

LUKE

AT-A-GLANCE



N.T. BOOK #3



AUTHOR: LUKE
the Historian, Physician, and Gentile



WRITTEN: 60-61 AD

Covering this time period: 4 BC to 30 AD

Old Testament: 39 Books

3

New Testament: 27 Books

CLAIMS TO FAME: Luke wrote two books, Luke and Acts, both to a man named Theophilus. He wrote, "It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus." (Luke 1:3)

FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Story of John the Baptist's birth to Elizabeth and Zechariah
- Shepherds watching over their flocks by night, who saw the host of angels at the birth of Jesus
- First miraculous catch of fish on the Lake of Gennesaret
- Raising of the widow's son from the dead in Nain
- Parable of the good Samaritan
- The rich man and Lazarus meet different fates after death
- The conversation between Jesus and the robbers as they are dying on the crosses

MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. **Luke 19:10**

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. **Luke 23:34**

Important Points about the Book:

- Much of the material in Luke's gospel involves Jesus' dealings with individuals. Many are not wealthy or part of the acceptable society of their day. They include many sinners. Hence, Luke is considered a gospel of extremely good news—for the common man. This is why stories show up in Luke such as the Good Samaritan (who helps the injured man while religious leaders pass right by him). The conversations between the robbers on the cross with Jesus show the Lord's love for those who have committed crimes.
- While Matthew attempts to prove Christ's kingship, Luke shows him as the one who offers salvation to all humanity—Jew and Gentile alike.

ACTS

AT-A-GLANCE



N.T. BOOK #5



AUTHOR: LUKE
the Historian, Physician, and Gentile



WRITTEN: 62 AD

Covering this time period: 30-62 AD

Old Testament: 39 Books

5

New Testament: 27 Books

CLAIMS TO FAME: Covers the works of the Apostles in the early days after Christ's death

FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- The Ascension
- The Day of Pentecost
- Paul's Conversion
- Peter's move to preach to the Gentile world and not just the Jews

MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **Acts 1:8**

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved." **Acts 4:12**

Important Points about the Book:

- Acts is the only book in the Bible that tells us how the early church was born. It gives a valuable account of how the church was able to spark in Jerusalem and spread throughout the Roman Empire.
- Chapters 1 - 12 primarily follow Peter until his belief in preaching to the Gentiles is fulfilled. Chapters 13-28 primarily follow Paul and his missionary journeys far and wide. The book ends before either man is martyred (killed) for the faith, which is why it is dated in the early 60s AD.

Luke/Acts (Lesson 1) – Luke 1

Introduction:

- Luke wrote both books (the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts).
- Luke was a companion of the apostle Paul (a physician) (Colossians 4:14).
- Written to Theophilus (lover of God) Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1
- The two constitute a history of Jesus' life, and the history of the early church.

Luke 1 Synopsis

- Dedication of the book to Theophilus (1-3).
- John's Birth announced to the priest Zacharias and wife Elizabeth (5-25).
- Jesus Christ's birth was announced to Mary, His mother (26-38).
- Mary's visit to Elizabeth (39-45).
- The Song of Mary (46-56).
- John born and circumcised (57-66).
- Zacharias' prophecy about who John would become (67-80).

Questions:

1. What is Luke's purpose in writing his gospel? (4)
2. Who announced to Zacharias that he would have a son? (13)
3. What did the angel say would be significant about Mary's son? (32-33)
4. How did Elizabeth describe Mary when they visited? (43)
5. What can we know from the words "*the babe leaped in her womb*"? (41)
6. Name one important truth found in Mary's song (46-55)
7. How did the people know John was special? (61-66)
8. Who was John to be in relation to the Christ who would come? (76-79)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 2) - Luke 2

Recap:

- Last lesson we were introduced to two important individuals, who would be born to two cousins (Elizabeth and Mary).
- The first one born was John (known as John the Baptist, the one who would prepare the world for the coming of Jesus Christ).
- Luke 2 talks of the second child, revealing Jesus' birth and early life.

Luke 2 Synopsis

- The birth of Jesus (1-7).
- Shepherds come to worship the newborn Savior (8-20).
- Jesus' circumcision and presentation (21-24).
- Simeon meets the Christ (25-35).
- The prophetess Anna preached about redemption in Jesus (36-38).
- Jesus and his parents return to Nazareth (cf. Matthew 2:23) (39-40).
- The feast of the Passover when Jesus was 12 (41-50).
- A summary statement of Jesus' development (51-52).

Questions:

1. Why did Joseph travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gave birth? (4) see Micah 5:2
2. How did the angel identify Jesus to the Shepherds? (10-11)
3. What is the significance of Jesus' parents following the law? (22-24) see Matthew 5:17-18
4. How did Simeon describe Jesus while he held him? (28-32)
5. To whom did Anna preach about Jesus? (38)
6. How did Jesus grow while in Nazareth? (40)
7. How are the feelings of the teachers in the temple described? (46-47)
8. How is the young man Jesus described in verse 52? (52)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 3) - Luke 3 & 4

Recap:

- Last lesson we discussed Jesus' early life. Birth, circumcision, presentation in the temple, Passover feast at age 12.
- Luke 3 and 4 discuss John's ministry and the beginning of the ministry of Jesus.

Luke 3 Synopsis

- The purpose of John the Baptist's ministry (1-6).
- John's message to the Jews (7-20).
- John Baptizes Jesus (21-22).
- A Genealogy of Jesus Christ (23-38).

Luke 4 Synopsis

- The Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness (1-13).
- Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, and is rejected in Nazareth (14-30).
- Jesus casts out demons and heals sickness (31-41).
- Jesus preaches in the synagogues of Galilee (42-44).

Questions:

1. What is "*a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins*"? (3:3)
2. Discuss the prophecy concerning one who would come after him (3:16-17)
3. What can we know about God from Jesus' baptism? (3:21-22)
4. Discuss differences between Luke's Genealogy (3:23-38) and Matthew's.
5. How did Jesus answer every temptation from Satan? (4:1-13)
6. Why did Nazareth reject Jesus? (4:24)
7. What is the difference between demon possession and sickness? (4:31-41)
8. Why did Jesus come to the world, as stated in (4:43)?

Luke/Acts (Lesson 4) - Luke 5

Recap:

- Last lesson we discussed John the Baptist's preparatory ministry, the baptism of Jesus, His genealogy, the temptation of Jesus, and the beginning of His Galilean ministry.
- In our lesson today we will be introduced to some of Jesus' disciples, and discuss several different miracles that Jesus performed.

Luke 5 Synopsis

- Jesus meets Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John (four fishermen) (1-9).
- Jesus Cleanses a Leper & Heals a paralyzed man (10-26).
- Jesus calls Matthew the tax collector to follow Him (27-32).
- Jesus is questioned by the Pharisees, and responds with a parable (33-39).

Questions:

1. What was it that convinced Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John to leave their work, and follow Jesus? (4-8)
2. What does *"From now on you will catch men"* mean? (10)
3. Why did Jesus tell the leper to tell no one He cleansed him? (14)
4. Why would Jesus withdraw from the multitudes to pray? (16)
5. How did Jesus upset the scribes & Pharisees in (20-21)?
6. Did Jesus deny that He was God? What was the proof? (21-24)
7. Why would the Pharisees object to the people Jesus ate with? (30)
8. Jesus came to heal those spiritually sick. Who does that describe? (31-32)
9. What's the meaning of the parable Jesus taught? (36-38)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 5) - Luke 6

Recap:

- In our last lesson we met some of Jesus' apostles, read about several notable miracles He performed, and met some of His most notable enemies who would oppose Him. (The scribes and the Pharisees). We also find a Parable of Jesus in verses 36-39.
- In Chapter 6 we read of great controversy caused by His actions, and by His teaching. The Sermon on the Mount (also found in Matthew 5-7) is a wonderful, but challenging message for mankind.

Luke 6 Synopsis

- Jesus challenges a Pharisaical tradition as "*Lord of the Sabbath*" (1-5).
- Jesus heals a man with a withered hand, also on a Sabbath day (6-11).
- Luke lists the twelve apostles of Jesus (12-16).
- Jesus heals many and casts out unclean spirits (17-19).
- Luke's account of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (20-49).

Questions:

1. Was Jesus really doing something that was unlawful? (2)
2. Why was it controversial to heal a man's hand? (7)
3. What did Jesus' healing of the man cause among the Pharisees? (11)
4. Was the desire to touch Jesus rational? (19)
5. What does the word "Beatitude" mean? (cf. 20-23)
6. How can we love enemies? (27) How is this different from the world? (32)
7. Is all judging condemned by verse 37? Look at the entire context! (37-42)
8. How might verses 43-45 impact the verse on judging in verse 37?
9. What is the rock upon which the wise man builds his house? (47-48)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 6) - Luke 7

Recap:

- Our lesson last week dealt with controversy. Jesus and His disciples were criticized by the Jewish leaders, both because they violated Jewish traditions regarding the Sabbath, and because of Jesus' teaching.
- Jesus' sermon on the mount takes up the final 29 verses.

