

The Book of Acts; Lesson #3—Life in the Early Church
Get Scriptures to read. Acts 2:42- Acts 5

Memory Verse

Acts 2:46–47 (NKJV) *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

Teaching and Fellowship

Acts 2:44–46 (NKJV) *Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,*

Acts 5:42 (NKJV) *And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

Acts 4:34–35 (NKJV) *Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.*

Acts 16:5 (NKJV) *So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.*

***Acts 17:11 (NKJV)** *These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

Acts 17:17 (NKJV) *Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshippers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.*

Acts 19:9 (NKJV) *But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.*

Hebrews 3:13 (NKJV) *but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

The apostles were discipled by Jesus' daily teaching and example.

The Healing of a Lame Man

Acts 3:1–2 (NKJV) *Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the*

temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

Josephus said, the temple had nine gates, on every side covered with gold and silver; but there was one gate outside the holy house, made of Corinthian brass, and greatly excelled those which were only covered with gold and silver: But the Corinthian gate, which opened on the east, over against the gate of the holy house itself, was much larger: Its height was 75' and its doors were 55', and it was adorned after a most costly manner, having much richer and thicker plates of silver and gold upon them than upon the others.

A man so lame that he couldn't even hobble along with a crutch, but instead he had to be carried everywhere.

The only way some will ever get started going to church is if someone else brings them. They could only bring him to the gate.

Lev 21:17-19 *"Speak to Aaron, saying: 'No man of your descendants in succeeding generations, who has any defect, may approach to offer the bread of his God. ...a man blind or lame, who has a marred face or any limb too long, 'a man who has a broken foot or broken hand,*

Born crippled and separated from God. Poor Lame Beggars.

Luke 16:20 *"But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs...*

Acts 3:6 *Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you:*

Don't wait until you feel like you know everything before you share your faith. With many of my homeless friends as soon as I said that I do not have any silver or gold I would lose their attention.

He Took His Hand

Acts 3:7 *And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.*

To take hold of the hand in such a case was an inducement to him to make an effort. As the bread was multiplied in the breaking, and the water turned into wine in the pouring out, so strength was given to the cripple's feet in his stirring them and using them.

Act 2:43 *And many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.*

Standing, Walking Leaping, Praising!

Acts 3:8 *So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them; walking, leaping, and praising God.*

***Psalm 100:4** *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.*

Now he is doing what would have been impossible before without God.

Isa 35:5, 6 *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing.*

Psa 18:29 *By my God I can leap over a wall.*

Peter and John gave him no money and he was happy.

Sometimes God answers our prayers differently than we expect.

In Acts 1 The Holy Spirit is Promised

In Acts 2 The Holy Spirit is Poured Out

In Acts 3 The Holy Spirit is In Practice!

The Rise of Opposition

2 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV) *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

Acts 4:1–4 (NKJV) *Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴ However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.*

Acts 4:10 *let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.*

***Acts 4:13** (NKJV) *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*

Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 5:1–2 (NKJV) *But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. ² And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

Balaam Judas, Gehazi

The Second Arrest

Acts 5:12–16 (NKJV) *And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.*

Imprisoned Apostles Freed

Acts 5:17–21 (NKJV) *Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, ¹⁸ and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. ¹⁹ But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."*

²¹ *And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.*