



Gateway To Life Bible Studies

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)

LESSON 5

Please read Acts 9-12

1. Where was Saul when a light from heaven came to him? 9:3
2. The supernatural light came at what time of day? Acts 26:13; 22:6
3. In your opinion, why do you think that God chose this time of day to intercept Saul?
4. Saul was on the road to persecute Christians. Who was Saul really persecuting? 9:4
5. What did Jesus tell Saul he was kicking against? Acts 26:14
6. What happened when Saul received strength from the right source? Acts 9:22
7. What was Saul doing during his time of blindness? 9:11
8. What did God tell Ananias about Saul's destiny? 9:15
9. What special thing did the Lord desire to reveal? 9:16
10. What did Paul need beyond physical sight? 9:17
11. What was Saul's initial sermons about? 9:20

The conversion of Saul is a huge dilemma except for Saul's own account of his conversion and the obvious change that occurred in his life. He saw Jesus and surrendered to Him. Is that your experience?

Peter's Ministry

12. What was the result in the healing of Aeneas? 9:35

The last time Peter was mentioned in the narrative of Acts was in 8:25 when he returned with John from their visit to Samaria. During this period Peter appears to be carrying on an itinerate ministry among those Christian communities of Judaea. Here he comes to a stronghold of Judaism the city of Lydda (Lod in the Old Testament). This city, in the ancient Philistine territory, had a Christian assembly. Sharon was a plains area outside the city of Lydda.

13. What was Tabitha (Dorcas in Greek) of Joppa noted for? 9:36

14. What happened to her; what did Peter do and what was the result of the miracle?

Ministry to the Gentiles

Caesarea was the seat of Roman governors, name after the Roman Caesar. It was a military stronghold and a naval base.

15. What type of man was Cornelius? 10:2

16. Describe in your own words how God prepared Peter to meet with Cornelius the Gentile?
10:9-16

The distinction between clean and unclean was very sharply drawn in the Levitical law (Leviticus 11:41–44; 20:25; see also Deuteronomy 14:3–20). Peter's ancestral sensitivities at this point must have been at the breaking point. His Jewish conscience would never permit him to eat that which was prohibited by Levitical law; and thus his answer was 'No'. The abolition of Jewish ceremonial laws was graphically illustrated to the apostle (see Romans 3:22 and Colossians 3:11), but more important the Great Commission was being reinforced: "Go into all the world" – not just the Jews as originally commanded (see Matthew 10:5-6). The cross of Calvary God had already broken down the middle wall of partition (Ephesians 2:14–18) between the Jews and Gentiles.

17. What lesson did Peter finally grasp? 10:34-35

18. Does Peter mean that those who revere God and do righteous works will be saved? 10:35
Please support your answer.

At this point, Peter summarizes the life and teaching of the Lord Jesus, and the disciples' relationship to Him. He makes reference to the fact that Jesus' ministry was in both Judaea and Galilee after His baptism by John (vs. 37) and that the ministry of the Lord Jesus was not only approved by God the Father and God the Spirit, but was accompanied by signs of their approval (vs. 38). The disciples were witnesses to the death of the Lord Jesus (vs. 39) but many were witnesses to the fact that He was raised from the dead on the third day (vs. 40). Those who witnessed the post-resurrection activity of the Lord Jesus were chosen by God to do so and were commanded to testify to the world that Jesus Christ was indeed alive (vss. 41-42).

19. What happened after Peter shared the Gospel of the Lord Jesus? 10:44.
20. How do you know that this was similar to what occurred at Pentecost recorded in Acts 2? 10:45-46 (confirm: 11:15) .
21. What attitude did the Jewish believers take toward these Gentile converts? 11:2-3
22. Why did Peter obey the vision and go to Joppa? 11:13-14
23. To oppose evangelizing the Gentiles, Peter saw himself as opposing who? 11:17
24. What was the Jewish response to Peter's story? 11:18

Luke now returns in his narrative to the point of the story at which he departed in 8:1. Under the persecution which arose when Stephen was stoned, the believing Jews of Jerusalem were scattered as far away as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch. The ministry of persecuted Jews who fled north and westward to these areas was characterized by preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

25. Who sent out Barnabas and what was his message? 11:22-23

Antioch was the capital of the Roman province of Syria. The early history of the church is closely connected with Antioch of Syria. One of the first seven "deacons," Nicolas, was a "proselyte from Antioch" (Acts 6:5). After the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:54–60), great persecution caused certain disciples to flee from Jerusalem to Antioch where they preached the Gospel to the Jews (Acts 8:1; 11:19). Others arrived later and had success preaching to the Gentiles (Acts 11:20–21). When the church leaders at Jerusalem heard of this success in Antioch, they sent Barnabas to visit the church there (Acts 11:25–26).

26. What were the believers called in Antioch? 11:26
 27. What apostle became another martyr of the Church? 12:2
 28. Why was Peter arrested? 12:3
 29. How did the church respond to Peter's arrest? How long did they pursue this activity? 12:5, 12
 30. In your opinion how could Peter sleep under these conditions – especially knowing that James had just been executed?
 31. When did the divine help leave Peter 12:10
 32. Where did go Peter go upon his release and what did he find? 12:12
 33. Describe the scenario that included some difficulty for Peter gaining entrance into Mary's home. 12:14-15
- So far as this part of the historical narrative is concerned, Peter now passes from the story. We hear of him only incidentally in his controversy with Paul.*
34. What type of praise was Herod taking from the people? 12:22-23
 35. What happened to Herod when he refused to give glory to God 12:23
 36. What is the "divine comment" on all that had happened? 12:24

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#1. As you read through Acts 9-12, please note the things that were happening within the lives of believers that, in your opinion, were building up and maturing the group of believers in this time of history. The first one is given as an example:

1.	The conversion of an unlikely candidate like Saul must have had a major impact on the Christians in Damascus as it had a impact on the Jerusalem Christians	9:19b; 9:26-31
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

#2. As you read through Acts 9-12, please note the things that were happening outside, in and to the lives of unbelievers that, in your opinion, were contributing to the expansion of the church. The first one is given as an example:

1.	The conversion of Saul had a major impact on the community of Damascus	9:21-22
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
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8.		

#3. Share with your group one area of personal growth that you see in Question #1 that you long to see expressed better in your life.

#4. Based upon the entire history recorded in Acts 9-12, what are some of the essential elements that contribute to the expansion of the Church?

#5. Please take time to pray for one another, for both personal aspirations as noted in #3 and for our Church that the elements you noted in #4 may be realized by God's grace and power.

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