

For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:10



How Many Ways To God

ACTS



HOLY TRINITY ADELAIDE
INTEGRATED BIBLE STUDIES
For Individuals & Small Groups



How to get best value out of these studies...

Welcome to a new series of New Testament studies in Acts.

If you're using these Guides in a Small Group, it is vital that you have done preparatory work *before* you get to your meeting. This will be of great benefit not only to you, but to the other members of your group.

If you're doing these studies individually, make sure you let someone know you are doing so, and arrange a time to meet with them when you've finished (or even before) to let them know how your life is being changed by God's Word.

If you're after good commentaries or resources to complement your looking into the Bible, speak to your Small Group Leader or one of the staff, and we'll try to be as helpful as possible. Most people aren't going to spend lots of dollars on theological works, so we're constantly on the look out for good quality titles that will result in money well spent.

We trust you'll find the guides helpful, and we welcome any feedback you can give us as you use them.

Always surround your time looking into God's Word with **prayer**, asking God to change your heart and life so that you – with God's people – might become more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ.

Recommended Commentary:

JRW Stott, *The Message of ACTS*, Bible Speaks Today Series/IVP

Study Notes

Study Notes

1

Acts 17:16-33*Getting Started*

We pick up our look at the book of Acts in the middle of Paul's second missionary journey.

Do you remember the purpose of the book? *Look at Acts 1:8.*

How does the structure of the book reflect 1:8?

Find a map so you can see where Paul has been/is going on his second missionary journey.

Observation

1. Read Acts 17:16-33. Draw up a table showing the contrasts between what God is like and what idols are like.

1.

God	Idols

2. What questions does this provoke for you?

Interpretation

1. What motivates Paul?
2. What are the connections between God as creator, God as saviour, and God as judge? Why are these important?
3. What are the essential elements of Paul presentation of the message of Jesus (v22-31)? Has he left anything out that you would include?

Application

Split into two groups. One group is to be the 'modern day people of the Aeropagus', the other group is to be the 'modern day Paul'. Spend some time preparing the ideas and arguments each side might use. Try to work out how 'the other side' might think.

The 'Paul group' are to kick off with a 2 minute presentation. Allow the other group to respond and see where the debate leads. After 10mins stop. Assess the way the debate went. You might thinkwere the Christians able to connect with the others? What were the barriers? How would you alter your presentation? How closely did it mirror Paul's approach in Acts 17?

Spend some time praying for your non-Christians friends and family

Acts 18**6*****Application***

1. *What stops us having a big picture of God's plan for all the nations?*

5

1. *Is there a contradiction between Agabus' prophecy and Paul's attitude (v10-14)?*
2. *What is the attitude between Paul and James? How does this show itself(v17-26)? See also Acts 15*
What accusations are made against Paul (v27-36)?

Application

What 'non-essentials' would you be prepared to compromise on for the sake of unity with other Christians?

Acts 22**Getting Started**

Ask someone to share how they became a Christian

Observation

1. *Read Acts 22:1-29. Now read Acts 9:1-19. What are the differences?*

Interpretation

1. *What provokes the reaction of the Jews in verse 22?*
2. *How does the content of this chapter fit with the flow of the book as a whole?*
3. *What is the contrast between the Jews and the Romans in this chapter? How is this ironic?*

2

Getting Started

Share with each other an occasion when you have been given a hard time for being a Christian.

Observation

1. *Read Acts 18:1-27. Draw the different characters you meet and make a note of their characteristics.*
What stands out from your observations?

Interpretation

1. *Is Paul's reaction in verse 6 justified (or is he just having a bad day at the office)? See also Acts 9:15 & Acts 15:12-21*
2. *Why do the Jews react in such a strong manner to what Paul is saying?*
What picture does this chapter provide of opposition to the message of Jesus?

Application

1. *If you are unfairly accused or beaten this week for being a Christian, how will you react?*
Sosthenes was beaten for being a follower of Jesus (v17). If you can, obtain a couple of stories of Christians who are currently facing physical violence for their faith. Spend some time praying for them.

Acts 19**Getting Started**

If you were woken tonight with the house burning down, what is the one thing you would want to save?

3

Observation

1. Read Acts 19. What are the reactions of various groups of people and why do they react that way?

Any initial thoughts or ideas?

Interpretation

What does this chapter teach us about the nature of ‘power’?

Application

People	Action/Reaction	Reason

1. Break into smaller groups. Using some recent newspapers get each group to focus on a different section (news, sport, TV, one group might look at the advertisements). What are the ‘gods’ of our society? How are they portrayed? Where does Jesus get robbed of his honour and glory?

Pray for each other in the words of Ephesians 3:14-21

Acts 20**Getting Started**

Share with each other – who is one person who had a major impact on your Christian walk. Why did they make such an impact?

Observation

1. Read Acts 20:1-38. Now make a list of all the “I....” statements in verses 18-35.

4

Interpretation

1. According to Paul, what needs to be at the centre of Christian ministry?
2. What is regarded as valuable (and what is expendable) in this passage? What could stop good ministry happening?

Application

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the way we go about ministry as group of God’s people at Holy Trinity? How does it line up with Acts 20:18-35?
2. Pray for various ministries you are involved with.

Acts 21**Getting Started**

Why is it so popular to believe that ‘all roads lead to god’?

Observation

Read Acts 21. Using a big piece of butchers paper and coloured textas, draw a map showing the places mentioned. Make a note on the map of what happens at each place.

Interpretation