Luke 7 Synopsis

- Jesus heals the terminally ill servant of a Roman centurion (1-10).
- John the Baptist sends his disciples to inquire about Jesus (18-23).
- Jesus tells His disciples about John the Baptist and his ministry (24-28).
- Jesus admonishes the Pharisees and lawyers because of a lack of faith, despite the evidence He supplied (29-35)
- Jesus teaches a Pharisee and forgives a woman of her sins (36-50).

Questions:

1. Explain how Jesus knew that the centurion had great faith in Him (6-8).
2. What was the motivation for Jesus when he raised the dead man? (13).
3. What was the effect of Jesus raising the widow's son? (16-17).
4. What evidence did Jesus point to in order to satisfy John the Baptist? (21-22).
5. Why didn't the Pharisees and lawyers submit to John's baptism? (30,35).
6. What did the complaints Jesus mentioned show about the character of his enemies? (33-35).
7. What will help us to love Jesus more? (43-37) What will that love and faith accomplish? (50).
8. What does Jesus' ability to forgive sins say about Him? (49).

Luke/Acts (Lesson 7) - Luke 8

Recap:

- Last lesson we discussed numerous indications that Jesus is God's Son. Healings, raising a man from the dead, and forgiving sin.
- Jesus also testified of the greatness of John the Baptist, who was rejected by the Pharisees and Scribes.

Luke 8 Synopsis

- The diligence of female disciples is noted, as they provide for Jesus (1-3).
- The Parable of the Sower is given to a great multitude, and later its meaning is given to Jesus' disciples (4-15).
- The Parable of the Lampstand is given (16-18).
- Jesus teaches the value of the spiritual family (19-21).
- Jesus shows miraculous power over nature (22-25).
- Jesus shows power to cast out demons (26-39).
- Jesus shows power over sickness and death (40-54).

Questions:

1. What do we know about Mary Magdalene? (2)
2. What does the Sower's seed represent in the parable? (5,11)
3. What do the different types of soil represent in the parable? (12-15)
4. What does the light on a lampstand teach us? (16-18)
5. What does Jesus indicate are our most important relationships in life? (21)
6. What does Jesus' power over the winds & water indicate about Him? (25)
7. Did the demon's confession of Jesus and the Son of God constitute faith? How about saving faith? (28, James 2:19)
8. Jesus raised a girl from the dead. What was His greatest demonstration of His power over death? (54-55, cf. 1 Corinthians 15:21-23)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 8) - Luke 9

Recap:

- Last chapter we are introduced to Jesus' teaching in parables. The parable of the Sower is also explained.
- Also, Jesus is shown to possess power over the elements, demons, and sickness and death.

Luke 9 Synopsis

- Jesus' 12 disciples are given a "limited" commission to go preach the kingdom of God to the Jews (1-6).
- King Herod sought to see Jesus (7-9).
- Jesus miraculously feeds 5,000 with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish (10-17).
- Peter's confession of Jesus as "*The Christ of God*" (19-20).
- Jesus predicts His death, and calls for discipleship to Him (21-26, 43-45).
- Jesus is transfigured before Peter, John & James (27-36)
- Jesus healed a demon possessed child, that his apostles could not (37-42).
- Jesus corrects his disciples' thinking on two subjects (46-50).
- A Samaritan village rejects Jesus (51-56).
- Jesus teaches his followers the cost of discipleship (57-62).

Questions:

1. What was the consequence of a city that didn't receive the disciples? (5)
2. Why was it needed for Jesus to feed 5,000 people? (12)
3. Is there a difference between Peter's confession (20), and the confession that is to be made unto salvation? (cf. Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)
4. What might have led the disciples to be confused about Jesus' prediction of His own death? (21-26, 43-45)
5. Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? (48)
6. Does verse 62 teach the possibility of apostasy - (Losing your salvation after you have become a disciple)? (62)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 9) - Luke 10

Recap:

- In our previous lesson we read about several more notable miracles of Jesus. These include His transfiguration before Peter, John & James.
- Also, Jesus sent the apostles on a “limited commission” to preach the gospel of the kingdom to the Jewish people.

Luke 10 Synopsis

- Jesus expands the evangelists to 70 men, to preach the gospel of the kingdom (1-12).
- The 70 return with the results of their efforts (13-20).
- Jesus extolls the blessings of the coming kingdom, witnessed by His disciples (21-24).
- Jesus uses a Samaritan as an example of loving your neighbor (25-37).
- Mary and Martha have a conflict, moderated by the Lord (38-42).

Questions:

1. In both the receptive, and non-receptive cities the same message is given, “*the kingdom of God has come near to you*”. How might the same message have different meanings to the different cities? (8,11)
2. What does verse 16 say about the authority of those who preach Jesus?
3. What does verse 20 say about the relative importance of miraculous powers?
4. What things were the disciples seeing that prophets and kings from before had not seen? (23-24)
5. What is the primary lesson of “loving your neighbor” given by Jesus? (36)
6. When we balance hospitality with learning the words of the Lord, which has the greater value? (42) Does that diminish the importance of being hospitable? (cf. 1 Peter 4:9)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 10) - Luke 11

Recap:

- In our last lesson Jesus taught his disciples the importance of thinking spiritually instead of physically. Your neighbor is the one you are a neighbor to. And, among good things, like practicing hospitality, there is an even better thing, the search for truth.
- The fulfillment of God's promises concerning the coming kingdom are precious, and a blessing to all who witness it.

Luke 11 Synopsis

- Jesus teaches His disciples to pray (1-4).
- Jesus teaches the importance of persistence in prayer by use of an example, then direct teaching (5-13).
- Jesus answers accusations that His power over the demons comes from Beelzebub (possibly the Devil himself) (14-23).
- Jesus uses an illustration (itself potentially possible) to teach the need of filling oneself with good (24-26).
- Jesus teaches the importance of accepting truth, and with righteousness, noting that the present generation was evil! (27-36).
- Jesus pronounces woes upon the evil Pharisees and scribes (37-54).

Questions:

1. What does a good prayer consist of? (2-4)
2. What is wrong with the argument that Jesus was casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub? (17-18)
3. According to Jesus, who enjoys greater blessings? (28)
4. What made the present generation evil, according to Jesus? (29-32)
5. Is Jesus just talking about the physical eye in body in verses 33-36?
6. Why did Jesus pronounce woes upon the scribes and Pharisees? (39-52) How did they respond to His criticism? (53-54)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 11) - Luke 12

Recap:

- In our last lesson Jesus taught his disciples How to pray. Both in form and frequency.
- We also learned of Jesus' power of demons.
- Finally, Jesus pronounced woes upon the Pharisees and Scribes due to their hypocrisy. His admonitions caused them to loathe Him and seek His death.

Luke 12 Synopsis

- Jesus calls upon His disciples to beware of hypocrisy (1-3).
- Jesus calls upon them to fear God and confess Him before men (4-12).
- Jesus taught the parable of the rich fool (13-21).
- Jesus shows that anxiety can be eased by trusting in God (22-34).
- Jesus uses parables to emphasize the importance of righteous preparation for the coming of the Lord (35-48).
- Jesus admonishes the multitudes (49-59).

Questions:

1. Ultimately, can a hypocrite fool God? (2-3)
2. Why can't blasphemy against the Holy Spirit be forgiven? (10)
3. What is the primary lesson in Jesus' parable about the rich fool? (21)
4. In what way can anxiety be caused by a lack of trust in God? (28)
5. If God is the God of peace, why did Jesus say he would bring division? (52)
6. What was it that the multitudes did not understand or discern about "*this time*"?
7. What was the purpose of Jesus' teaching about how to handle your "*adversary*"?

Luke/Acts (Lesson 12) - Luke 13

Recap:

- In our last lesson we discussed the sin of hypocrisy.
- We also talked of fear of God, covetousness and anxiety.
- Jesus taught His disciples to prepare for His coming by living a righteous life.

Luke 13 Synopsis

- Jesus teaches the necessity of repentance to receive the forgiveness of sins (1-5).
- Jesus illustrates the necessity of repentance with a parable (6-9).
- Jesus healed a woman on the Sabbath, bringing controversy (10-17).
- Jesus teaches two different kingdom parables (Mustard Seed/Leaven) (18-21).
- Jesus teaches the difficulty of the path of righteousness (22-30).
- Jesus is threatened by Herod (31-33).
- Jesus expresses sorrow for an unrepentant Israel, embodied in the city of Jerusalem (34-35).

Questions:

1. When we suffer, it is always because of our own failures? (2)
2. Does God guarantee that we will always have time to repent? (8)
3. How did Jesus answer His critic who accused him of sin by healing a woman on the Sabbath day? (15-16)
4. What kingdom principle is taught by the parable of the Mustard seed (18-19), and the parable of the Leaven (20-21)?
5. What does the narrow gate in verse 24 signify?
6. What was the chief reason Jesus was so sad for "Jerusalem"? What does the city of Jerusalem represent? (34-35)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 13) - Luke 14

Recap:

- In our study last week, repentance was the primary focus of our discussion. It's necessity, and the consequences of being unrepentant.
- Jesus' controversial actions continue, as he heals a woman on the Sabbath, bringing the disapproval of the Jewish leaders.
- He uses parables to teach important principles about the Kingdom.

