

GOD ON THE MOVE - CHURCH ALIVE!

PREAMBLE

When the early church was established, there was no doubt that it was the dawn of a new beginning. Something new was happening and God rubber-stamped it by sending a wave of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. Crowds were being drawn to their meetings. People were getting converted in large numbers. Signs and wonders were being performed by the disciples. Miracles of healings were taking place. A sense of community and belonging was established among them. Fear rested on some. Opposition and persecution was heightened. Ardent opponents were being turned into zealous proponents. The disciples were being grounded in the Word. Missionaries were sent out. Indeed God the Holy Spirit was on the move and the church was alive!!! We are choosing the pathway of being alive too as God works in our midst. *GOD IS ON THE MOVE.*

STUDY ONE

WEEK OF 30TH APRIL

YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES

Introduction:

Jesus gave this command to the Apostles before He ascended back into heaven. It is indeed a virtual representation of what the Apostles did in the book of Acts. However, it is also a commissioning of all of us Christians to go forth and witness for Christ.

Read: Acts 1:1-11

Observation: (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. What did the author write about in his former book?
2. What did Jesus do after His suffering?
3. What command did He give to His disciples?
4. What did He promise the disciples?
5. Why did Jesus make that promise?
6. What did the disciples seek to know from Him?
7. What answer did Jesus give to their specific question?

8. What would happen when the Holy Spirit came on the disciples?
9. How did the disciples come to realize that Jesus had ascended into heaven?
10. What promise did the two men dressed in white make to the disciples?

Interpretation: (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

11. Why did Jesus need to prove that He was alive?
12. What do you think was the disciples' understanding of being "baptized by the Holy Spirit" when Jesus gave them the promise?
13. What does being a witness of Jesus entail in practical terms?
14. Besides its being a command, why should a Christian witness for Jesus?

Application:

15. What plans do you or your group have for witnessing this year?

Memory Verse:

Acts 1:8

"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."

(NIV)

Acts 1:8

THIS IS WHAT WAS SPOKEN

[Review of Last Week's Memory Verse: Acts 1:8]

Introduction:

The people that were gathered and waiting in upper room experienced something nobody had ever experienced before. As observers grappled with what could be the explanation Apostle Peter came forward to make them wiser.

Read: Acts 2:1-40

Observation: (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. What did those gathered on the day of Pentecost hear on that day?
2. What did they see on that day?
3. What type of Jews joined the gathering?
4. Who else was there besides the Jews?
5. How did the people respond to what they saw and heard?
6. How did the Apostles intervene?
7. What prophets did Peter cite in his speech?
8. When were the people "cut to the heart"?
9. What was Peter's call to the people?

Interpretation: (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

10. What did the citation of Prophet Joel help to clarify?
11. What did the citation of David help to clarify?
12. Why were the people "cut to the heart" by what they heard from Peter?

Application:

14. Share with your group how, if at all, you have used or could use the prophets in your evangelism.

Memory Verse:

Acts 2:17

"In the last day, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."

(NIV)

Acts 2:17

THE PROMISE IS FOR YOU

[Review of Last Week's Memory Verse: Acts 2:17]

Introduction:

As He speaks through the Bible God makes numerous promises. It is noteworthy that not all promises are to all people. Notwithstanding this, however, the promise in today's passage is for you.

Read: Acts 2:37-39

Observation: (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. What did the people ask Peter and the other apostles?
2. What did Peter ask of them?
3. What did he promise them if they obeyed?
4. Was the promise limited to those who heard Peter? Explain.

Interpretation: (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

5. What shows that the promise spoken of in this passage is for you?
6. How different is the preaching of Peter from that of John the Baptist?
7. How different are both their preaching from that of Jesus?

Application:

8. Have you led anyone to Christ over the last month? If yes, how did you go about it? If no, why not?
9. The promise in Acts 2:39 is for us, for our children and for the generations to come. Based on this promise, what is our responsibility to our children and to the generations to come?

Memory Verse:**Acts 2:39**

"The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

(NIV)

Acts 2:39

SUCH AS I HAVE

[Review of Last Week's Memory Verse: Acts 2:39]

Introduction:

Peter performs his first miracle and there are lessons in it for us. Let's find out.

Read: Acts 3:1-16

Observation: (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. When did Peter and John meet with the crippled man?
2. How long had the man been crippled?
3. What was the daily routine for the crippled man?
4. What did Peter tell the crippled man?
5. Why did the man give attention to Peter and John?
6. What did Peter tell the crippled man?
7. What happened when Peter took the man by the right hand to help him up?
8. How did the people respond to the miracle?
9. How did Peter explain and attribute the miracle?

Interpretation: (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

10. What did Peter and John have that they gave to the crippled man?
12. What did they have to give to both the man and others who witnessed the miracle?
13. Did anything in the crippled man help in his healing? Explain.
14. Are miracles reserved for a few Christians or for some denominations?

Application:

15. What, if anything, would hinder you personally from performing a miracle similar to that of Peter?

Memory Verse:**Acts 3:6**

"Then Peter said, 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk'."

(NIV)

Acts 3:6

SEASONS OF REFRESHMENT

[Review of Last Week's Memory Verse: Acts 3:6]

Introduction:

Something must happen down here on earth before times of refreshing may come. Let's find out what must happen and who will bring the seasons of refreshment.

Read: Acts 3:17-26

Observation: (To answer these questions, please stick to the text you have read.)

1. How did the ignorance of Peter's brothers facilitate God's fulfilment of His divine plans?
2. What did Peter urge them to do?
3. Why did they need to do that?
4. How long must Jesus remain in heaven?
5. What had God prophesied through Moses and other prophets?
6. What did God promise through Abraham?

Interpretation: (To answer these questions, feel free to refer to other relevant passages in the Bible to make your point.)

7. What do you understand by the phrase "times of refreshing"?
8. What coming of Christ is being referred to in this passage?
9. What do you understand by the "offspring" of Abraham in verse 25?

Application:

10. What do you do personally to hasten the "times of refreshing"?

Memory Verse:

Acts 3:19

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus."

(NIV)

Acts 3:19