

WITNESSES TO CHRIST

*Studies in
the Acts of the Apostles*



*Trinity Bible Church
Spring 2016*

WITNESSES TO CHRIST

Studies in the Acts of the Apostles

*But ye shall receive power,
after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:
and ye shall be witnesses unto me
both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea,
and in Samaria,
and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

Acts 1:8

Trinity Bible Church
Sunday School
Spring, 2016

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Schedule	4
Scripture Memorization: Verses from the Acts of the Apostles	5
Hymn Memorization: "The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns"	7
Lesson 1: You Shall be Witnesses	8
Acts 1	
2: The Day of Pentecost	9
Acts 2	
3: The Blessing of Jesus	10
Acts 3:1-4:4	
4: Great Power, Great Grace, Great Fear	11
Acts 4:5-5:11	
5: A Work of God	12
Acts 5:12-6:15	
6: Resisting the Holy Spirit	13
Acts 7	
7: Preaching Christ Everywhere	14
Acts 8	
8: Christ's Chosen Vessel	15
Acts 9	
9: God Shows No Partiality	16
Acts 10	
10: Who Can Withstand God?	17
Acts 11:1-12:25	
11: The Appointment of God	18
Acts 13	
12: The Opened Door of Faith	19
Acts 14	
13: The Jerusalem Council	20
Acts 15	
14: Called to Preach the Gospel	21
Acts 16:1-17:9	
15: Berea, Athens and Corinth	22
Acts 17:10-18:23	
16: The Mighty Word of the Lord	23
Acts 18:24-19:41	
17: Commended to God and His Word	24
Acts 20:1-21:14	
18: Beaten and Bound in Jerusalem	25
Acts 21:15-22:29	
19: No Offense Toward God and Men	26
Acts 22:30-24:27	
20: Paul Appeals to Caesar	27
Acts 25:1-26:32	
21: The Shipwreck	28
Acts 27	
22: Paul Bears Witness at Rome	29
Acts 28	

Introduction

The Acts of the Apostles is an account of one of the most important periods in the history of the world. It tells of the events that followed the completion of the long promised redemptive work of God in Jesus Christ. Jesus came and died as a sacrifice for sin. The righteousness of God was fully satisfied and Jesus was raised from the dead. After an interlude of 40 days in which He ministered to His disciples away from the public eye, Jesus ascended into the very presence of God. Before He left, He promised He would return and restore His kingdom.

It is here that Luke begins the account which he wrote to his friend Theophilus. But more than a mere waiting period, it is the beginning of a new era in the purpose of God. Paradoxically, it is not Jesus' absence that characterized these days, but His presence. A presence that was seen in the lives of His disciples as they traveled widely and spoke boldly of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.

The importance of these days is not in the enthusiasm of the disciples as they bore witness to the Savior, but in the new order being established. It was the fulfillment of a promise made to Abraham that all nations would be blessed in him and his Seed. From now on, salvation was to go directly to the Gentile nations. No longer would they be required to come under the dominion of the Law of Moses in order to receive the blessing of God. Through Jesus Christ, they could have direct access to the very presence of God. The Jews, long privileged by their relationship with God, would now be largely excluded. This dramatic change in the administration of the blessing of God is seen in two significant areas: the establishment of the Church, and the transformation of the lives of the believers. Both of these events were accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

Just before Jesus ascended to the Father, He told His disciples to return to Jerusalem to wait for "the promise of the Father." They did so, and on the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them. This dramatic event marked the beginning of a new age in which the Church was formed, and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, they were enabled to be what they never could be under the Law, a holy people separated to God's service. By Him, the early church boldly and effectively carried their message of Christ to the ends of the earth.