Luke 14 Synopsis

- Jesus heals a man with dropsy, again on the Sabbath day (1-6).
- Jesus teaches a parable showing the folly of self-aggrandizement (7-11).
- Jesus teaches the importance of selfless hospitality & benevolence (12-14).
- Jesus uses a parable to teach the importance of a proper response to the invitation of God (15-24).
- Jesus teaches the importance of counting the great cost of being His disciple (25-33).
- Jesus uses the illustration of tasteless salt to establish the importance of a godly influence (34-35).

Questions:

1. What is the more important work, healing a sick person? Or pulling an animal out of a ditch?
2. Is there any benefit in bragging on yourself? How can you be exalted by God Himself?
3. Is there any place for selfishness when practicing benevolence?
4. How does God feel about "excuses" that are basically efforts to avoid what is important and required by Him?
5. What does it mean to "hate" family in order to be a disciple of Jesus?
6. How can a Christian be the "*salt of the earth*" (cf. Matthew 5:13)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 14) - Luke 15

Recap:

- Last lesson, the primary discussions center on personal responsibility, and the proper response of a man to God.
- An emphasis is placed by Jesus upon the importance of humility.
- Jesus also taught about the need for respect for God, and total dedication.
- Finally, the discussion notes the importance of being a good influence.

Luke 15 Synopsis

- Jesus teaches three parables (lost sheep, lost coin, lost son) to emphasize the significance of repentance (1-32).
- Jesus establishes numerous important lessons in his parable of the prodigal son (11-32).
 - The folly of youthful indiscretion and rebellion (12-13).
 - The result of wasteful living (14-17).
 - The positive results of coming “to yourself” (17-24).
 - God’s willingness to forgive those who repent (17-24).
 - The destructive nature of envy/jealousy (25-30).
 - The proper response to another’s good fortune is thanksgiving (31-32).

Questions:

1. Why does the repentance of a single soul bring so much joy? (7)
2. Is there significance to each person calling others to rejoice with them? (6, 9, 23)
3. What is “prodigal living”? (13, 30)
4. What do the son’s words in verses 17-19 indicate had changed in his character? (17-19)
5. Was the response of the older son understandable? Was it appropriate? (25-32)
6. What do these parables in chapter 15 teach about God’s forgiveness?

Luke/Acts (Lesson 15) - Luke 16

Recap:

- Last lesson, the primary discussion centered upon the necessity of repentance.
- Three parables emphasized its importance. The parable of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son.
- God is willing to forgive any transgression if true repentance is present.

Luke 16 Synopsis

- Jesus teaches lessons on shrewdness and money by the parable of the unjust steward (1-13).
- Jesus again clashes with the Pharisees. About money, the kingdom and marriage (14-18).
- Jesus teaches about the soul's existence after death by telling of an unrighteous rich man, and a righteous beggar named Lazarus, who both died. They "awoke" in Hades, one in torment, and the other comforted. (19-31).

Questions:

1. In what way are ungodly people often better than righteous people? (8)
2. Why is it not possible for us to serve both God and material things? (13)
3. What does it mean, that "God knows your hearts"? How did this impact the Pharisees claims to be righteous? (15)
4. Is Jesus' teaching about Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage a "hard" teaching? (cf. Matthew 19:10-12). Is it fair?
5. Is there really a place like that described in Luke 16:19-31?
6. If the rich man and Lazarus' fates were already sealed at death (25-26), why will there be a final day of judgment?

Luke/Acts (Lesson 16) - Luke 17

Recap:

- The first half of chapter 16 dealt with loyalty and the proper use of money.
- As usual, Jesus in His teaching conflicted with the Pharisees.
- In the last half, lessons about riches, faithfulness, death and the afterlife are learned from the rich man and Lazarus.

Luke 17 Synopsis

- The nature of man assures that “*offenses*” will come. The guilty will not escape without repentance. Who are such sins to be dealt with? (1-4).
- The apostles asked for their faith to be increased. Jesus answered with lessons about faith & faithfulness (5-10).
- Ten lepers are healed by Jesus. A lesson about gratitude is taught (11-19).
- Jesus teaches about the spiritual nature of the kingdom, and the end of the physical kingdom of the Jews, by God’s judgment (20-37).

Questions:

1. If I cause another to sin, will God hold me accountable, even though the other person is the guilty one? (1-2)
2. How often does Jesus require for you to forgive another? (3-4)
3. What can be accomplished through faith? (6)
4. What does Jesus mean when he calls upon men to say, “*We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do*”? (19)
5. Why would Luke call Jesus’ healing of the lepers being “*cleansed*” (14)
6. Why would Jesus note that it was only a Samaritan who returned to Jesus in thankfulness? (18)
7. Is the Kingdom of Jesus a physical kingdom? (20-21). If not, how does this impact the popular doctrine of Premillennialism?

Luke/Acts (Lesson 17) - Luke 18

Recap:

- In the first half of chapter 17, Jesus instructs on the important principles of repentance, faith and thankfulness.
- In the last half of the chapter (20-37), important questions about His kingdom, and the destruction of the physical kingdom of the Jews are answered.

Luke 18 Synopsis

- Jesus uses a parable to teach His disciples to “*pray and not lose heart*” (persistence) (1-8).
- Jesus uses another parable to show the danger of pride and self-righteousness (9-14).
- Jesus blessed the little children (15-17), and counsels a rich man (18-23).
- Jesus speaks about the dangers of riches (24-30).
- Jesus speaks about His eventual death. His disciples fail to understand the significance of His words (31-34).
- Jesus heals a blind man in the presence of many (35-43).

Questions:

1. How does Jesus compare God to an unjust Judge? What is the contrast between God and that judge? (1-8)
2. What is God’s attitude toward the proud? Toward the humble? (9-14)
3. Do Jesus’ words (in verses 15-17) support or deny the doctrine of “total depravity” from birth?
4. Was the rich man’s problem his money? Or, his love of money? (23)
5. What does Jesus’ teaching about the dangers of riches tell us about where our loyalties should lie? (29-30)
6. Why might it be that Jesus’ disciples did not understand Him when He predicted His suffering and death? (31-34)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 18) - Luke 19

Recap:

- In the last chapter, we have two things typical of Jesus' ministry. Parables (prayer, arrogance), and miracles (the blind man). (1-14, 35-42)
- Jesus counseled a rich man, teaching him the dangers of money.
- Also, Jesus admonished his disciples for an improper attitude toward children and predicted His death & resurrection yet again.

Luke 19 Synopsis

- Jesus commends the publican, Zacchaeus, because of he received Jesus joyfully, and because of his honesty in his profession (1-9).
- Jesus taught a parable emphasizing the importance of stewardship (11-27).
- At the pinnacle of His popularity, Jesus triumphantly enters into the city of Jerusalem (28-40).
- Jesus weeps because of the rebelliousness of Israel (represented by the city of Jerusalem). Predicted the demise of the city (41-44).
- Jesus drove the moneychangers and merchants out of the temple (45-48).

Questions:

1. Why was Zacchaeus referred to as "a sinner"? (7)
2. Why did Jesus single out Zacchaeus, to dine at his house? (5)
3. What is the primary lesson to be learned from the parable of the "minas" in (11-27)?
4. Why did the people, who rejoiced at Jesus' entrance into the city of Jerusalem, later cry out "*Crucify Him, Crucify Him!*" (cf. 23:21) (28-40)
5. What did Jesus prophesy about in verses (43-44)?
6. Why did Jesus drive out the moneychangers from the temple? (45-46)
7. Why would Jesus' popularity thwart attempts to kill Him? (47-48)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 19) - Luke 20

Recap:

- Jesus went into the house of a Publican (Zaccheus) and taught those present in parables.
- Jesus entered Jerusalem to great fanfare and cleansed the temple of the merchants there.

Luke 20 Synopsis

- Jesus refuses to answer the Jewish leaders who confronts Him in the temple (1-8).
- Jesus teaches in a parable, showing the wickedness of the Jewish leaders, and angering them (9-19).
- Jesus confounded the Pharisees who tested Him in on the subject of taxation, hoping to accuse Him of sedition (20-26).
- Jesus uses the implication of scripture to refute the Sadducees on the subject of the resurrection of the dead (27-40).
- Jesus then asks His own question concerning the Christ (41-44), then condemns the scribes in the hearing of the people (45-47).

Questions:

1. Why did Jesus refuse to answer the questions of the Jewish leaders? (8)
2. Who were targeted by Jesus' parable of the wicked vinedressers? (19)
3. Are we required by God to pay taxes if the government is evil? (20-26)
4. Explain the significance of the burning bush passage (Exodus 3:6) as it pertains to the resurrection from the dead. (37-38)
5. Can you answer Jesus' question in verse 44? How can Jesus be both son and Lord to David?
6. What characteristic of the scribes did Jesus condemn? (45-47)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 20) - Luke 21

Recap:

- In chapter 20, Jesus had a series of interactions with the Jewish leaders where they asked Him questions, and then He questioned them. Their efforts to trip Jesus up were unsuccessful.
- Jesus sharply rebuked the leaders on two different occasions and motivated them to seek His death.

