

The Church in the Apostolic Era

Memory Verse: *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8)*

THE CHURCH BEGINNINGS

- + In the Gospels, our Lord Jesus Christ was working by Himself. Once He ascended, He sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples, thus working in the world through them.
- + The Book of Acts, is the continuation of the work of Our Lord Jesus Christ on earth through His disciples by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- + Read Acts 1:8. Accordingly the disciples were asked to witness for our Lord in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
- + The Book of Acts is divided into 2 main parts; witnessing to the Jews (Acts 1-12); and witnessing to the gentiles (Acts 13-28). St. Peter was the main leader in witnessing to the Jews; while St. Paul was the main leader in witnessing to the gentiles. This lesson covers the first part; next lesson covers St. Paul's missionary work to the gentiles.

Receiving the Power:

- + Before starting their missionary work, they needed to receive power from High.
- + This was the Holy Spirit that they were baptized into on the day of the Pentecost.
- + Throughout the Book of Acts, the Holy Spirit work is manifested. The Person of the Holy Spirit was mentioned over 70 times in the Book of Acts.

Witnessing in Jerusalem:

- + Read and explain Acts 3:1-12; 4:4.

Witnessing in Judea and Samaria:

- + The disciples were persecuted in Jerusalem, so they were scattered everywhere. Everywhere they went the preached the word of God.
- + Philip preached in Samaria. Read Acts 8:9-13.

Witnessing to the end of the earth:

- + Read Acts 8:26-40.
- + Peter preaches to a gentile Acts 10. This will be mentioned as an example without reading from the Bible (time won't allow).
- + Paul continues the missionary work to the gentiles (rest of Acts) - next week's lesson.