Along with the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the believers, there was also a powerful and persistent opposition. The early believers faced fierce persecution. They suffered and died. Approximately one fourth of this book deals with the confinement of Paul – a space in Scripture equal to the space devoted to his missionary journeys! What this means is that these days are days in which there was an ongoing work of proving and improving the faith of the witnesses of Jesus Christ. By prosperity and adversity, the individual believers were to learn Christ. They were to be made like Him by sharing the life He lived in the flesh. Equal to the work of preaching by the disciples was the work of the Holy Spirit in the disciples.

As Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever, so also is His Church. The work initiated in the book of Acts continues. As we study this book, we must ask the Lord to revive His work in our day. We need the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in us by a bold and effective witness and by a faith that perseveres in tribulation and prosperity. We must bear witness to Christ in word and deed. May our unchanging Triune God continue to do in our day as He did in the formative days of the Christian Church.

Schedule

January 3	Lesson 1: You Shall be Witnesses Acts 1
January 10	Lesson 2: The Day of Pentecost Acts 2
January 17	Lesson 3: The Blessing of Jesus Acts 3:1-4:4
January 24	Lesson 4: Great Power, Great Grace, Great Fear Acts 4:5-5:11
January 31	Lesson 5: A Work of God Acts 5:12-6:15
February 7	Lesson 6: Resisting the Holy Spirit Acts 7
February 14	Lesson 7: Preaching Christ Everywhere Acts 8
February 21	Lesson 8: Christ's Chosen Vessel Acts 9
February 28	Lesson 9: God Shows No Partiality Acts 10
March 6	Lesson 10: Who Can Withstand God? Acts 11:1-12:25
March 13	Lesson 11: The Appointment of God Acts 13
March 20	Lesson 12: The Opened Door of Faith Acts 14
March 27	Lesson 13: The Jerusalem Council Acts 15
April 3	Lesson 14: Called to Preach the Gospel Acts 16:1-17:9
April 10	Lesson 15: Berea, Athens and Corinth Acts 17:10-18:23
April 17	Lesson 16: The Mighty Word of the Lord Acts 18:24-19:41
April 24	Lesson 17: Commended to God and His Word Acts 20:1-21:14
May 1	Lesson 18: Beaten and Bound in Jerusalem Acts 21:15-22:29
May 8	Lesson 19: No Offense Toward God and Men Acts 22:30-24:27
May 15	Lesson 20: Paul Appeals to Caesar Acts 25:1-26:32
May 22	Lesson 21: The Shipwreck Acts 27
May 29	Lesson 22: Paul Bears Witness at Rome Acts 28

Scripture Memorization

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power,
after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:
and ye shall be witnesses unto me
both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea,
and in Samaria,
and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 2:36

Therefore let all the house of Israel
know assuredly,
that God hath made that same Jesus,
whom ye have crucified,
both Lord and Christ.

Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other:
for there is none other name under heaven
given among men,
whereby we must be saved.

Acts 13:38-39

Be it known unto you therefore,
men and brethren,
that through this man
is preached unto you
the forgiveness of sins:

And by him all that believe
are justified from all things,
from which ye could not be justified
by the law of Moses.

Scripture Memorization (continued)

Acts 16:31

And they said,
Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and thou shalt be saved,
and thy house.

Acts 20:24

But none of these things move me,
neither count I my life dear unto myself,
so that I might finish my course with joy,
and the ministry,
which I have received of the Lord Jesus,
to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:32

And now, brethren,
I commend you to God,
and to the word of his grace,
which is able to build you up,
and to give you an inheritance
among all them which are sanctified.

Acts 28:28

Be it known therefore unto you,
that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles,
and that they will hear it.