Luke 21 Synopsis

- When Jesus' observed the widow's contribution, he taught the superiority of sacrifice over value (1-4).
- Jesus predicted the destruction of the temple. It took place in AD 70 (5-6).
- Jesus taught His disciples regarding when the temple would be destroyed, and the signs which would predate it. (See also Matthew 24) (7-28). (Note the hyperbolic and figurative language of judgment. It is typical in both the Old and New Testaments).
- Jesus taught that this judgment of Israel would take place in their generation (29-33).
- Jesus called upon His disciples to be aware and righteous, to escape that judgment of God (34-36).
- During this time, Jesus spent His nights on the Mount of Olives (37-38).

Questions:

1. How much money does God expect us to give to Him? (1-4, cf. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
2. What is the significance of Jerusalem's destruction in AD 70? What does *"the end"* (9) signify?
3. What did Jesus mean when He said, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away"*? (33)
4. How would His disciples' personal righteousness protect them when Jerusalem would be destroyed? (36)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 21) - Luke 22

Recap:

- In Chapter 21, Jesus taught the value of sacrifice, noting the sacrifice of a widow who, though it was a trifle, put all that she had into the treasury of the temple.
- The remainder of the chapter is taken in the prediction of the siege of Jerusalem and destruction of the temple. (Which took place in AD 70).

Luke 22 Synopsis

- The Jewish leaders conspired with Judas Iscariot to betray and arrest Jesus *“in the absence of the multitude”* (1-6).
- Jesus instructed the disciples to prepare for the Passover (7-13).
- Jesus institutes His memorial supper using the emblems of the Passover (14-23).
- Jesus admonishes His disciples, teaching them that greatness is found in service (24-30).
- Jesus predicts Peter’s denial (31-34), which later happened (54-62).
- Jesus teaches the need for preparation after His departure (35-38).
- Jesus goes to the garden of Gethsemane to pray, where he is later in the evening betrayed by Judas, an arrested by the Jewish leaders (39-53).
- Jesus faces the Sanhedrin after being beaten (63-71).

Questions:

1. What is the reason Judas sought to betray Jesus? (3,5)
2. What are the two emblems that make up the Lord’s Supper, and what do they represent? (19-20)
3. Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven? (25-27)
4. Why was Jesus in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane? (41-44)
5. Why did Peter deny Jesus? (54-60)
6. What was the charge against Jesus? (70-71)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 22) - Luke 23

Recap:

- In chapter 22 we noted the final Passover Jesus held with His disciples, and His instituting His own supper using the fruit of the vine and unleavened bread to symbolize His blood and body.
- Jesus was betrayed by Judas, arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, and brought before the Sanhedrin, charged with blasphemy.

Luke 23 Synopsis

- The Jewish leaders take Jesus to Pilate to be judged by him as governor of Judea. Initially, Pilate did not consider him guilty of a crime (1-5).
- Pilate sent Jesus to Herod who questioned Him, ridiculed Him, and then sent Him back to Pilate (6-12).
- Pilate sought to release Jesus, but the Jewish people objected. To appease the Jews, Pilate agreed to release a murderer named Barabbas, but to deliver Jesus up to be crucified (13-25).
- Jesus is crucified between two thieves, at Calvary. (26-43).
- At Jesus death, a Roman centurion attested to Jesus' righteous character (44-49).
- Jesus' body is taken by a man, Joseph, and laid in a new tomb (50-56).

Questions:

1. Why were so many different accusations raised against Jesus? (22:71, 23:2,5,10, cf. 14-16)
2. Why did Herod treat Jesus with contempt? (8-11)
3. Why would Pilate, who proclaimed Jesus' innocence, deliver Him up to be crucified? (23-24)
4. Does the thief on the cross give us a pattern for our salvation? (42-43)
5. Why does Jesus' crucifixion on the cross benefit us?
6. What position did Joseph of Arimathea hold? (50)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 23) - Luke 24

Recap:

- Jesus was tried before Pilate, then Herod, and Pilate's decided to allow Jesus to be crucified.
- Jesus' crucifixion, and his death and burial in a tomb supplied by Joseph of Arimathea complete the chapter.

Luke 24 Synopsis

- On the first day of the week (Sunday) early in the morning, it was revealed by two angels to women that Jesus was resurrected, and not there. Initially, the disciples do not believe the women's report (1-11).
- Jesus meets two disciples on the same day. He declares to them the prophet's message about the suffering Savior... (Himself) (12-27).
- In Emmaus, Jesus stayed with the disciples. As they ate, *"their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight"* (28-35).
- Jesus appears to the disciples and reveals Himself in His resurrected body (36-43).
- Jesus teaches His disciples why it was necessary He be resurrected. He gives them instructions to tarry in Jerusalem until power comes (44-49).
- At Bethany, Jesus ascends to Heaven (50-53).

Questions:

1. Why would it be difficult to fake the resurrection of Jesus by stealing the body from the tomb? (2-3) (cf. Matthew 27:62-66)
2. Why do you think the disciples might be *"slow of heart to believe"* the evidence of Jesus' resurrection from the dead? (cf. 25)
3. Why might the disciples mistakenly believe that the resurrected Jesus was a spirit, causing fear? (36-41)
4. What is the significance of Jesus' directions to tarry in Jerusalem until they were *"endued with power from on high."* What was that power? (49) (cf. Acts 1:4-8)
5. What is the significance of Jesus' ascension to heaven? (51) (cf. Acts 2:33)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 24) – Acts 1

Introduction:

- Luke and Acts / companion books. (Lk. 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3).
- **Note:** Luke: a gospel; Acts: a book of history.
- With Luke we discussed Jesus' ministry as He fulfilled prophecy, performed miracles, taught, died a sacrificial death on the cross, was resurrected after three days, and ascended into heaven.
- This is referred to as the gospel of Jesus Christ. (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

Acts 1 Synopsis

- Luke ties his current letter to Theophilus to the former letter (gospel of Luke) that he wrote to him (1-3).
- Jesus instructed the disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they are baptized with the Holy Spirit. Note the baptism of the Holy Spirit is equated with the reception of "power" (4-8).
- Luke relates again the ascension of Jesus into heaven (9-11).
- The disciples returned to Jerusalem to await the promise of Jesus (12-14).
- The disciples replace Judas Iscariot (who had committed suicide) with a man named Matthias to again come to 12 in number (15-26).

Questions:

1. Other than them having the same author, and were written to the same person, what about Luke and Acts would make them companion volumes?
2. Verses 6 and 7 refer to the restoration of the kingdom to Israel. Read Mark 9:1 and consider how the two verses corroborate one another.
3. What did the angel mean when saying "*This same Jesus... will so come in like manner as you saw Him to into heaven*"? (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18)
4. Why would the disciples seek to replace Judas Iscariot? Is there a special significance to the number 12?
5. In verse 26 they cast lots. Was Matthias chosen by chance? (cf. 24)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 25) – Acts 2

Recap:

- Acts 1 finishes the narrative of Jesus' time on earth, as it reveals some of the teaching of Jesus between his resurrection, and his ascension 40 days later.
- The primary important thing to remember is Jesus' instructions to His disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit (power, vs. 8) within a few days.
- **Note:** Acts 2 reveals the fulfillment of that promise of Holy Spirit baptism.
- The disciples choose Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot as an apostle.

Acts 2 Synopsis

- The Holy Spirit falls upon the twelve apostles on the day of Pentecost (1-4).
- The crowd is amazed, but some mock (5-13).
- Peter explains the significance of this event (14-21).
- Peter preaches the first gospel sermon ever to the Jews in the temple (22-36).
- The sermon touches the heart of some of the Jews there. They ask what is required for them to be saved from their sin, and Peter responds (37-39).
- Preaching by Peter and the other apostles continue, and thousands are converted, beginning their lives as Christians (40-47).

Questions:

1. Was the Baptism of the Holy Spirit to save men? (1-4)
2. What is tongue speaking? (7-8)
3. What is the final and most powerful proof that Jesus is the Christ? (29-36)
4. What was Peter's response to those who desired forgiveness? (37-38)
5. Is there significance in continuing steadfastly in "*apostle's doctrine*"? (42)
6. Who is it that is added to the church, and when are they added? (47)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 26) – Acts 3

Recap:

- Acts 2 reveals one of the most significant events in God's scheme of redeeming men – The establishment of the church/kingdom.
- The disciples received the power promised (cf. Mark 9:1), when they were baptized with the Holy Spirit (2:1-4).
- Peter preached the first gospel sermon, establishing the requirements for salvation. Repentance and Baptism are for the remission of sins.
- The church grew daily as the gospel was preached.

