 2024

- ☐ DAY 1: Acts 4:21-22
- ☐ DAY 2: Acts 4:23-26
- ☐ DAY 3: Acts 4:27-31
- ☐ DAY 4: Acts 4:32-33
- ☐ DAY 5: Acts 4:34-37
- ☐ DAY 6: Acts 5:1-6
- ☐ DAY 7: Acts 5:7-11
- ☐ DAY 8: Acts 5:12-16
- ☐ DAY 9: Acts 5:17-20
- ☐ DAY 10: Acts 5:21-24
- ☐ DAY 11: Acts 5:25-28
- ☐ DAY 12: Acts 5:29-32
- ☐ DAY 13: Acts 5:33-39
- ☐ DAY 14: Acts 5:40-42
- ☐ DAY 15: Acts 6:1-4
- ☐ DAY 16: Acts 6:5-7
- ☐ DAY 17: Acts 6:8-10
- ☐ DAY 18: Acts 6:11-15
- ☐ DAY 19: Acts 7:1-5
- ☐ DAY 20: Acts 7:6-8
- ☐ DAY 21: Acts 7:9-12
- ☐ DAY 22: Acts 7:13-16
- ☐ DAY 23: Acts 7:17-22
- ☐ DAY 24: Acts 7:23-26
- ☐ DAY 25: Acts 7:27-28
- ☐ DAY 26: Acts 7:29-32
- ☐ DAY 27: Acts 7:33-36
- ☐ DAY 28: Acts 7:37-40
- ☐ DAY 29: Acts 7:41-43
- ☐ DAY 30: Acts 7:44-50
- ☐ DAY 31: Acts 7:51-53

AUGUST 2024

- ☐ DAY 1: Acts 7:54-60
- ☐ DAY 2: Acts 8:1-3
- ☐ DAY 3: Acts 8:4-8
- ☐ DAY 4: Acts 8:9-13
- ☐ DAY 5: Acts 8:14-19
- ☐ DAY 6: Acts 8:20-25
- ☐ DAY 7: Acts 8:26-33
- ☐ DAY 8: Acts 8:34-40
- ☐ DAY 9: Acts 9:1-9
- ☐ DAY 10: Acts 9:10-16
- ☐ DAY 11: Acts 9:17-19
- ☐ DAY 12: Acts 9:20-25
- ☐ DAY 13: Acts 9:26-31
- ☐ DAY 14: Acts 9:32-35
- ☐ DAY 15: Acts 9:36-43
- ☐ DAY 16: Acts 10:1-8
- ☐ DAY 17: Acts 10:9-16
- ☐ DAY 18: Acts 10:17-26
- ☐ DAY 19: Acts 10:27-33
- ☐ DAY 20: Acts 10:34-43
- ☐ DAY 21: Acts 10:44-48
- ☐ DAY 22: Acts 11:1-9
- ☐ DAY 23: Acts 11:10-18
- ☐ DAY 24: Acts 11:19-21
- ☐ DAY 25: Acts 11:22-26
- ☐ DAY 26: Acts 11:27-30
- ☐ DAY 27: Acts 12:1-5
- ☐ DAY 28: Acts 12:6-10
- ☐ DAY 29: Acts 12:11-16
- ☐ DAY 30: Acts 12:17-19
- ☐ DAY 31: Acts 12:20-25





LEADER GUIDE
SUMMER 2024
VOLUME 11 • NUMBER 3

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA.

Explore the Bible: Leader Guide
(ISSN: 2377-0341; Item 005686026)
is published quarterly by Lifeway, 200 Powell
Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027,
© 2023 Lifeway

For ordering or inquiries, visit www.lifeway.com,
or write Lifeway Customer Service, 200 Powell
Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027. For
bulk shipments mailed quarterly to a single
address, email orderentry@lifeway.com, fax
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author; salvation for its end; and truth, without
any mixture of error, for its matter and that all
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contents

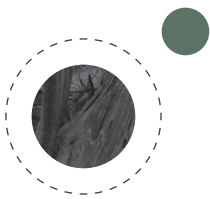
FEATURES

how to use	2
sources	134
quarterly study plan	135

SUGGESTED FOR
THE WEEK OF

SESSIONS

JUNE 1	SESSION 1: The Kingdom Advances	4
JUNE 9	SESSION 2: The Spirit Empowers	14
JUNE 16	SESSION 3: Uncommon Unity	24
JUNE 23	SESSION 4: Source of Life	34
JUNE 30	SESSION 5: No Other Name	44
JULY 7	SESSION 6: A Holy People	54
JULY 14	SESSION 7: Boldness to Obey	64
JULY 21	SESSION 8: The First Martyr	74
JULY 28	SESSION 9: No Barriers	84
AUG. 4	SESSION 10: Saul's Conversion	94
AUG. 11	SESSION 11: The Gospel Heals	104
AUG. 18	SESSION 12: United in Christ	114
AUG. 25	SESSION 13: The Unrivalled King	124



how to use THIS STUDY

PREPARATION

Prior to each group meeting . . .

