



a survey of the Bible

Acts and the church

June 30th '19

[If you've decided to get people to research various questions raised as we're going through this survey of the Bible – make sure time's set aside for this each week.]

1. What resources do you know about that provide background information for studying Acts or the New Testament letters? Which New Testament letter is your favourite, and why?

2. Read Acts 8:1-8

Given the context in v1-3, what impresses you about the response of these persecuted Christians in verse 4?

Philip shared the good news in Samaria. Why was this a radical thing for a Jew to do? How can we step out of our comfort zones and share the message of Jesus?

How did God work through Philip? What experiences have you had of God's power accompanying the good news of Jesus?

3. Read Acts 17:16-34. How does Paul gain the interest of his hearers? How does Paul try to show who the true God is? What principles can we learn from this passage about engaging the people we know in thinking about God?

4. Read the short letter that Paul wrote to Philemon. (Background. Paul was in prison in Rome. This is one of the prison epistles along with Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians.) What does verse 2 show us about this early NT church? Why would Paul want this letter read to the entire church? What do verses 4-7 show about Paul's attitude toward Philemon?

What kind of person was Philemon? Who is Onesimus? What is his relationship to Philemon? What is his relationship to Paul? If you could summarize Paul's request into one word, what is he asking Philemon to do? How does this letter apply to our lives today?

5. In the sermon, we looked at 5 things that characterised the way the first century Christians shared the gospel. (Their conviction of the *truth* of who Jesus was, His resurrection & how we can be saved; the way their belief in Jesus *transformed their lives*; a clear presentation of the *challenge* of making Jesus Lord of our lives; the Holy Spirit's *empowering*; and the *team effort* involved.) Discuss why each of these things is important.

Pray together that our witness as a church would glorify God.

Further study

www.bethinking.org/apologetics/learning-from-an-apostle