The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns

Thomas Kelly, 1820

Jeremiah Clark, 1670-1707

1. The Head that once was crowned with thorns Is crowned with glo - ry now;
 2. The high - est place that heav'n af - fords Is his, is his by right,
 3. The Joy of all who dwell a - bove, The Joy of all be - low
 4. To them the cross, with all its shame, With all its grace, is giv'n;
 5. They suf - fer with their Lord be - low, They reign with him a - bove;
 6. The cross he bore is life and health, Though shame and death to him;

A roy - al di - a - dem a - dorns The might - y Vic - tor's brow.
 The King of kings and Lord of lords, And heav'n's e - ter - nal Light:
 To whom he man - i - fests his love, And grants his Name to know.
 Their name an ev - er - last - ing name, Their joy the joy of heav'n.
 Their prof - it and their joy to know The mys - t'ry of his love.
 His peo - ple's hope, his peo - ple's wealth, Their ev - er - last - ing theme. A - men.

Lesson 1: You Shall be Witnesses

Acts 1

MEMORY: Acts 1:8

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: *After His resurrection, Jesus presented Himself alive to His disciples and taught them about the kingdom of God. He then charged them to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit by Whose power they would be witnesses unto Christ throughout the whole world. Jesus then ascended into heaven. His disciples returned to Jerusalem where they waited in prayer and supplication. While waiting, they appointed a successor to Judas.*

1. How did Luke summarize Jesus' time with His disciples during the 40 days?
2. What was the “promise of the Father” which they were to await?
3. How did Jesus answer the disciples' question about the restoration of the kingdom?
4. What happened after Jesus finished speaking with His disciples?
5. What did the disciples do after Jesus ascended into heaven?
6. What explanation did Peter give concerning Judas?
7. What guidance did Peter get from the Psalms as to what they should do?
8. What criterion did Peter suggest for finding a replacement for Judas?
9. Whom did the apostles choose, and how did they make the choice?

Lesson 2: The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2

MEMORY: Acts 2:36 review.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: *On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the gathered disciples like a mighty wind and appeared as a tongue of fire upon each one. They began to speak foreign languages so that the multitude that gathered heard them speak in their own languages. Peter then proclaimed the resurrection and exaltation of Jesus according to the testimony of Scripture. Many were saved and continued with the disciples' teaching and fellowship.*

1. What happened to the disciples on the Day of Pentecost?
2. Why was the multitude amazed?
3. What explanation did Peter give of this amazing experience?
4. What had the prophet Joel predicted?
5. What did Peter tell them about Jesus?
6. What had David said about Jesus?
7. What did Peter say had happened to Jesus to account for this day?
8. How did the people react to this message, and what did Peter tell them to do?
9. In the days that followed, what happened to those who gladly received the testimony of Peter?

Lesson 3: The Blessing of Jesus Acts 3:1-4:4

MEMORY: Acts 4:12 review.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: *When the lame man asked alms of Peter and John, they healed him in the name of Jesus Christ. The spectacle of this formerly lame man walking, leaping and praising God gave Peter an opportunity to bear witness of Jesus. It was by this Jesus Whom they had killed and God had raised from the dead that the lame man was made whole. Peter called upon them to repent and seek forgiveness of sins from this same Jesus. Many believed, but Peter and John were arrested.*

1. Who met Peter and John at the temple, and what did he want?
2. What did Peter say to the lame man?
3. What happened to the lame man, and what did he do?
4. Why did the people gather around Peter and John?
5. What accusation did Peter make against the people?
6. What explanation did Peter give for the miracle?
7. What did Peter call upon the people to do, and why?
8. Why had God sent Jesus to bless these people?
9. What was the result of this incident and Peter’s sermon?

Lesson 4: Great Power, Great Grace, Great Fear

Acts 4:5-5:11

MEMORY: Acts 13:38 review.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: *When Peter and John were brought before the rulers of the Jews to answer for their conduct, they spoke with great boldness of the salvation that comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone. The threats of the Jews would not prevent their speaking. Later, the believers gathered together to ask God for boldness to speak His Word. The grace of God was seen as the believers shared their material possessions. When judgment came upon Ananias and Sapphira for their deceit before God, great fear seized the church.*

1. How did Peter answer the question about his authority or power?
2. What did Peter tell the Jewish leaders about Jesus?
3. How did the Jewish leaders respond to Peter and John’s boldness?
4. How did Peter and John react to what the Jewish leaders said and did to them?
5. What observations did the disciples make of God in their prayer?
6. What request did the disciples make in their prayer?
7. How was the power and grace of God seen among the believers?
8. What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?
9. What was the result of the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?