- Familiarize yourself with the Scripture text by reading each passage twice.
- Read the chapter of Scripture that precedes and follows each session's Bible text for context.
- Read over the Explore Options, Conversation Questions, Now What? questions, and leader notes so that you will be prepared to lead students to discuss and engage the text.
- Refer to the relevant Scripture Commentary for help with questions that come up as you study the text.

ALIGNMENT

Explore the Bible for Students generally covers the same texts as *Explore the Bible* for Adults. Occasionally we will study different verses/passages in order to speak to the unique context of teenagers. Any discrepancies are listed here:

- **Session 1:** Added Acts 1:1-3, omitted vv. 23-26; **Session 2:** Added Acts 2:1-4, omitted vv. 13-16; **Session 4:** Added Acts 3:1-6, omitted vv. 21-26; **Session 6:** Changed memory verse; **Session 7:** Changed memory verse; **Session 8:** Omitted Acts 6:1-7, added Acts 7:54-60, changed memory verse; **Session 10:** Added Acts 9:17-19, changed memory verse; **Session 13:** Added Acts 12:1-5, 21-25, omitted vv. 11-18.

LEADER GUIDE

This teaching plan for the leaders of students contains five sections:

EXPLORE scripture

This portion of the study is designed to introduce you and your students to the passage of Scripture they will be studying and the Central Truth of the text. The **Central Truth** is the main point of the Bible passage that you and your students will be unpacking throughout the session. **This Week's Focus** seeks to introduce the Central Truth in a manner that will connect with the context in which students live. This section also includes two interactive options for introducing the theme(s) of each session:

- **EXPLORE OPTIONS:** These interactive activities or illustrations introduce the Central Truth of each session. Each session contains two Explore Options. Review both and choose the one that works best for your group.
- **LET'S TALK:** These icebreaker questions introduce the key themes to be unpacked in each session. These questions are designed to get students to open up as study begins. They are not included in the *Daily Discipleship Guide*, since they are conversational in nature.
- **ANIMATED VIDEOS:** *Explore the Bible* for Students has animated videos outlining why the Scripture we are studying matters to students. This quarter has two videos on Acts: "Everyone Everywhere" and "What is the Church?" The video bundle can be purchased at goexplorethebible.com/students.

CONVERSATION questions

- **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** These questions are designed to get students to dig into Scripture, training them to look to the Bible for the answers to their questions. All questions are included in the *Daily Discipleship Guide* and are numbered "01–08" so that you can guide students to look at particular discussion questions in their copies of the *Daily Discipleship Guide*.
- **KEY QUESTIONS:** There will sometimes be days when special events or activities cause you to have less time to study the Bible with students than usual. So, in the event that you are pressed for time, we have highlighted the key discussion questions that you don't want to miss in each session.
- **LEADER'S NOTES:** This section contains teaching notes on each session's Scripture as well as answers to discussion questions so that leaders are prepared to teach each week.
- **BE VULNERABLE:** If you open up, oftentimes students will, too. These are challenges for you, as the leader, to share with students about your own personal walk with Christ as a means of pointing them to Christ.



additional RESOURCES

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

The *Daily Discipleship Guide* provides students with all the discussion questions from the *Leader Guide*, as well as five days of Daily Devotions each week. These Daily Devotions train students in studying the Bible on their own. They are perforated so you can send them home with students each week if you prefer hold on to their *Daily Discipleship Guide* for them.

ANIMATED VIDEOS

Each quarter of *Explore the Bible* for Students has 2–3 **animated videos** that unpack why the books of the Bible we are studying matter in the lives of students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPTIONS

This **Middle School** versions of the *Leader Guide* and *Daily Discipleship Guide* are available via a curriculum subscription to **Ministry Grid** at curriculum.lifeway.com. They provide the same biblically rich content but with unique Explore Options and discussion questions to help younger students discuss the Bible.

LEADER PACK

The **Leader Pack** can be purchased at lifeway.com/explorethebiblestudents. It includes:

- **Posters** illustrating key truths from each session.
- **Family Connection** guides to equip parents and guardians to discuss the Bible with students.
- **Midweek Studies:** Thirteen sessions of additional verse-by-verse studies to complement each session.
- **PowerPoint templates** to prepare slides.

LEADER TRAINING

Explore the Bible for Students now has a free **Leader Training** document available! This guide helps prepares leaders to teach each week, addresses challenging topics that might come up, and highlights key aspects of the *Leader Guide*. The Leader Training document is available at explorethebible.lifeway.com/studentextras.

