

Visions United
"Acts" Now
 Stories of Making Church Outside a Building

Before there is a Church... Before there is a building... There is a community
 Born of the Spirit at Pentecost
 Our new Spirit Gathering theme series is based on the 'Acts of the Apostles'.
 These are the first stories of making church outside a building.
 These are our stories!

As we read through this book from the Bible, we will listen to these stories from Acts and see where we are in the story: *How may God be using a story to have a conversation with us about 'who we are' and 'how we are church' together in these days of on-line recordings, gathering in rented space, and engaging ministry in a new neighbourhood as part of the Community Hub project?*

Over the next several months, we will read through Acts in three stages, or 'acts', pausing to celebrate the liturgical seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter:

'Act 1': October 18 - November 22, 2020

'Act 2': January 10 - February 14, 2021

'Act 3': April 11 - May 23, 2021

Below is an outline of suggested weekly readings for 'Act 1':

Week	Reading	Theme
Week 1 - Oct 18	Acts 1: 1 - 2:37	Prologue (Acts 1:1-26) The Community is Born (Acts 2:1-36): <i>What happened at Pentecost?</i>
Week 2 - Oct 25	Acts 2: 37-47	Pentecost: <i>What does this mean?</i> (Acts 2: 37-41) <i>The Gospel Embodied in Community</i> (Acts 2: 42-47)
Week 3 - Nov 1	Acts 3; 4:1-31	<i>What does the Gospel Do?</i> <i>The Story of Jesus is happening again, and again...</i> Healing and witness at the Temple gate and at Solomon's porch (Acts 3) Peter and John before the Council (Acts 4:1-22) A prayer for boldness (Acts 4:23-31)
Week 4 - Nov 8	Acts 4:31 - 5:42	<i>Challenges Within and Without</i> Challenges within community: The story of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 4:32 - 5:11) Challenges without to purpose and mission (Acts 5:12 - 5:42)
Week 5 - Nov 15	Acts 6:1 - 8:1	Leadership in Community (Acts 6:1-7) The Story of Stephen (Acts 6:8 - 8:1)
Week 6 - Nov 22	Acts 8:1 - 40	<i>The Gospel is on the move: Beyond Jerusalem</i> A Story On the Road: Philip's ministry in Samaria (Acts 8)

(Bible Study Questions on next page)

Bible Study Wondering Questions

As you read through Acts, linger with the stories and the people you encounter.

Spend some time wondering about some of these questions:

Where does this story take place - what is the setting?

Who are the characters and what is the relationship among them?

How is the Spirit of Christ at work in the story?

How is this a story of making church, making gospel community?

Is there a phrase or image that captures your imagination?

What puzzles you in this story? What would you like to learn more about?

What assumptions may be challenged?

Where are you in the story?

Where is Visions in this story?