Lesson 5: A Work of God

Acts 5:12-6:15

MEMORY: Acts 13:39 review.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: *The apostles bore witness to Jesus Christ by preaching and teaching and performing many signs and wonders. As a result, the number of disciples multiplied greatly. So also did the opposition. The apostles were imprisoned, beaten and commanded to cease teaching of Jesus. They did not, but rejoiced to be counted worthy to suffer shame for Jesus' sake. The ministry was also threatened by the pressing needs of the great number of believers. Therefore, the apostles appointed deacons to serve the material needs of the believers while they continued in prayer and the ministry of the Word.*

1. What was the effect of the ministry of the apostles?
2. What happened to the apostles after they were put into prison?
3. What happened when the high priest and his council sent for the prisoners?
4. How did Peter answer when the apostles were told to stop preaching in the name of Jesus?
5. What did Gamaliel tell the council?
6. What did the council do, and how did the apostles respond?
7. Why were deacons appointed?
8. What did Stephen do?
9. What happened to Stephen?

Lesson 6: Resisting the Holy Spirit

Acts 7

MEMORY: Acts 16:31 review.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: *After being falsely accused and arrested, Stephen was brought before the council to answer the charges against him. In response, Stephen reviewed the history of the nation. Beginning with Abraham, he emphasized the faithfulness of God to His promise in contrast to the rebellion of the people against God. He accused his accusers of following the shameful tradition of their fathers in resisting the Holy Spirit by betraying and murdering “the Just One.” For his witness to Jesus, Stephen was stoned to death.*

1. What did God do for Abraham?
2. How did the patriarchs get to Egypt?
3. What happened during the first 40 years of Moses' life?
4. How did Moses become a sojourner in the land of Midian?
5. How did God deliver the people out of the land of Egypt?
6. What did the fathers do while they were with Moses in the wilderness?
7. What did Stephen say about the dwelling place for God?
8. What accusation did Stephen bring against his accusers?
9. What happened to Stephen?

Lesson 7: Preaching Christ Everywhere

Acts 8

MEMORY: Acts 20:24 review.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: *Following the death of Stephen, a great persecution arose against the church so that believers were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Those who were scattered preached the Word everywhere. In Samaria, Philip preached and performed great miracles. Many believed. When Peter and John came to see the great revival, they ministered the gift of the Holy Spirit upon these new believers. Philip then was taken by an angel into the desert to testify of Christ to an Ethiopian man returning to his home. He believed and was baptized.*

1. What happened in the days that followed Stephen’s death?
2. What did Philip do in Samaria, and what kind of a response was there?
3. Who was Simon, and what happened to him?
4. What happened when Peter and John came to Samaria?
5. What did Simon do when he saw the coming of the Holy Spirit?
6. What did Peter say to Simon, and how did Simon respond?
7. How did Philip get the opportunity to preach Jesus to the Ethiopian man?
8. What was the Ethiopian man troubled about when Philip came to him?
9. What happened as a result of Philip’s ministry to the Ethiopian man?

Lesson 8: Christ's Chosen Vessel

Acts 9

MEMORY: Acts 20:32 review.

HYMN: "The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns"

SUMMARY: *It was on the road to Damascus where Saul, who was going to arrest Christians and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem, was himself arrested by the Lord and called into the ministry. From now on, Saul would proclaim to the Gentiles the very name of Jesus Christ that he had despised. Saul was obedient to the heavenly vision. He preached Christ in the synagogues to the amazement of both believers and unbelievers. Twice, the brethren had to help him flee for his life. In the meantime, Peter ministered in Lydda and Joppa where many believed.*

1. Why was Saul going to Damascus?
2. What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus?
3. What did the Lord tell Ananias about Saul?
4. After the Lord spoke to Ananias, what did he do?
5. What happened when Saul preached Christ in Damascus?
6. What happened to Saul in Jerusalem?
7. How was the church characterized in those days?
8. What did Peter do in Lydda?
9. Why did Peter go to Joppa, and what did he do there?