Acts 3 Synopsis

- Acts 3 discusses an event (the healing of a lame man) that brings about early conflict between the church of Christ and the Jews.
- Peter and John (apostles) heal a man lame from birth, who was laid at the gate of the temple called Beautiful. (3:1-10)
- Peter preaches to a gathering of people who had witnessed the healing of the lame man. This sermon is preached in Solomon's porch (11).
- The sermon: a) Proclaimed that Jesus is the Messiah; b) That they were guilty of sin in having Him crucified; c) Faith in Jesus is what had healed the lame man; d) Called them to repentance; e) Claimed that Moses had prophesied about Jesus; f) Informed them that redemption through faith in Jesus was being offered to them as Jews.

Questions:

1. Would the miracle in healing the lame man been easily verified to the eyewitnesses? (2, 10)
2. Which is more important, physical or spiritual riches? (6)
3. What is the significance of the phrase "*Prince of life*" (15)
4. Did ignorance excuse the Jews in crucifying Jesus? (17-19)
5. Why were the Jews preached the gospel first? (26)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 27) – Acts 4

Recap:

- In Acts 3, Luke recounted the early days of the church, as the apostles preached the gospel in Jerusalem.
- The healing of a lame man near the temple, brought the attention of the people upon Peter and John.
- Peter took advantage of the people's attention, preaching the same gospel message to them on this occasion.

Acts 4 Synopsis

- Peter and John are arrested by Jewish leaders and taken into custody. The cause of the arrest was their subject matter: the resurrection from the dead. (Sadducees did not believe that truth) (1-7).
- Peter defended his teaching in the Sanhedrin (8-12).
- After deliberation, the Jewish leaders threaten Peter and John, commanding them to no longer teach the name of Jesus (13-22).
- Peter and John are comforted and praised for their boldness, and prayers were offered on their behalf by their brethren (23-31).
- The early state of the church is described, with Christians sacrificing in their benevolence and hospitality toward one another (32-37).

Questions:

1. Were Peter and John cowed by their arrest by the Jewish leaders? (10-12)
2. In what way did the Jewish leaders show their hard hearts? (15-17)
3. Do the words of Peter and John in verses (19-20) give a limited authority for Christians to disobey civil authority? Or an unlimited authority?
4. What does verses (27-28) reveal about God working in the affairs of men?
5. Why is boldness needed to preach the gospel? (29)
6. How did early Christians show their love for one another? (32,34-35)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 28) – Acts 5

Recap:

- The healing of the lame man in the temple gave Peter and John an audience, increasing those converted to Christ, and bringing the ire of the leaders of the Jews.
- Peter and John were arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin. The leaders commanded them to no longer preach Jesus.
- Peter and John were not cowed and determined to keep on preaching the gospel of the Lord.

Acts 5 Synopsis

- Ananias and Sapphira are put to death by God for lying to the Holy Spirit (1-11).
- The apostles continued their miracles and preaching among the Jews, converting many (12-16).
- The apostles were arrested again (17-21) (Disobedient to civil authority).
- The apostles were put on trial by the Sanhedrin, and defended themselves, giving witness to God's work (22-32).
- Gamaliel advises the Sanhedrin to be careful in the treatment of the apostles, lest they "*fight against God.*" (33-40).
- The work of the apostles (preaching the gospel) continued (41-42).

Questions:

1. What exactly was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira? (3,9)
2. What acts of the apostles helped to convert the people? (12)
3. What was the response of the apostles to the command to no longer preach in Jesus' name? (29). Is this disobedience to authority defensible?
4. What was Gamaliel's advice to the Sanhedrin? (35-39)
5. How can suffering shame and persecution be a positive thing? (41)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 29) – Acts 6

Recap:

- Two early Christians, Ananias and his wife Sapphira, were killed by God for lying to the Holy Spirit. This brought fear to the church.
- The apostles established the word through the many miracles they performed, leading to the conversion of multitudes.
- The apostles were arrested again, because of preaching in Jesus' name.

Acts 6 Synopsis

- The first internal challenge to the Lord's church came from unrest due to an unequal distribution to the needy. Seven men were chosen to ensure all was done fairly. (1-7)
- **Note:** Benevolent work is secondary to the primary purpose of the apostle's work and that of the church, to evangelize (4)
- A disciple named Stephen (one of the 7 chosen to serve tables) was a great evangelist. His effectiveness led to conflict with the Jews. He was falsely accused of blasphemy, and brought before the Sanhedrin (8-15)

Questions:

1. Who are Hellenists? (Their widows were neglected when the poor were being fed). (1)
2. What were the qualifications of the men who were appointed to serve tables? (3)
3. Which is the more important work, serving tables or the ministry of the word? (2-4)
4. What did Stephen's adversary's do when they were unable to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke? (11-14)
5. What was the perception of the Sanhedrin as they looked at the face of Stephen?

Luke/Acts (Lesson 30) – Acts 7

Recap:

- The first internal problem the church faced in Jerusalem was the neglect of some of the needy in the daily distribution of food.
- Seven good men were chosen to serve the food, so that the apostles could continue to preach, and not be burdened with this benevolent task.
- One of these men, Stephen was falsely accused, and brought before the Sanhedrin by Jews who opposed his teaching.

Acts 7 Synopsis

- Stephen is asked to defend himself against accusations of blasphemy (1).
- Stephen defends himself in (2-53), reviewing the history of Israel even from Abraham, including their rebellion against God, and their treatment of prophets.
- There is a parallel between Moses and Jesus, stated by Stephen (35).
- Moses prophesied about another prophet who would come after him (37).
- The Jews were not looking properly for the Messiah (44-50).
- Stephen makes the same charge as in Acts 2 (51-53).
- The Jews are enraged by Stephen's charge, and stone him to death (54-60).

Questions:

1. What charge was made against Stephen? (cf. 6:12-15)
2. Why do you think that Stephen would spend so much time reviewing the history of the Jews in his defense to the Sanhedrin? (2-50)
3. In what way are Moses and Jesus alike? (35, 37)
4. What did Stephen mean when he said that God does not dwell in temples made with hands? (44-50, esp. 48)
5. What was the charge made by Stephen? (51-53)
6. What important person was present at the stoning of Stephen? (58)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 31) – Acts 8

Recap:

- Late in chapter 6, a faithful disciple (Stephen) was accused of blasphemy.
- The first 53 verses of the 7th chapter consist of Stephen's defense, ending with his accusation that they betrayed and murdered the Messiah.
- This angered the Jews, who stoned Stephen to death. Saul of Tarsus was present and consented to His death.

Acts 8 Synopsis

- Saul of Tarsus spearheaded a great persecution of the Jews in Jerusalem. This led to a dispersion of Jews into Judea and Samaria (1-3).
- Christians who left Jerusalem proclaimed the gospel of Christ wherever they went. Philip went to the city of Samaria, healing and preaching the gospel (4-8).
- Philip's efforts led to the conversion of a sorcerer named Simon (9-13).
- Peter and John traveled to Samaria to lay hands on the new Christians to give them spiritual gifts. This led to a sin by Simon (14-25).
- Philip converts a eunuch, a Jewish proselyte from Ethiopia (26-40).

Questions:

1. Did persecution & threats affect the efforts of Christians to preach? (4)
2. When people saw and heard the miracles of Philip, what did it cause them to do? (6)
3. What did belief lead the citizens of Samaria to do? (12) Simon as well? (13)
4. Who is it that had the ability to lay hands on people, to receive the Holy Spirit? (14-16)
5. Why was Simon's request of the apostles sinful? (20-23)
6. **Discussion:** Can it be said that external pressures on the church lead to growth? What would happen with internal strife? (cf. 6:2-4)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 32) – Acts 9

Recap:

- We discussed the persecution efforts of Saul of Tarsus.
- The text reveals the efforts of Philip to preach the gospel in Samaria. It deals specifically with the sin of Simon the Sorcerer.
- The conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch at the preaching of Philip is revealed.

Acts 9 Synopsis

- Saul of Tarsus travels toward Damascus for the purpose of oppressing Christians (1-2).
- The resurrected Lord appears to Saul and talks with him (3-9).
- The preacher Ananias comes to Damascus, and baptizes Saul (10-19).
- Saul immediately begins to preach, and his life is sought (20-25).
- Saul seeks to join with the disciples in Jerusalem, and preaches there (26-30).
- The church prospers wherever the gospel is preached (31).
- Aneas is healed, and Dorcas is raised from the dead, both by Peter (32-43).

Questions:

1. The Lord appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus, was Saul converted at that time? (6, cf. Acts 2:37)
2. What else of significance was revealed about Saul, to Ananias? (15, cf. Galatians 1:1)
3. What was the purpose of Saul's baptism? (18, cf. Acts 22:16; 2:38)
4. Is there significance to Saul's desire to "join the disciples" in Jerusalem? (26).
5. Discuss reasons why the church prospered at this time. (31)
6. What were the results of Peter's healings? (35, 42)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 33) – Acts 10

Recap:

- The primary section of Acts 9 discusses the conversion of Saul of Tarsus.
- He was not only converted, but also was a chosen vessel of the Lord to go preach the gospel as an apostle. (His conversion was in Damascus).
- The final sections deal with Paul joining the church in Jerusalem, and the miracles of Peter.

