

St. Andrew's Streetsville

10:30 am Sunday Series 2020

Pastor Pye Chew

LENT 2020 READING GUIDE



CHURCH AND SPIRIT

The Making of a Church (Acts 1-6)

We are a missional, multigenerational
and multi-cultural community of people
learning to follow Jesus

The Book of Acts gives us glimpses of how God brings his church into being through the power of the Holy Spirit. As we try to implement the mission statement that God has given to us, we ask God to build his church in us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in the Lent season of 2020, as we approach Good Friday and Easter, on Sunday mornings, we trace the steps of the first Christians in Acts 1-6. Pastor Pye put together this short personal reading guide for us to read through Acts 1-6 on or around Ash Wednesday, February 26. You can start now or you can start on Ash Wednesday. May God build his church in us as he built his church in the Acts of the Apostles.

What is the message of Acts?

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 NIV)

- The people who believe in Jesus become the church when the Holy Spirit comes on them
- The Holy Spirit empowers them to witness for Jesus as Lord and Saviour in their lives
- Acts starts in Jerusalem and ends in Rome, the capital of the Roman empire

___Acts 5:1-16: Moments Of Truth

- According to Peter, what is the origin of the lying by Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 3:3)? Does this also account for the lies we face in our lives?
- Why do you think God causes this severe incident to happen in **the early life of the church? What is God trying to teach Jesus' followers?**

___Acts 5:17-42: We Must Obey God Not Human Beings

- How do the followers of Jesus get out of jail (Acts 5:19-20)? What are they found doing right after this release (Acts 5:25)? **What does this say about God's unstoppable movement (please also note Gamaliel's advice (Acts 5:34-40)?**
- How do the apostles reply to the intimidation of the religious authorities (Acts 5:29)? What can we learn from them?

___Acts 6:1-15: Serving People

- Who are the Twelve here in the Jerusalem church (Acts 6:2)? What ministry are they to focus on (Acts 6:4)?
- In comparison, what are the seven men to do (Acts 6:2)? What are their qualifications to do what they are called to so (Acts 6:3)?
- In what way has God gifted Stephen to do ministry (Acts 6:3, 6:8)?

Read One More Time...

After you have finished this in-depth reading of Acts 1-6, to recap please read Acts 1-6 again in one sitting and use this guide to sum up how you can apply Acts 1-6 in your life.

- How do we wait on God? (Acts 1)
- Who is the Holy Spirit and what does he do? (Acts 2)
- What kind of healing do we seek in our lives? (Acts 3)
- How do we pray for boldness to speak for Jesus? (Acts 4)
- In what way do we need to obey God rather than human beings? (Acts 5)
- What kind of ministry has God called me to? (Acts 6)

A PERSONAL GUIDE TO READING ACTS 1-6

(12 Sets of Reading)

Acts 1:1-11: Wait for the Spirit

Acts 1:12-26: Prayer and Decision-Making

Acts 2:1-21: The Holy Spirit Starts The Church

Acts 2:22-36: Jesus of Nazareth: More Than A Man

Acts 2:37-47: Changed People

Acts 3:1-10: Silver and Gold I Do Not Have

Acts 3:11-26: Suffering and Returning Messiah

Acts 4:1-22: Speaking For Jesus

Acts 4:23-37: Praying For Boldness

Acts 5:1-16: Moments Of Truth

Acts 5:17-42: We Must Obey God Not Human Beings

Acts 6:1-15: Serving People

QUESTIONS FOR READING ACTS 1-6

(12 Sets of Reading)

_____Acts 1:1-11: Wait for the Spirit

- What are the followers of Jesus to wait for in Jerusalem (Acts 1:4-5)?
- **What happens to Jesus' followers when the Holy Spirit comes upon them (Acts 1:8)?**
- How does the Holy Spirit help us in our Christian lives?

_____Acts 1:12-26: Prayer and Decision-Making

- What do the followers of Jesus do as they try to find a replacement for Judas (Acts 1:14; 1:24-25)?
- How do they decide between Joseph and Matthias (Acts 1:26)?
- Would you have done the same thing? How do we decide to **follow God's guidance in life?**

_____Acts 2:1-21: The Holy Spirit Starts The Church

- What happens to the followers of Jesus and how are the people and visitors affected (Acts 2:1-13)?
- How does Peter explain this phenomenon (Acts 1:14-21)?
- In this passage, the Holy Spirit brings people who speak many **languages together. What does say about God's intentions for his church? What is the church?**

_____Acts 2:22-36: Jesus of Nazareth: More Than A Man

- What is the main argument for Peter in terms of Jesus being the Messiah?
- What does this risen Christ do in terms of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33)?

- If Christ is the fulfilment of the prophecies of the Old Testament, what does this say about Jesus of Nazareth? Who is Jesus of Nazareth to you?

_____Acts 2:37-47: Changed People

- **How are people to respond to Peter's message about Jesus of Nazareth (Acts 2:37-41)?**
- How does this first church worship God (Acts 2:42-47)? Is it just meeting in the temple? What do they do? Where do they do what they do?
- Is this sharing church life a challenge to us? What keep us from practising this church life?

_____Acts 3:1-10: Silver and Gold I Do Not Have

- As he sat down at the temple gate that morning, was the man **expecting to be healed? What does this tell us about God's work in our lives?**
- Some say that the leaping and praising of the man is indicative of the messianic age that is predicted by the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 35:5-7). **What does this say about the Jesus' as Messiah? What kind of Messiah is he in our lives?**

_____Acts 3:11-26: Suffering and Returning Messiah

- **The same Greek word is used for "to save" and "to heal" in the New Testament. What does this say about Jesus' ability to save? Does Jesus only come to save us from an eternal hell?**
- **There is a reference to Jesus' 2nd coming in Acts 3:21. When Jesus comes again, what does God intend to do? What does this teach us about our present life?**

_____Acts 4:1-22: Speaking For Jesus

- How are Peter and John empowered to speak up against the authorities (Acts 4:8; 4:13)? How can we be empowered to speak for Jesus?
- What is the test of obedience for Peter and John (Acts 4:19-20)? What are they testifying to?

_____Acts 4:23-37: Praying For Boldness

- Look at the contents of the prayer of the believers: Adoration (Acts 4:24); Lament (Acts 2:25-26); Acknowledgement (Acts 4:27-28); Petition (Acts 4:29-30). What can we learn about prayer from them?
- What happens to the believers after they pray this prayer (Acts 4:31)?
- How do the believers further testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus (Acts 4:32-37)?