Lesson 9: God Shows No Partiality

Acts 10

MEMORY: Acts 28:28 review.

HYMN: "The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns"

SUMMARY: *Cornelius, a God-fearing centurion in Caesarea, was told in a vision to send to Joppa for Simon Peter who would tell him what he must do. In the meantime, Peter also saw a vision. Three times he was invited to eat unclean animals. When he refused, the Lord told him not to call unclean that which God had cleansed. With this preparation, Peter accepted the invitation to visit Cornelius. He soon learned the meaning of the vision as the Holy Spirit was poured out upon this Gentile household which believed Peter's message from God.*

1. Why did Cornelius send to Joppa for Peter?
2. What vision did Peter see three times?
3. What happened as Peter wondered about his vision?
4. What reason did Peter tell Cornelius for his visit?
5. What did Cornelius tell Peter about why he wanted him to be there?
6. What lesson did Peter learn from this?
7. What did Peter tell Cornelius and his household about Jesus?
8. What happened while Peter was speaking?
9. Why did Peter have Cornelius and his household baptized?

Lesson 10: Who Can Withstand God? Acts 11:1-12:25

MEMORY: Review all verses.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: Peter returned to Jerusalem and told how he had been taught of God that repentance to life was to be granted to the Gentiles. Although the main thrust continued toward the Jews, in Antioch many Greeks were saved. It was there, under the ministry of Barnabas and Saul, that believers were first called Christians. The church at Antioch sent Barnabas and Saul with a gift for the believers in Jerusalem after prophets warned of a famine. Persecution continued in Jerusalem. James was killed. Peter was jailed, then miraculously released. Herod, the enemy of God's people, was struck dead by God. Nothing could hinder the Word of God as it grew and multiplied.

1. Why did Peter tell the apostles and brethren about his vision in Joppa?
2. Why did Peter go to Caesarea?
3. What did Peter, the other apostles and brethren conclude about what happened in Caesarea?
4. What happened in Antioch?
5. Why did Barnabas and Saul go to Judea?
6. What did Herod do?
7. How did Peter get out of prison?
8. What happened when Peter came to the house where the believers were praying?
9. What happened to Herod?

Lesson 11: The Appointment of God

Acts 13

MEMORY: Review all verses.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: Under the direction of the Holy Spirit, the church at Antioch sent Barnabas and Saul on a missionary journey. John Mark went with them. Their first stop was in Cyprus where they preached in the synagogues. Across the island, they were opposed by a sorcerer whom Saul (now called Paul) blinded by the power of the Holy Spirit. After John Mark left them, they traveled to Antioch in Asia Minor. There Paul preached Jesus to the Jews. After initial interest, the Jews opposed the message of Paul. Therefore, Paul turned to the Gentiles who received the Word gladly. The Jews raised up persecution and forced Paul and Barnabas to leave. They departed with the joy of the Holy Spirit.

1. Why did Barnabas and Saul embark on the first missionary journey?
2. What happened when Sergius Paulus expressed interest in God’s Word?
3. What special things did Paul point out that God had done for Israel?
4. What did Paul say about Who Jesus is?
5. What did those who dwelt in Jerusalem do to Jesus?
6. What happened after Jesus died?
7. What glad tidings did Paul declare?
8. What happened when Paul and Barnabas returned to the synagogue the next week?
9. What happened after Paul and Barnabas turned to the Gentiles?

