

ACTS EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, September 25, 2022 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 3 | What Should I Do?

Acts 1:12-26

DO NOT MISS THIS:

Acts is **NOT** about **SUPER-CHRISTIANS**,

they do not exist Romans 3:10-12; Psalm 14:1-3; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Ephesians 2:8-10

it's about **JESUS** using **messed up people (like us)**

like us Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6; 64:6; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:6-11ff; Titus 3:5

to **BUILD HIS CHURCH.**

he will do it and is doing it Matthew 16:18

How to make the right decision...

1. **TALK** to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; James 1:5

2. **HEAR** from God.

Psalm 119:105

3. Get counsel from **OTHERS**.

Proverbs 15:22 — But *always, always, always* defer to God's Word!

4. Make a decision.

Proverbs 3:5-6



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833-271-8805

Text "**HELPER**" to get a 7-day series of devotionals on how the Holy Spirit helps you!

You can also text this number anytime **for prayer**. Just say, "Pray for..." followed by your request.

Or if you just need **someone to talk to**, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.

ACTS FACTS

As we begin our study through the Book of Acts, here's a few background facts that may be helpful to know:

Purpose: Acts is intended to be a historical account of the birth and growth of Jesus's Church. Acts is actually the second book of a two-volume account written by Luke, the Gospel of Luke being part one. Each are nearly identical in length and follow similar patterns and conventions of ancient historiography.

Author: Luke (a Gentile physician)

To Whom Written: Theophilus (and all lovers of God)

Date Written: Between A.D. 63 and 65.

Setting: Acts is the connecting link between Jesus's life and the life of the Church. Where as Luke's Gospel covers an approximately 30-year period between 4 B.C. and A.D. 30, Acts covers the next 30 years up to about A.D. 60 or 62. We also find in Acts the setting for most of the New Testament Letters.

Key Verse: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." — Acts 1:8

Key People: Peter, John, James, Stephen, Philip, Paul, Barnabas, Cornelius, James (Jesus' brother), Timothy, Lydia, Silas, Titus, Apollos, Agabus, Ananias, Felix, Festus, Agrippa, Luke

Key Places: Jerusalem, Samaria, Lydda, Joppa, Antioch, Cyprus, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Caesarea, Malta, Rome



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Groups!

Each week we'll spend part of our time getting to know more about one another.

Share with the Group:

This weekend we learned that the apostles made a decision by 'casting lots,' similar to modern day throwing of dice. Have you ever made a decision using similar means (i.e. flipping a coin, spinning a dial, asking Alexa to flip a coin, drawing out of a hat)?

What is your typical decision-making process?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

- In the story this weekend, the apostles did not yet have the Holy Spirit to help them make their decisions, but prayer did play a role. Today as followers of Jesus, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit to help guide us. As you read the verses below, what do you observe from Jesus as he prepared to make some key decisions?
 - Circle or highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
 - Underline** what you think is important to remember.
 - Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: ¹⁴ Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵ Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. **LUKE 6:12-16 (NIV)**

³⁹ Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.

⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. **LUKE 22:39-44 (NIV)**

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)



Want to Go Deeper?

Do you want to get more out of Acts than simply hearing it during the weekend services? Acts has 28 chapters. Try reading or listening to a chapter a day for 28 days and see how it will grow your understanding as we study it together! Visit <https://bible.is> to access a free text and audio version of the Bible, or scan the QR code. You can also download the **Bible.is App**.

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR CORE VALUES

These are things you'll see to be true about us...



1. It's All About Jesus!

You'll hear us say this often.—Why? Because *it's all about Jesus!* Apart from his death, burial, and resurrection we're wasting our time.



2. God Wrote it All Down

God wrote a book—and we are to believe the Bible in all that it teaches, obey it in all it requires, and trust it in all that it promises.



3. All People Matter

No matter who you are, where you're from, what you've done, or what's been done to you—you *matter to Jesus and you matter to us!*



4. We All Need Friends

You were designed to belong, not to go through life alone. Jesus created each of us desiring friendship and to live in community.



5. No Sacred Cows

Jesus is sacred, God's Word is sacred, *but our opinions, methods, and traditions are not*—we'll let go of any of them if more people can experience life change through the Gospel!

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for Acts 1:12-14 (NIRV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

¹²The **apostles returned** to Jerusalem from the Mount of **Olives**. It is **almost** a mile from the **city**. ¹³**When they arrived**, they **went upstairs** to the **room** where they were **staying**. **Peter, John, James and Andrew** were **there**. **Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew** and **Matthew** were **there** too. So were **James**, son of **Alphaeus**, **Simon** the **Zealot**, and **Judas**, son of **James**. ¹⁴They all **came together** **regularly** to **pray**. The **women** **joined** them too. So did **Jesus' mother Mary** and his brothers.

M	W	H	E	N	J	U	D	A	S	S	P	V	M
I	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	J	J	O	H	N	A
L	G	R	A	L	P	H	A	E	U	S	I	T	R
E	M	R	E	G	U	L	A	R	L	Y	L	T	Y
J	O	I	N	E	D	A	W	U	Y	Y	I	H	P
A	T	V	T	L	V	P	E	S	A	C	P	O	E
M	H	E	S	I	M	O	N	A	N	A	O	M	T
E	E	D	W	B	R	S	T	L	D	M	L	A	E
S	R	T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R	E	I	S	R
B	A	R	T	H	O	L	O	M	E	W	V	M	N
R	E	T	U	R	N	E	D	M	W	R	E	O	M
P	R	A	Y	U	P	S	T	A	I	R	S	U	V
H	O	J	A	L	M	O	S	T	A	Y	I	N	G
I	O	A	Z	E	A	L	O	T	R	C	I	T	Y
Y	M	L	W	O	M	E	N	J	E	S	U	S	V

life groups Study Guide (continued)

- Three keys to help you make wise choices in your decision making process are: applying Scripture, seeking wise counsel, and connecting with God through prayer. Have any of these things impacted your ability to make a wise decision? What has been your experience?
 - What are some things that could help you pray through and seek God's guidance in your decision making (i.e. time in prayer, consistency, memorize Scripture, pray with others, read Scripture, journal)?
 - Which one of the examples above do you want to try or continue to do? Is there a topic or area of your life you want to be more engaged with God (i.e. work, marriage, parenting, finances)?
2. Sometimes we make poor decisions, but thankfully God exclusively uses messed up people. Unfortunately, our culture today is fascinated with the mistakes of other people. From social media to reality TV, we are literally immersed in the personal lives of others. With so much focus on other people's "stuff," there is less emphasis on our own issues. What consequences in the following verses could help us remember we all make mistakes and need to be slow to judge others?

Matthew 7:1-5

Matthew 12:36-37

James 4:11-12

- What are some of the reasons we are so quick to judge other people?
- Can you think of a time when God used you or someone you know, in spite of any weaknesses, fears or limitations you or they may have had?

Taking It Home

1. Which point from this weekend's message or Life Group study is most important for you to remember?

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. **Divide into separate groups of men and women.** Feel free to share requests, just be sure each person gets prayed for. Pray that God's Spirit would be at work in their lives this week in tangible ways.

This week's Study Guide is adapted from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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ACTS 1:12-26



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Please register your attendance on our **digital Connect Card** by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera, or by visiting **wawasee.today** in your web browser. Update your contact info, share prayer requests, or just let us know how we can serve you! You can also access today's bulletin using the same QR or link.