Acts 10 Synopsis

- The worship of Cornelius was acknowledged by God, who sent an angel to inform Cornelius of how to find out what he “*must do*” (1-8).
- Peter was prepared to preach to the Gentile Cornelius by a vision God sent to him. “*What God has cleansed you must not call common*” (9-16).
- Peter is asked to go to the house of Cornelius (17-23).
- Peter and Cornelius explain to each other their motivation for the meeting (24-33).
- Peter preaches to the household of Cornelius (34-43).
- The Gentiles are baptized in the Holy Spirit, then are baptized in the name of the Lord (44-48).

Questions:

1. Was the sincerity of Cornelius enough to save him from his sins? (6)
2. What was the purpose of the vision God sent to Peter in verses 9-16? (28)
3. Is there any difference between the gospel preached to the Jews, and that preached to Cornelius and his household? (34-43) (cf. Galatians 1:6-9)
4. What was the purpose for the Gentiles in the household of Cornelius receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit? (47) (cf. Acts 11:18)
5. At what point were those in Cornelius’ household saved? Were they saved when they received the Holy Spirit? Or when they were baptized in the name of the Lord? (47-48) (cf. Acts 2:38; 22:16; Mark 16:16)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 34) – Acts 11

Recap:

- Acts 10 is significant in that it reveals the fulness of God's promise of redemption. It is available to all men, regardless of nationality.
- Significantly, Cornelius sincerity was not enough to save him. He had to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved (cf. John 14:6).
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit was not to save Cornelius and his household. It was a sign to the Jews of the Gentiles acceptance by God.

Acts 11 Synopsis

- The first indication of resistance to the idea of Gentiles being accepted by God is shown in the Jew's response to Peter (1-3).
- Peter recounts the events of his meeting with and conversion of Cornelius and his household. (Note the Jew's response to his testimony (4-18)).
- The apostles sent Barnabas (a good man) to Antioch upon receiving news of the spread of the gospel to there (19-24).
- Barnabas went to Tarsus to get Saul, and they returned to Antioch (25-26)
- A pattern is established to deal with benevolent needs among the saints (27-30).

Questions:

1. What led the Jews to acknowledge that *"God has granted to the Gentiles repentance unto life"*? (1-18)
2. Why had the gospel of Christ traveled as far as Antioch? (19)
3. What work did Barnabas do when sent to Antioch? (23)
4. Who is it that joined Barnabas in Antioch? How long were they there? (25-26)
5. What event led to a need for benevolent action by the church in Antioch? And, what example is found in these verses that authorizes churches today to do the same? (27-30)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 35) – Acts 12

Recap:

- Acts 11 describes the repercussions of Peter's conversion of the household of Cornelius.
- Outrage, was followed by Peter's explanation, ending not only with acceptance but also appreciation by the faithful Jewish Christians.
- Barnabas and Saul worked with the congregation in Antioch, and a pattern for benevolence was established in (27-30).

Acts 12 Synopsis

- The second known Christian martyr (James) was killed by King Herod (1-2).
- Herod also seized Peter and imprisoned him (3-5).
- Peter is miraculously freed from prison by an angel of God (6-11).
- Peter visits the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark, to encourage the disciples there (12-17).
- The end of proud Herod is explained by Luke (18-24).
- Barnabas and Saul returned to Antioch after delivering the gift of benevolence to the indigent saints in Judah (25).

Questions:

1. What was the motivation of Herod in imprisoning Peter? (3)
2. What does it mean in verse 11, that Peter "*had come to himself*"?
3. Why did the disciples not believe Rhoda when she said that Peter was at the gate? They said, "*It is his angel*". (13-15)
4. Why did God take the life of King Herod? (21-23)
5. What is intended between the contrast of Herod's death, and the phrase "*But the word of God grew and multiplied*"? (24)
6. Explain the relationship of Barnabas and Saul with John Mark. (25), (Consider 12:11; 12:25; 13:5; 15:36-41; Colossians 4:10).

Luke/Acts (Lesson 36) – Acts 13

Recap:

- The text indicates the efforts of Herod to kill prominent Christian leaders, and his eventual death at God's hand.
- Though Peter was imprisoned by Herod, prayers were answered by God, who sent an angel to rescue him.
- Peter went to the house of Mary (mother of John Mark) where many were praying for him. They initially believed Peter had died and rejoiced when they saw him.

Acts 13 Synopsis

- The Holy Spirit directs the church at Antioch to separate Barnabas and Saul for a preaching ministry (1-3).
- While in Cyprus, Saul called upon the Lord to blind a sorcerer (4-12).
- The journey continued to Antioch in Pisidia, where Saul preached in the synagogue (13-41).
- Gentiles desired to hear the same message, and almost the whole city came the next Sabbath to hear the preaching of Paul (42-49).
- The Jews responded to the Gentiles reception of the gospel by persecuting Paul and Barnabas (48-52).

Questions:

1. What is the difference in names between verse 2 and verse 43?
2. How would you characterize Paul's response to Elymas in verse 10-11. What came about as a result? (12)
3. Why did the Jews respond to the preaching of Paul and Barnabas by contradicting them and blaspheming? (45).
4. What was the response of Paul & Barnabas to the unbelieving Jews? (46)
5. What is the proper response to the preaching of the gospel? (48)
6. What does it mean, "*they shook off the dust from their feet*" (51)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 37) – Acts 14

Recap:

- Chapter 13 contains details of the first missionary journey of Paul, who was accompanied by Barnabas.
- Paul and Barnabas went first to the Isle of Cyprus, where they were successful in converting the proconsul there, Sergius Paulus.
- There was much opposition to the gospel in Antioch Pisidia by the Jews, but the Gentiles rejoiced in receiving the gospel.
- Saul began to be referred to as Paul (9).

Acts 14 Synopsis

- Paul and Barnabas' preaching in Iconium led to a division in the city, and an attempt to stone them to death (1-7).
- In Lystra, Paul heals a lame man, leading to false worship by the citizens of the men, who obviously reject the worship (8-18).
- Paul is stoned in Lystra, nearly to death, before leaving for Derbe (19-20).
- Paul and Barnabas return to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia to strengthen the disciples before reporting back to Antioch (21-28).

Questions:

1. What cities did Paul and Barnabas visit during this missionary journey? (chapters 13-14)
2. What was characteristic of Paul and Barnabas' efforts in each city? (2,5,19)
3. We know Paul was an apostle. Can it rightly be said that Barnabas was also an apostle? What does the text mean? (4,14)
4. Why was Paul worship as Hermes, and Barnabas as Zeus, in Lystra? (11-12)
5. What was the response of the men to this worship? (14-18)
6. In what letter did Paul list his sufferings, including his stoning in Lystra, recorded in verse 19 of the chapter?

Luke/Acts (Lesson 38) – Acts 15

Recap:

- Paul and Barnabas encountered strong opposition in Iconium, and an opposite reaction at Lystra where a superstitious population sought to worship them as gods.
- Paul was stoned by Jews who came from Antioch and Iconium.
- Paul and Barnabas, after successfully preaching in Derbe, returned to the cities where they preached to strengthen the Christians. They then returned to Antioch.

Acts 15 Synopsis

- The first major doctrinal conflict in the church was the question of circumcision of Gentiles, and whether Gentiles had to keep the law of Moses (1-5).
- To answer the question, the apostles and elders of the church in Jerusalem received Paul and Barnabas and began a discussion of the matter to settle the issue (6-21).
- After establishing God's will on the matter, the church sent out a decree to other churches, to establish the doctrine regarding the Gentiles. They sent the decree via the hands of Barnabas, Paul, Judas and Silas (22-29).
- The men returned to Antioch (Syria) with the decree. (30-34).
- A dispute between Barnabas and Paul led them to separate. Paul took Silas with him on his journey, and Barnabas took Mark. (36-41).

Questions:

1. Who were sought for counsel regarding the dispute between Paul and the Judaizing teachers? (2)
2. Which four men spoke at the meeting in Jerusalem? (7,12,13)
3. What were the primary points made in the decree sent forth from Jerusalem? (23-29)
4. What was the nature of the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas? Was sin involved in their dispute?

Luke/Acts (Lesson 39) – Acts 16

Recap:

- Paul and Barnabas continued to have conflict with Judaizers, who insisted circumcision was necessary for salvation.
- So, a group including the two were sent to Jerusalem to consult with the apostles and elders about the issue.
- The issue was settled, as Peter, Paul and James spoke, showing Paul and Barnabas to be preaching the truth.
- Paul and Barnabas had a disagreement about John Mark.