Lesson 12: The Opened Door of Faith

Acts 14

MEMORY: Review all verses.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: Paul and Barnabas ministered long in Iconium where a large number of Jews and Gentiles believed. At the same time, the unbelieving Jews incited violent opposition and finally they were forced to flee. They went to Lystra where they had to restrain the people from worshiping them because they healed a crippled man. The same crowd was soon turned against them by Jews from Antioch and Iconium. Paul was stoned, but survived. They went on to Derbe and then retraced their journey to exhort the new believers and appoint elders in all the churches. Finally, they returned to Antioch where they reported how God had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

1. What kind of a ministry did Paul and Barnabas have in Iconium?
2. Why did they leave Iconium?
3. What happened to the crippled man in Lystra?
4. How did the people of Lystra react to this miracle?
5. What did Paul tell the people of Lystra?
6. What happened to Paul in Lystra?
7. What did Paul and Barnabas teach on their return trip to the churches?
8. What did Paul and Barnabas do in all the churches they revisited?
9. What report did Paul and Barnabas give to the church in Antioch?

Lesson 13: The Jerusalem Council

Acts 15

MEMORY: Review all verses.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: *The widespread conversion of the Gentiles caused great joy to the brethren in Jerusalem, but also a dispute. There were those who insisted that the Gentiles must be brought under the Law of Moses. This led to what is known as the Jerusalem Council. Here, the apostles and elders acknowledged that the Gentiles had been saved apart from the Law and that they must not trouble them by placing upon them the yoke of the Law. They did exhort them to keep from sin. This message was sent to the church at Antioch. From there, Paul and Barnabas determined to revisit the churches of Asia. However, they had a sharp disagreement over John Mark. Therefore, Barnabas took John Mark to Cyprus and Paul took Silas and went into Asia.*

1. What dispute led Paul and Barnabas to go to Jerusalem?
2. What did Peter tell the council of apostles and elders about the Gentiles?
3. Why did Peter object to putting “a yoke” on the neck of the Gentile disciples?
4. What did James teach the council from the Old Testament?
5. What did James recommend?
6. What was the conclusion of the Jerusalem Council?
7. What happened when the messengers came from Jerusalem to Antioch?
8. What did Paul and Barnabas do in Antioch, and why did they leave?
9. Why did Paul and Barnabas separate?

Lesson 14: Called to Preach the Gospel

Acts 16:1-17:9

MEMORY: Review all verses

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: *Paul and Silas strengthened the churches established on the first missionary journey, and delivered to them the decision of the Jerusalem Council. Their own plans were hindered by the Holy Spirit, Who directed them to go to Macedonia. They obeyed. In Philippi, Paul and Silas were imprisoned for their testimony. Even in jail, they continued their witness and, after a miraculous deliverance by an earthquake, even the jailer and his household were saved. From there, the missionaries went on to Thessalonica where Paul showed that Jesus was the Christ. When many Gentiles were saved, the Jews out of envy incited a mob to attack some of the believers and falsely accuse them of rebellion.*

1. What did Paul and Silas do as they went through the cities?
2. Why did Paul and Silas go to Macedonia?
3. Who was Lydia, and what happened to her?
4. Why did Paul and Silas get thrown into jail?
5. What happened that night in the Philippian jail?
6. What happened to the Philippian jailer?
7. What did Paul do when the magistrates ordered their release?
8. What did Paul teach in the synagogue in Thessalonica?
9. What response did Paul get to his ministry in Thessalonica?

