

LEAD SHEET

ACTS : You Won't Believe This! - WK. 7

PAUL IN ROME

FEBRUARY 28, 2016

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:

PERSONALIZE SCRIPTURE

If you want to know God better, memorize and apply His Word!

GETTING STARTED

General Discussion:

- Okay, be honest...is anyone tired of the Book of Acts yet?
(Allow for answers.)

- We have gone through highlights of the whole book. What did you learn from our study that you did not already know? *(Allow for discussion.)*

- If you could sum up the book of Acts in one word, what word would you choose? *(Bold, faithful, truth, Gospel, Jesus, etc.)*

We are going to do our best to summarize the book today, and the way the book of Acts ends, will help us do just that. Turn to Acts 28.

DIGGING IN / MAKING IT REAL

(In this lesson, we review and complete the book of Acts, so we will combine the "Digging In" and "Making It Real" sections.)

Read Acts 28:16-31

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think this is a fitting end to the book of Acts, why or why not? *(It ends with preaching, it ends with boldness, etc., or it seems to end abruptly, etc.)*

2. Where is Paul in this passage? (*Paul is in Rome.*)
3. What is Paul doing? (*He is under house arrest, and he is preaching to anyone who will listen.*)
4. How do the Jews, whom Paul preached to in verse 24, respond? (*Like the rest of his ministry, some people believed and others did not.*)
5. Paul announces that God's Salvation is also sent to whom? (*The Gentiles.*)
6. How long is Paul under house arrest, and how long does he preach? (*Two years, and he preaches the entire time.*)

We've been studying the book of Acts for several weeks now. I want to point out that Acts wraps up almost perfectly given the rest of the book. Let's go back through what we just read and discover more about what I mean.

Mission Accomplished: Read Acts 1:8

This was the mission of the Church—to go all over the world and spread the Gospel. By ending his book in Rome, the capital of civilization at the time, Luke points out that the mission of the Church has been accomplished in the Roman world.

Discussion Questions:

1. Has the Gospel been preached everywhere Acts 1:8 said it would be? Jerusalem? Judea? Samaria? The rest of the world? (*Yes.*)
2. Has the mission of the Church truly been accomplished or is there still work to do? (*There is still much work to do!*)
3. In your Jerusalem—the place closest to you, maybe that's your school or neighborhood—are there people who still need to hear the Gospel? (*Yes, of course.*)

4. Are you willing to share the Gospel in your Judea and Samaria with people who are different from you or farther from you? (*Encourage honesty, asking students to explain reasons why they may not be willing to share the Gospel, citing fears, etc.*)

5. What about around the world? Do you think God still has work for us to do to advance the Gospel? (*Allow for discussion*)

The Book of Acts ends with the Gospel having spread throughout the empire. However, we still have work to do to see the mission accomplished. God is still calling us to take action.

The Gospel is for Everybody:

Re-read Acts 28:28

Discussion Questions:

1. Who does Paul preach to first in Acts 28?

(*The Jewish leaders—see verse 17.*)

2. What is their response? (*Some listen, some do not.*)

3. To whom does Paul turn his attention later in the chapter? (*The Gentiles.*)

This really follows the outline of Acts, too. In the early parts of the book, it is Jewish people receiving the Gospel. However, as some Jews reject the message it changes somewhat. By the end of the book, Paul says clearly in verse 28 that the Gospel is for everyone.

General Discussion:

- In your life, do you ever hesitate to say something about Jesus because you do not think people will respond favorably? (*Most of us hesitate to share the Gospel, we are shy and afraid.*)

- Have you ever not shared the Gospel because you felt like the person was not worthy to hear it? (*This is harder to admit to, but your honest students will admit they think that sometimes.*)

- If Paul and the other Apostles had thought along these lines, how would the book of Acts be different?

(Allow for discussion. There may not even be a book of Acts.)

- Name some people who we have studied in Acts, or elsewhere in the Bible, who would not have been reached with the Gospel if early Christians had these same types of mindsets? *(Paul himself, Cornelius, the Philippian jailer, the woman at the well, many others.)*

Preach Boldly and Without Hindrance:

If there is anything that sums up the book of Acts, it is boldness. The Apostles just will not back down. It is fitting that the last verse of the book of Acts ends with that statement again.

Read Acts 28:31

The word “bold” is used eight times in the book of Acts.

That is:

- More than any other book in the Bible.
- As much as the rest of the NT books combined
- More than all the OT books combined

Read the verses where boldness is displayed in Acts

- Acts 4:29
- Acts 4:31
- Acts 9:28
- Acts 13:46
- Acts 14:3
- Acts 18:26
- Acts 19:8

General Discussion:

- Is “bold” a word that describes you?

(Allow students to share.)

- What are you bold about? *(Faith, opinions, stuff you are into at school, etc.)*

- What do you think it means that Paul spoke about Jesus “without hindrance”? (*There is nothing that could keep him from doing it.*)

- What are some things that keep us from speaking up? (*Fear, prejudice, laziness, we do not really care, we do not know what to say, life circumstances, too busy, distractions, etc.*)

I think the last verse of Acts is meant to wrap up Acts, but I also think it is meant to encourage us to continue in the same boldness Paul had. After all, the Gospel made it to Rome in Paul’s lifetime, but there are many places it still needs to go in our lifetime. The Gospel is for everybody, and we should speak with boldness and without hindrance, just as the early Church did.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for students to continue to spread the Gospel, through the power of the Holy Spirit, as we have seen in the book of Acts, so that many will know about Jesus.