Acts 16 Synopsis

- Paul meets Timothy, has him circumcised, and takes him with him on his journey (1-5).
- Paul receives a vision from God to go to Macedonia to preach (6-10).
- When coming to Philippi, Paul and Silas go to the riverside, and meet Lydia. She and her household were converted to Christ (11-15).
- Paul and Silas were imprisoned for casting out a “spirit of divination” from a slave girl. Her masters lost profit and seized them (16-24).
- A great earthquake freed the men, who then preached the gospel to the jailor and his household, converting them. (25-34).
- Paul reveals himself a Roman citizen, they visited Lydia, then left (35-40).

Questions:

1. Why did Paul have Timothy, 50% Jew, circumcised? (3)
2. What led Paul to go to Macedonia? (10)
3. What does it mean that Lydia’s heart was “opened”, leading to her and her household being baptized? (14-15)
4. After being beaten and put in stocks, what were Paul and Silas doing at midnight in prison? (25)
5. What was the answer to the jailor’s question, “*Sirs, what must I do to be saved.*” (31) What was the response of faith? (32-34)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 40) – Acts 17

Recap:

- Paul took Timothy with him on his journey to Macedonia.
- While in Philippi, Paul and his companions converted both Lydia and her household, and after being imprisoned, the jailor and his household too.
- After being set free from prison, he visited Lydia and the other converts before departing Philippi.

Acts 17 Synopsis

- Paul travels to Thessalonica and preaches again to the Jews on the Sabbath day. He was met with opposition by envious Jews (1-8).
- Paul and Silas escaped down the road to Berea, where their audience was much more accepting of the truth of the gospel (9-12).
- The Jews from Thessalonica traveled to Berea, and stirred up trouble (13).
- Paul went to Athens ahead of Silas and Timothy and preached there at the Areopagus on the top of Mars Hill. (13-21).
- Paul's sermon addressed the Athenians superstition, calling them to serve the "Unknown God" he declared to them. The response was mixed (22-33).

Questions:

1. What was the motivation of the Jews that opposed Paul's preaching? (5)
2. What did Paul and Silas do after coming to Berea? (10)
3. Characterize the response of the Jews in Berea. (11)
4. What was the defining characteristic of the Athenians which led them to listen to Paul's sermon? (19-21)
5. Can you explain the wisdom of Paul's approach as he began his lesson? (22-23)
6. How is God different from the Greek gods? (23-31)
7. What was the response to Paul's reference to the resurrection? (32-34)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 41) – Acts 18

Recap:

- Paul had mixed results in his efforts to preach the gospel. He was run out of town in Thessalonica but received nobly by the inhabitants of Berea.
- Paul's visit to Athens was eventful, giving him an opportunity to proclaim God to pagans at the Areopagus on Mars Hill.
- Paul's sermon was well received by some, but others mocked when he spoke of the resurrection.

Acts 18 Synopsis

- Paul travels to Corinth, where he meets Aquila and Priscilla. They are tent makers (as was Paul), and he is allowed to support himself while preaching there (1-4).
- The Jews rejected the gospel of Christ initially, but with time, many believed, both Jews and Gentiles. Paul stayed there for 18 months (5-11).
- Gallio, the proconsul of Achaia, refused to get involved in the Jew's disputes (12-17).
- Paul returned to Antioch, then went to Galatia Phrygia to strengthen the Christians in those places (18-23).
- Aquila and Priscilla take Apollos (a bold proclaimer of scripture) aside to teach him about Jesus, and he becomes a bold and effective evangelist of the gospel of Christ (24-28).

Questions:

1. Are those who are unwilling to hear the gospel worthy of further efforts to preach to them? (6)
2. What do verses 9 and 10 tell us about the success of the gospel?
3. Can Christians expect protection by a secular government? (cf. 12-17)
4. What governed Paul's decisions to come or go? (18-23)
5. Was Apollos a false teacher? Why or why not? (24-28)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 42) – Acts 19

Recap:

- While in Corinth, Paul worked as a tentmaker to support himself while preaching the gospel. He stayed in Corinth for 18 months.
- He returned to places where he'd preached to strengthen the Christians.
- An eloquent preacher named Apollos was taught "*more accurately*" the gospel by Aquila and Priscilla.

Acts 19 Synopsis

- In Ephesus, Paul met a group who were baptized with John's baptism. He taught them the gospel and they were baptized in the name of Christ, then received spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit (1-7).
- Paul preached boldly in the synagogue and later in the school of Tyrannus for two years in Ephesus, with great success (8-10).
- Paul had power to perform great miracles by Christ's authority. (11-12) Some Jewish exorcists sought to usurp Paul's ability and were overpowered by an evil spirit (13-20).
- Demetrius, a silversmith, stirred up a confused mob who captured some of Paul's companions. Fortunately, the city clerk was able to calm the crowd, and dismissed them, rescuing the disciples (21-41).

Questions:

1. Ephesians 4:4 says there is "*one baptism.*" Is the baptism that of John? Or "in the name of the Lord Jesus"? (1-5)
2. When did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples? (6)
3. How would Paul's stay in Ephesus (10) impact the view held by some that it is not scriptural for a preacher to be "*located*" in a single locality?
4. What does the phrase "*So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed*" mean? (20)
5. What is the phrase used by Luke to describe the disciples in verse 23? What is the significance of this term?

Luke/Acts (Lesson 43) – Acts 20

Recap:

- Paul spent more than two years in Ephesus preaching and converting souls to Christ. (*“all who dwelt in Asia hear the word of the Lord Jesus”*, (10)).
- The effectiveness of the gospel was evident, as even many pagans were converted. (*“the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed”* (20)).
- Despite the effectiveness of Paul’s ministry, there was much opposition.

Acts 20 Synopsis

- After leaving Ephesus (Asia), Paul traveled to Greece, ending up on Troas for a week where he preached to the Christians there (1-12).
- While in Troas, Paul met with the saints on the first day of the week (Sunday) for the Lord’s Supper (*“break bread”*) and preached to them (7).
- Before leaving for Jerusalem, Paul stopped in Miletus, and called for the elders of the church at Ephesus to speak to them (32).
- Paul prophesied concerning his own imprisonment (23), and future apostasies for which the elders needed to prepare (28-30).
- Paul’s affection for the brethren is evident (31-38).

Questions:

1. What is the possible significance of Paul’s determination to stay with the disciples for seven days? (6-7)
2. What is the significance of the first day of the week? Is there any indication in scripture that the Lord’s Supper was observed on any other day? (7)
3. Did Paul’s prediction of coming personal persecution come true? (22-24). Why was he still eager to go to Jerusalem regardless?
4. How does the Spirit make elders to become so? (28)
5. For what did the elders need preparation? (29-31)
6. In what way did Paul support himself while preaching? (34), (cf. 18:3)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 44) – Acts 21

Recap:

- After leaving Ephesus, Paul and his group traveled through Macedonia, and to Troas where he stayed a week, and worshiped with the disciples.
- Paul determined to get to Jerusalem by the Day of Pentecost. He modified his plans, going next to Miletus, where he sent for the Ephesian elders.
- Paul gives his final instructions to the elders from Ephesus, warning them about false teachers, and exhorting them to carefully guide the church.

Acts 21 Synopsis

- After traveling by ship to Tyre (Syria), Paul met with the disciples there. They warned him not to go to Jerusalem (1-6).
- The message not to go to Jerusalem (to escape persecution) continued in Caesarea. Paul met Philip and the prophet Agabus. Paul responded that he was willing both to be bound and die at Jerusalem for the Lord (7-14).
- When in Jerusalem the elders of the church counseled Paul to purify himself and pay the expenses of four men who had taken a vow, to show the Jews that he walked “orderly” and kept “the law” (15-25).
- Some Jews saw him in the temple, and falsely accused him of bringing in Gentiles, desecrating the temple, he was seized by a mob (26-36).
- Paul was rescued by Roman soldiers and allowed to address the gathered mob (37-40).

Questions:

1. Why did so many disciples tell Paul not to go to Jerusalem? (4,11-12)
2. Was Paul disobeying the Holy Spirit when he determined to go to Jerusalem? (13-14)
3. Why was it important to show the Jews that Paul continued to keep the law of Moses? (17-24)
4. What was the initial charge made against Paul that incited the mob to seize him and drag him out of the temple? (27-30)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 45) – Acts 22

Recap:

- Despite repeated warnings from prophecy, Paul determined to continue his journey to Jerusalem, willing to be *“bound, but also to die”* for Jesus.
- When he came to Jerusalem, Paul followed the advice of the brethren there to go to the temple and show his enemies that he had not forsaken the law.
- A false accusation that Paul had brought a Gentile to the temple enraged a mob, and necessitated the authorities intervene. Paul requested permission to speak to the mob, and permission was granted.

Acts 22 Synopsis

- In his address, Paul identified himself, and gave his history as a persecutor of Christians (1-5).
- Paul then recounted his experience on the road to Damascus where the risen Jesus appeared to him and identified Himself (6-11).
- Paul explains his conversation with Ananias, which led to his conversion, and his work as an apostle, at Jesus’ charge (12-21).
- When Paul’s words enraged the mob, the centurion holding him determined to scourge him, until Paul revealed himself to be a Roman citizen. This frightened the Romans, as citizenship brought rights (22-30).