Lesson 16: The Mighty Word of the Lord Acts 18:24-19:41

MEMORY: Review all verses.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: *In those days, God's Word was preached with great power and great success. In Ephesus, the zealous and eloquent orator Apollos was taught the way of God accurately by Aquila and Priscilla and ministered powerfully. After he went to Corinth, Paul came to Ephesus. He taught some of John's disciples and saw the Holy Spirit descend upon them. He preached three months in the synagogue, and then in the school of Tyrannus for two years. He also performed miracles. An attempt to counterfeit his work by Jewish exorcists only caused the Word of the Lord to prevail more. The silversmiths, who made idols, perceived Paul's success as a threat to their own prosperity. They incited a riot but were prevented from injuring the believers.*

1. Who was Apollos, and what happened when he came to Ephesus?
2. What did John's disciples learn from Paul, and what happened to them?
3. How did Paul minister in Ephesus?
4. What happened to the Jewish exorcists who tried to cast out demons in the name of Jesus?
5. What was the result of this incident with the Jewish exorcists?
6. What complaint did Demetrius make against Paul?
7. What did the people do after Demetrius spoke to them?
8. What did the people do after they got into the theater?
9. How did the town clerk quiet and dismiss the crowd?

Lesson 17: Commended to God and His Word

Acts 20:1-21:14

MEMORY: Review all verses.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: *From Ephesus, Paul returned to encourage the churches in Macedonia and Greece. He then decided to return to Syria. On the way, he stopped in Troas where he spoke to the believers on Sunday. When a young man was killed after he fell out of a third story window, Paul raised him to life again. Paul's party then sailed to Miletus where the Ephesian elders met with him. He bid them farewell in a message in which he reminded them of his own ministry among them, warned them of the tribulations ahead, and then commended them to the Lord and His Word. After an emotional farewell, Paul continued his journey until he came to Philip's house in Caesarea. Although warned of trials in Jerusalem, Paul would not be persuaded to abandon his plans to go there.*

1. What happened between the time that Paul left Ephesus and arrived in Troas?
2. What happened when Paul met with the disciples on Sunday at Troas?
3. Why did Paul decide not to go to Ephesus?
4. What did Paul say about his own ministry among the Ephesians?
5. What did Paul say about his own plans and expectations?
6. What warnings did Paul give to the elders?
7. What final word of exhortation did Paul give to the elders?
8. Where did Paul go after he left Miletus?
9. How did Paul respond to the warnings of Agabus and others?

Lesson 18: Beaten and Bound in Jerusalem

Acts 21:15-22:29

MEMORY: Review all verses.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: *Paul went to Jerusalem and reported to James and the elders all that God had done through him among the Gentiles. The elders glorified God, but advised Paul that he must try to show the Jews that he was not against Moses and the Law. Paul agreed. The Jews were not convinced and further accused him of defiling the temple. They dragged him from the temple to kill him. Paul was rescued by the Roman commander who permitted him to speak. Paul told the Jews of the change that occurred on the road to Damascus. The crowd listened until he told how God had sent him to the Gentiles. The commander then took Paul to examine him by scourging, but stopped when he found that Paul was a Roman citizen.*

1. What did Paul tell James and the elders, and how did they respond?
2. What concern did the elders have, and what did they suggest?
3. What happened when Paul went into the temple?
4. How was Paul rescued?
5. What did Paul tell the Jews about his past history?
6. What happened on the road to Damascus?
7. What did Ananias tell Paul?
8. What did the Lord tell Paul after he returned to Jerusalem?
9. How did Paul escape being examined under scourging?

Lesson 19: No Offense Toward God and Men Acts 22:30-24:27

MEMORY: Review all verses.

HYMN: "The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns"

SUMMARY: *On the day after his arrest, Paul was brought before the High Priest and his council where he asserted his innocence. The council deteriorated into a great uproar when Paul claimed hope in the resurrection. For his own protection, Paul was taken into custody. That night the Lord encouraged him with the promise that he would bear witness at Rome. When a plot to kill Paul on the way to another appearance before the council of religious leaders was uncovered, he was spirited away by night to Felix at Caesarea. The Jews then made their false charges before Felix. After Paul's defense, Felix deferred a decision. Although in custody, Paul was permitted liberty to see his friends. Felix often met with Paul concerning his faith. After two years, Felix was replaced by Festus.*

1. How did Paul treat the high priest Ananias?
2. How did Paul defend himself before the council, and what was the result?
3. What happened during the night?
4. What plan did the Jews make, and how was it discovered?
5. What did the commander do when he heard of the plot?
6. What did the commander tell Felix about Paul, and what did Felix do?
7. Who was Tertullus, and what did he say about Paul?
8. How did Paul answer these charges?
9. What did Felix do?