- **CONTEXT NOTES:** *Explore the Bible* for Students contains five types of Context notes designed to help students understand the Bible. These notes are also included in the *Daily Discipleship Guide* so that you may draw students' attention to them in your group meeting:
 - » **HISTORY:** Historical setting, including information on key events and characters.
 - » **CULTURE:** Highlights the social, political, and cultural environment or similarities to our culture.
 - » **THEOLOGY:** Information to help answer questions about God that might arise from the text.
 - » **CONTEXT:** Important cross references and notes to help students understand the chapter and book a text is in as well as the wider context of Scripture.
 - » **GIVE AN ANSWER:** Teenagers tend to have lots of questions about the Bible. In these notes, we try to anticipate questions your students might have and answer them so you are prepared.

SCRIPTURE commentary

- This portion of the study is located on the right-hand side of each Conversation Question page and seeks to help leaders understand the Bible text. Words and phrases are in **bold** when they are taken directly from that session's scripture. Words are in *italics* when they refer to specific Greek or Hebrew words.
- In addition to the Commentary provided in the *Leader Guide*, each quarter of *Explore the Bible* for Students gives leaders access to additional Bible commentaries online at logos.com/explorethebible. Use code **EXPLORESUMMER2024** at checkout to download these commentaries for free.

NOW what?

This portion of the study is designed to highlight the Central Truth of the passage and help students apply that truth to their daily lives.

- Each session contains four **Now What?** questions.
- The questions are numbered "09–12" and are included in the *Daily Discipleship Guide* so that you can guide students to look at particular discussion questions.

DAILY devotions

Each session concludes with the following:

- **7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING:** These questions are designed to help you and your students learn how to study the Bible carefully and apply it thoughtfully to your lives.
- **LEADER CHALLENGE:** This section includes the memory verse in the *Daily Discipleship Guide* that students will be memorizing each week, as well as a reminder to check in with students midweek to connect with them and remind them to make time for their Daily Devotions.
- The Scripture texts of the five Daily Devotions that are included in your students' *Daily Discipleship Guide* are also listed here. These devotions are perforated so that students can tear them out if you prefer to hold on to their *Daily Discipleship Guide* for them. We encourage you to take time on your own to review the devotions that students will be studying.

contents

FEATURES

introduction to Acts	2
outline of Acts	3
how to use	4
notes	109
sources	110
7 arrows for Bible reading	111

SESSIONS

SESSION 1: The Kingdom Advances	5
SESSION 2: The Spirit Empowers	13
SESSION 3: Uncommon Unity	21
SESSION 4: Source of Life	29
SESSION 5: No Other Name	37
SESSION 6: A Holy People	45
SESSION 7: Boldness to Obey	53
SESSION 8: The First Martyr	61
SESSION 9: No Barriers	69
SESSION 10: Saul's Conversion	77
SESSION 11: The Gospel Heals	85
SESSION 12: United in Christ	93
SESSION 13: The Unrivalled King	101

X

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

FOR STUDENTS

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE
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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Explore the Bible: Leader Guide (ISSN: 2377-0341; Item 005686026) is published quarterly by Lifeway, 200 Powell Place, Suite 100 Brentwood, TN 37027, © 2023 Lifeway

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EDITOR'S note

The book of Acts records the continuation of Jesus's work through His followers, empowered by the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:8, Jesus issues a command to the apostles: they are to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. In other words, they are to bring the good news to all people everywhere.

Acts gives us insight into the formation of this radical new community called the church. Unified under the lordship of Jesus, the only criteria to be a part of this diverse community was faith in Him. However, the church's growth wouldn't be met without intense opposition. Though the early church seemingly took blow after blow, the Lord is a King who cannot be overthrown, and His people cannot be stomped out. He will prevail.

Acts is a reminder that we're not merely saved *from* something, but *for* something. We're reconciled to God and brought into His family—a family called to worship God, love one another, and participate in His mission to the world. Through us, Jesus's work continues, and each of us has a part to play.

CHRIS BROWN

INTRODUCTION TO acts

The book of Acts provides a glimpse into the first three decades of the early church (around AD 30–63) as it spread and multiplied after the ascension of Jesus Christ. It is not a detailed or comprehensive history. Rather, it focuses on the role played by apostles such as Peter, who ministered primarily to Jews, and Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.

AUTHOR

The traditional view is that the author was the same person who wrote the Gospel of Luke—Luke the physician and traveling companion of Paul (see Col. 4:14; 2 Tim. 4:11; Philem. 24).

