

## Acts—Series Overview

### *The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power*

The book of *Acts* gives the account of God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

### APPLYING GOD’S WORD

*Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:*

**Repent!** Acknowledge your role in the rebellion against God. Turn from your sin and trust Christ—the mighty and merciful King who even forgives those who murdered Him.

**How Are You (We) Resting in His Promise?** If He is faithful in all His promises and we are trusting in Him, we have nothing to fear.

**Live Sacrificially Trusting Christ!** As we know safety in Christ it frees us up to love others boldly. Step out in faith.

## Daniel—Series Overview

### *Holy Living in a Hostile World*

The book of *Daniel* was written to console and motivate God’s people during desperate times. It shows us how to live faithfully in the midst of a faithless world. It is a book-long treatment of Christ’s command to be in the world but not of it (John 15:17). But the book of Daniel is far more than a “how-to” manual. It sets in context the whole flow of history. It shows that all of history is *His story*—the story of God’s redeeming work for His people. From the horrific discipline of the exile to the horrors of the cross, God is sovereignly directing all human history for the redemption of His saints.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren

February 16th, 2020

Morning Service:

Acts 2: 22 – 39

### **Resurrection Power in the Holy Spirit**

1. Jesus Is the Promised Messiah and You Killed Him!
2. The Promise Is for You and Your Children.
3. This Promise Comes with Resurrection Power.

The Promise of God for us to be delivered from sin and death is true. We can know it in Jesus. He has given us His Spirit to work in us repentance and public belonging to Him (baptism). He has equipped us for ministry with the same Spirit that led Him to selfless proclamation of the gospel in Word and deed. Let us use His good gift!

Evening Service:

Daniel 1: 6 – 21

### **Anticipating Restoration**

1. The God of History Is Directing All That Happens.
2. Daniel’s Convictions Come From His Hope in God’s Promises.
3. God’s Favor on Daniel Anticipates the Restoration.

The King of Kings uses the lesser kings of men to do His bidding. He raises them up and pushes them down again. He allowed Nebuchadnezzar to cart Daniel and his friends off to Babylon and He will use Cyrus to bring them back to Jerusalem. He remains sovereign throughout. He will restore His people, just as He promised.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Peter has just told the crowd that *they* have murdered their only hope of salvation. They rightly cry out, “What shall we do?” Peter tells them there is still hope. It’s incredible! *For those who murdered Christ* there is still hope. It is truly amazing! Do you know that it does not matter what *you* have done; the resurrection power of Christ has conquered death. There is hope for YOU. There is hope for me. Jesus not only forgives us, but also gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit. What an amazing promise—a promise that is repeatedly attested by His resurrection, ascension, and pouring out His Spirit.

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

## Sunday AM

READ **Acts 2:22-39; Ephesians 2:12-22**. DISCUSS, What is the promise of God? What did Jesus’ resurrection, ascension, and pouring out the Spirit prove? PRAY for God to bring us to repentance. Ask the Lord to give us boldness and courage to face the truth of our own sin and to delight in the forgiveness Christ has won for us.

## Sunday PM

READ **Daniel 1:6-21; Romans 12:1-2**. How is God directing history? PRAISE God for His loving care.

## Monday

READ **Acts 2:22-32; Hebrews 13:20-21**. DISCUSS, What is the significance of Jesus’ resurrection for us who are in Him? How does the Holy Spirit’s filling relate to that? PRAY for your neighbors, peers, friends, & family asking God to show them His power in Christ.

## Tuesday

READ **Acts 2:22-32; Psalm 16:1-11**. DISCUSS, Who is the ‘Holy One’ who did not undergo decay? Why couldn’t it be David? What does this tell us about Jesus? What is Peter’s point quoting this psalm? Who raised Jesus? Why? PRAY, “Lord, enable us to trust You and use Your power for Your glory.”

## Wednesday

READ **Acts 2:32-36; Psalm 110:1-7**. DISCUSS, How does Christ’s ascension fulfill this psalm? MEDITATE on the absolute sovereignty of our God and King. REJOICE if you are a witness to Christ’s enthronement. PRAY, “Lord, thank You for the gift of Your Spirit. Embolden us!”

## Thursday

READ **Acts 2:36-39; 3:19-21; Isaiah 44:1-5**. DISCUSS, What does it mean to be publicly identified with Jesus? What is the significance of this sign being an image for washing? REJOICE in the salvation that Jesus provided us. PRAY, “Lord, enable us to trust You and follow Your Holy Spirit’s leading as we await Your return. Amen.”

## Friday

READ **Acts 2:22-39**. How has God been teaching you from this passage this week? REJOICE for Christ has not left us alone, but given us His promised Holy Spirit! PRAY for our neighbors to see God and themselves as they truly are and so run to Christ.

## Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ **Acts 2:37-47**. Invite others to come with you to worship tomorrow. Pray for God’s glory to be shown through us as we extend His grace and celebrate it together.

## Ephesians 2:12 – 13

“...Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”