Lesson 20: Paul Appeals to Caesar

Acts 25:1-26:32

MEMORY: Review all verses.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: *The Jews asked Festus to send Paul back to Jerusalem. They intended to kill him on the way. Festus instead agreed to conduct a hearing in Caesarea. Although the Jews could not prove their case, Festus wanted to do a favor for them. He asked Paul to go back to Jerusalem. Rather than do so, Paul appealed to Caesar. Festus granted his request. Since Festus did not know what charges to send with the prisoner, he invited King Agrippa to join him in an interrogation of Paul. Paul testified that he had been called of God to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, and that this was the reason the Jews had seized him. Agrippa and Festus concluded that Paul was innocent.*

1. What plans did the Jews make concerning Paul?
2. Why did Paul appeal to Caesar?
3. What did Festus tell King Agrippa about Paul?
4. What explanation did Festus give for having Agrippa and Bernice hear Paul?
5. Why did Paul say he was being accused?
6. What did Paul say about his original attitude toward Jesus of Nazareth?
7. What did Jesus tell Paul on the road to Damascus?
8. What happened after Paul saw the heavenly vision?
9. How did King Agrippa respond to Paul's testimony?

Lesson 21: The Shipwreck

Acts 27

MEMORY: Review all verses.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: Paul and other prisoners were delivered to the centurion Julius to be taken to Rome. They set sail from Caesarea, but because the winds were contrary, they had to stop at Fair Havens in Crete. Although Paul warned of great loss if they should continue their journey now, they tried to sail to a more favorable harbor on Crete and winter there. They soon were caught in a fierce storm. During the storm, an angel of God told Paul that he and all on board would be preserved. Paul encouraged the passengers with this word. When the ship was about to be wrecked, the crew tried to escape. On Paul's word that their safety required remaining on the boat, they were prevented. When the ship finally started to break up on the rocks, all on board safely escaped to land.

1. What happened on the way to Myra?

2. Why did they stop at Fair Havens, and what advice did Paul give there?

3. Why did they decide to go on to Phoenicia?

4. What happened when they set sail from Fair Havens?

5. What did Paul tell them after they had been many days in the storm?

6. What happened when the sailors tried to abandon the ship?

7. How did Paul encourage the travelers?

8. What happened when they tried to run the ship onto a beach?

9. What did the soldiers plan, and what actually happened?

Lesson 22: Paul Bears Witness at Rome

Acts 28

MEMORY: Review all verses.

HYMN: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”

SUMMARY: *The refugees had come to the island of Melita (Malta) where the natives received them kindly. When Paul was bitten by a viper and lived, the people considered him to be a god. Later, after he healed the father of the leading citizen, they brought many of their sick for healing. After three months, they continued on to Rome where Paul was permitted to live in a rented house with a guard. The Jews of Rome came to hear Paul who persuaded them from Scripture concerning Jesus. Some believed and some did not. As Isaiah prophesied, the Jews were blinded, while the Gentiles received the salvation of God. For two years, Paul freely preached and taught the Lord Jesus Christ.*

1. What happened when Paul was gathering sticks?
2. What did the natives think about this incident?
3. What did Paul do for the father of Publius?
4. How was Paul treated on the way to Rome and after he arrived?
5. How did Paul explain his imprisonment to the Jews in Rome?
6. How did Paul answer the Jews' request to hear about “this sect”?
7. How did the Jews respond to Paul's teaching?
8. How did Paul apply the passage from Isaiah to this situation?
9. What happened during Paul's two years in Rome?