

ACTS

TRAILHEAD

Invitation to Discovery

Acts begins where Luke's first account leaves off.

Jesus has risen. He speaks to His disciples about the kingdom of God. He tells them to wait in Jerusalem for what the Father has promised.

Then He tells them:

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me..."

- Acts 1:8, KJV

Jerusalem is only the beginning.

As you walk through Acts, you will meet many people and travel many miles. Years will pass. Some people will speak. Some will listen. Some will go. Some will stay. Some will suffer.

Don't hurry past them.

Listen carefully.

Notice what happens more than once.

Pay attention when Scripture appears inside the story.

And through it all, keep asking:

What is God up to now?

What is God revealing about Himself?

Acts at a Glance

Author: God

Written by: Luke

Written to: Theophilus

Earlier Account: The Gospel of Luke - Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3

Approximate Time Covered: c. AD 30-62

Genre: Narrative / History

Where the Trail Begins: Jerusalem

Where the Trail Ends: Rome

Key People: Luke will introduce you to the cast.

Meet Luke

LUKE - "THE BELOVED PHYSICIAN"

Colossians 4:14

Now listen to Luke introduce his own work.

Luke 1:1-4 -> Acts 1:1-3

Route Map

Acts covers a lot of ground.

Cities change. People come and go. Years can pass between scenes. Keep this map nearby so you can get your bearings as you read.

JERUSALEM

Acts 1-7 · c. AD 30-33

The trail begins in Jerusalem.

Acts 1:4-8

JUDEA & SAMARIA

Acts 8-12 · c. AD 33-44

The trail begins moving beyond Jerusalem.

Acts 8:1

ANTIOCH & THE FIRST JOURNEY

Acts 13-14 · c. AD 46-48

Antioch becomes an important point on the map.

Acts 13:1-4

JERUSALEM

Acts 15 · c. AD 48-49

Back to Jerusalem.

Acts 15:1-35

THE SECOND JOURNEY

Acts 15:36-18:22 · c. AD 49-52

Syria · Cilicia · Derbe · Lystra · Troas · Philippi · Thessalonica · Berea · Athens · Corinth · Ephesus

Acts 15:36

THE THIRD JOURNEY

Acts 18:23-21:16 · c. AD 52-57

Galatia · Phrygia · Ephesus · Macedonia · Greece · Troas · Miletus

Acts 18:23

JERUSALEM & CAESAREA

Acts 21:17-26:32 · c. AD 57-59

The route changes.

Acts 21:17

TRAIL NOTE

Two years pass.

Acts 24:27

TO ROME

Acts 27-28 · c. AD 59-62

Caesarea · Sidon · Myra · Crete · Malta · Rome

Acts 27:1

ROME

Acts 28

Discover Acts

Keep your Bible open as you explore these landmarks.

The Trailhead points; Scripture provides the terrain.

PETER SPEAKS

Acts 2:14-41

Come, explore. The scenery is beautiful here.

STEPHEN TESTIFIES

Acts 7:1-53

Take your time. It's a long trail.

PHILIP OBEYS

Acts 8:26-40

WHAT IS GOD UP TO NOW?

Acts 9 · c. AD 33-36

AGAIN

Acts 10 -> Acts 11

JERUSALEM

Acts 15 · c. AD 48-49

Listen carefully.

WE

Acts 16:10

Something changed.

AND... AGAIN

Acts 9 -> Acts 22

AND... AGAIN

Acts 9 -> Acts 22 -> Acts 26

Reflection Questions

You don't need to answer every question. Choose one that catches your attention and follow it.

One question may lead to another. That's okay.

1. What does Acts reveal about God?
2. What do you notice about the Holy Spirit?
3. What do you notice about the people Luke introduces?
4. What happens more than once?
5. What does following Jesus look like in Acts?

Prayer Before Reading

Father,

Open my eyes as I read Your Word.

Teach me.

Help me listen.

Amen.

Now Open Your Bible

You've looked at the map.

You've met Luke.

You know where the trail begins.

Keep your eyes open.

Listen carefully.

When something catches your attention, stop.

Follow the trail.

And keep asking:

What is God up to now?

Now open Acts.

Listen.