Questions:

1. How would you characterize the tone of Paul’s speech, as he addressed a mob who were seeking his death? (example, vs. 21)
2. Does Paul’s testimony reveal he was converted on the road to Damascus? Or in the city of Damascus itself? (10-11, 22)
3. What does Ananias reveal concerning at what point a man’s sins are washed away? (22)
4. What was Paul’s special mission as an apostle? (21)
5. What is the significance of Paul’s Roman citizenship? (25-30)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 46) – Acts 23

Recap:

- Paul addressed a mob of Jews from the steps of the Roman barracks, defending his actions against false accusations (1-21).
- The Jews persisted in their desire for his execution, leading the Roman commander to have Paul scourged (22-24)..
- Paul revealed himself to be a Roman citizen, halting all until the next day (25-30).

Acts 23 Synopsis

- Paul is taken to the Sanhedrin, to defend himself again, and is struck by the high priest (1-5).
- Paul used his heritage as a Pharisee to divide the council by referencing the resurrection from the dead (6-10).
- A plot to kill Paul is revealed to the commander of the barracks (11-22).
- A large contingent of soldiers are used to transfer Paul to Caesarea where the governor Felix presided. Paul was then imprisoned in Herod's Praetorium until his accusers came to testify against Him (23-35).

Questions:

1. Since Paul had *"lived in all good conscience before God until this day"*, how can that be when he persecuted Christians? (1)
2. Why might Paul take advantage of the doctrinal difference regarding the resurrection that stood between the Pharisees and Sadducees? (6)
3. How many men lay in wait to kill Paul because of their anger against him? (21). What did the promise as part of their oath to kill him? (12-14)
4. Who was governor of Judea at the time? And where was Paul taken to meet with him? (23-33)
5. What was Herod's Praetorium? (35)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 47) – Acts 24

Recap:

- Paul initially was taken by the Roman commander to the Sanhedrin to be made aware of the charges against him (1-10).
- A plot is entered into to kill Paul by over 40 men (11-22).
- Paul is taken by the commander to Caesarea Maritima where Felix held him until his accusers could come to give their side to the Governor (23-35).

Acts 24 Synopsis

- Accusations are made to Felix by an orator named Tertullus on behalf of the Sanhedrin. (1-6). Charges were also raised concerning the commander (Lysias) who “came by with great violence and took him” (7).
- Paul gave his defense to Felix and the council. He claimed he had not incited, nor profaned the temple (10-13).
- He affirmed he was a Christian, believed in the resurrection, and was in the temple to purify himself. He noted that no witnesses of his supposed crimes were there to testify against him (14-21).
- Felix promised to make a final determination regarding Paul but did not. Instead, he put it off, but spoke with him often. Two years passed before his governorship ended, and he was replaced by Porcius Festus (22-27).

Questions:

1. Characterize the speech that Tertullus gave to Felix regarding Paul (2-9)
2. Was Paul guilty of any of the charges that Tertullus made? (10-20)
3. What was the reason for Paul’s imprisonment? (21)
4. Felix promised to make a final decision after consulting with the Roman commander Lysias. Did he keep his promise? (22)
5. Characterize the response of Felix to the preaching of Paul. (25)
6. What was Felix hope in keeping Paul imprisoned? (26)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 48) – Acts 25

Recap:

- Felix puts Paul on trial, bringing up the leaders of the people, and allowing an orator named Felix to bring evidence against Paul.
- Paul gives his defense before Felix, denying the accusations, and asserting that the reason he was accused was because of his association with the Way, and his belief in the resurrection.
- Felix puts off charging Paul, for a total of two years, before being replaced by Porcius Festus as governor of Judea.

Acts 25 Synopsis

- The Jews again hatch a plot to kill Paul but are thwarted by Festus' lack of cooperation (1-5).
- The Jews again make false accusations against Paul before Festus, and Paul defended himself (6-8).
- Paul, as a Roman citizen, to keep from being tried by the Jewish court, made his appeal to Caesar to be judged by him (9-12).
- Festus talks with Herod Agrippa and his wife Bernice about Paul's case while the king was there to meet and welcome him (13-21).
- Festus brought Paul before Agrippa at the king's request, desiring Agrippa's examination and advice as he prepared to send Paul to Rome (22-27).

Questions:

1. Why did the high priest ask Festus to bring Paul to Jerusalem? (3)
2. What was characteristic of all the complaints the Jews raised against Paul? (7)
3. What would have happened to Paul if he had not appealed to Caesar for judgment? (9, 26:32)
4. What was the rationale made by Festus to have Paul examined by King Agrippa? (26-27)
5. Is it unreasonable for a man to be a prisoner without a charge? (27)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 49) – Acts 26

Recap:

- The new governor of Judea, at Paul's appeal to Caesar, determined to send Paul to Rome. *"To Caesar you shall go!"*
- Festus told King Agrippa about Paul, seeking counsel so that he would have charges to tell Caesar in a letter.
- Agrippa and his wife Bernice met together with Festus and others to hear Paul defend himself, which occurs in the 26th chapter.

Acts 26 Synopsis

- Paul related his early life as a Pharisee, and persecutor of Christians (1-11).
- Paul discussed his conversion and appointment as an apostle (12-18).
- Paul established that his faith and ministry were the reasons for his seizure and imprisonment (19-23).
- Both Festus *"Paul, you are beside yourself!"* and Agrippa *"You almost persuade me to become a Christian"*, respond to Paul's words. They both acknowledged that Paul did nothing worthy of being imprisoned (24-32).

Questions:

1. What was the reason Paul claimed caused his imprisonment? (6)
2. Who was it that appointed Paul to be an apostle to the Gentiles? (16-18)
3. How did Paul describe his ministry as an apostle of God? (19-20)
4. Can you explain the disparity between Festus' words, *"Much learning is making you mad"*, and Paul's claim that spoke *"the words of truth and reason"*? (24-25)
5. Was King Agrippa being serious when he told Paul, *"You almost persuade me to become a Christian"*? (28)
6. What did Agrippa mean when he said that Paul might have been set free? Was that an accurate statement? (32)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 50) – Acts 27

Recap:

- The apostle Paul gave his defense of himself to Festus, King Agrippa and his wife Bernice.
- Festus thought Paul was crazy, *“Paul, you are beside yourself!”*
- King Agrippa was moved by Paul’s appeal, *“You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”*
- Both Festus and Agrippa knew Paul was innocent of the accusations.

Acts 27 Synopsis

- A centurion was assigned to Paul and other prisoners, to accompany them to Rome via the sea. The going was slow because of contrary winds (1-8).
- Paul warned the centurion (unsuccessfully) of the loss of the ship and lives because of dangerous winds and weather in the winter months (9-12).
- The ship was caught in a bad storm. Paul, however, was told by an angel that all would be spared their lives, despite a coming shipwreck (13-26).
- Following Paul’s directions, actions were taken ensuring the salvation of all lives. Paul thanked God, and all 276 were encouraged and ate (27-38).
- The shipwreck took place just off the isle of Malta (28:1). Every person was able to swim or secure flotation, and made it to land (39-44).

Questions:

1. Why would Julius (centurion) treat Paul kindly? (3). How does this compare with the desire of the soldiers to kill all the prisoners? (42-43)
2. Is there an indication that Paul’s warning of a shipwreck was a prophecy from God? What is that indication? (10)
3. What about the second time that Paul warned of shipwreck. Was this prediction from God? (23-26)
4. What might indicate that Paul’s influence upon the others on board increased during the voyage? (36,43)
5. Why would the soldier’s plan to kill the prisoners on board? (42)

Luke/Acts (Lesson 51) – Acts 28

Recap:

- Paul and other prisoners began their journey to Rome.
- The voyage was difficult, leading finally to a shipwreck on a small island named Malta.
- Fortunately, God spared all on board, and all 276 people made it to land.

Acts 28 Synopsis

- The superstitious natives of Malta first thought Paul to be a murderer, then a god, after he was bitten by a viper and suffered no harm (1-6).
- Paul performed miracles and healed many (7-10).
- After three months the journey continued, and Paul eventually made it to Rome, visiting brethren at several stops (11-16). Paul was again shown deference, being permitted to dwell by himself with only a guard.
- Interestingly, Paul immediately called for the Jewish leaders, again to both defend himself, and to be heard regarding his faith (17-22).
- Some were persuaded by Paul's words, but others "*disbelieved.*" Paul's characterization of them was not positive (23-29).
- Paul dwelt two whole years under house arrest, and was given significant liberties, preaching and teaching to all who came to him (30-31).

Questions:

1. What verse indicated that the apostles would survive viper bites like Paul did here, as seen in verses 3-6? (cf. Mark 16)
2. In this final stage of Paul's journey, what encouraged him? (13-15)
3. What did Paul mean when he said, "*because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain*"? (19-20)
4. What prophecy did Paul quote to describe the unbelief of the Jews who listened to him in Rome? (25-26)
5. What was the result of Paul's efforts to share the gospel with the Jews in Rome? (28-29) Did he become discouraged? (30-31)