MESSAGE AND PURPOSE

The book of Acts emphasizes the work of God through the Holy Spirit in the lives of people who devoted themselves to Jesus Christ, especially Paul as he led the Gentile missionary endeavor. It is no exaggeration to say that the Christian church was built through the dynamic power of the Spirit working through chosen vessels. Another important concept is the spread of the gospel from Jews to Gentiles, from Jerusalem to Judea, from Samaria and on to the rest of the world (see 1:8). Thus Christianity transformed from being a sect within Judaism to a world religion that eventually gained acceptance everywhere, even in the heart of the pagan Roman Empire: Rome itself.

The book of Acts provides biographical glimpses of a few of the early apostles as they spread the gospel first in Jerusalem and then on to the rest of the world. Peter, Philip, and a few others were responsible for the spread of the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. Paul was responsible for much of the rest of the Mediterranean world.

OUTLINE OF acts

SUMMER 2024 STUDY

- I. The Church Empowered (1:1–2:47)
 - A. Waiting for power (1:1–26)
 - B. The Source of power (2:1–13)
 - C. The Empowerment seen (2:14–47)
- II. The Church's Early Days (3:1–12:25)
 - A. In Jerusalem (3:1–7:60)
 - B. In Samaria (8:1–25)
 - C. In Ethiopia (8:26–40)
 - D. Conversion and preparation of Paul (9:1–31)
 - E. In Judea (9:32–11:18)
 - F. To the ends of the earth (11:19–12:25)

FALL 2024 STUDY

- III. Paul's First Missionary Journey (13:1–14:28)
 - A. Cyprus (13:1–12)
 - B. Pisidian Antioch (13:13–52)
 - C. Iconium (14:1–7)
 - D. Lystra, Derbe; return to Antioch (14:8–28)
- IV. The Jerusalem Council (15:1–35)
- V. Paul's Second Missionary Journey (15:36–18:22)
 - A. Antioch to Troas (15:36–16:10)
 - B. Troas to Athens (16:11–17:34)
 - C. Corinth (18:1–22)
- VI. Paul's Third Missionary Journey (18:23–21:16)
 - A. Ephesus (18:23–19:41)
 - B. Macedonia to Troas, Athens, Corinth, and return (20:1–21:16)
- VII. Paul's Arrest and Journey to Rome (21:17–28:31)
 - A. In Jerusalem (21:17–23:35)
 - B. In Caesarea (24:1–26:32)
 - C. Voyage to Rome (27:1–28:15)
 - D. Ministry at Rome (28:16–31)



how to use THIS STUDY

The *Daily Discipleship Guide* is designed with students in mind and accomplishes two goals: it helps students follow along with each session of study and provides weekly opportunities to continue studying the Bible on your own. It does this by providing an outline of each session and five days of **Daily Devotions** that primarily come out of the book of the Bible you are studying each session this quarter.

The *Daily Discipleship Guide* opens with **This Week's Focus**, a short introduction to the theme(s) that will be unpacked in each session. This section introduces the **Central Truth** in a manner that connects to the context in which you live. The **Central Truth** is the main point of the Bible passage you will be unpacking throughout the session.

EXPLORE scripture

The next page you will find in each Session of the *Daily Discipleship Guide* is the **Explore Scripture** page. This section includes the passage of Scripture you will be studying this week, broken down into the three sections that will be studied in turn so that you can follow along with your leader.

CONVERSATION questions

This portion of the study is designed to help you walk through the Scriptures of each session with your leader. The **Discussion Questions** are designed to help you to dig into Scripture and train you to look to the Bible for the answers. All questions are numbered “01–08” and correspond to the discussion questions found in the Conversation section of the **Leader Guide** so that you and your Bible study leader can be on the same page.

- This section also includes four different types of Context notes: **History**, **Culture**, **Theology**, and **Context** which train students to better understand how to study the Bible and apply it to the world in which you live.

NOW what?

This portion of the study is designed to highlight the Central Truth of the passage and help you apply that truth to your daily life.

- Each session contains four **Now What?** Questions.
- The questions are numbered “09–12” and are also included in the **Leader Guide** so that you can follow along with your leader during the group session.

DAILY devotions

Each session concludes with five Daily Devotions designed to train you how to study the Bible on your own. These devotions are built around the **Seven Arrows of Bible Reading**. More than just understanding what the Bible says, this Bible reading method gives you simple tools to unpack what the Bible has to say about God, about us, and about the world we live in. Most importantly, the **Daily Devotions** will challenge you to apply the gospel to how you live at home, school, and in your community. These devotions are perforated so that you can tear them out if you prefer to leave your *Daily Discipleship Guide* at your church or with your leader. The **Leader Guide** includes a list of the passages of Scripture covered in these devotions so that your leader can follow along with your daily readings and follow up with you on your progress.