

THE BIBLE INITIATIVE



ACTS & EPISTLES





## THE BIBLE INITIATIVE



# ACTS & EPISTLES

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We believe God is the greatest reality in the universe. His Son, Jesus, is the greatest human to have ever lived. The story of Him saving humanity from sin is the greatest truth the world has ever known. There is only one place to find that story: the Bible -- a book that most acknowledge is important, but far fewer truly engage with regularly.

It is from this place that The Bible Initiative was brought to life. We have a desire to see God's people know God's story, to be fueled by faith in God's Son, and to expand God's Kingdom for His glory. What you're holding is a tool, a resource, to be used alongside God's Word, not to replace God's Word. Our longing is that The Bible Initiative would aid you in reading, studying, knowing, and being changed by the Bible.

We are praying that five things would happen through The Bible Initiative.

**1) That God would speak.** There is no substitute for the Word of God; He has spoken through Scripture. By meeting Him there, you allow Him the space to speak timeless truth to your heart.

**2) That God would transform your heart and life into the image of Jesus.** If you come before Scripture humbly, you allow the Holy Spirit room to move you into greater obedience to God.

**3) That God would inform your mind of His truth.** In the Bible, God has given you everything you need for life, salvation, and holy living.

**4) That God would create in you a hunger for Him and His word.** We pray that this year in Scripture will not be the end of your engagement with the Bible, but the beginning.

**5) That God would lead you to worship.** We pray that as you see the magnificence of God and His work to save humanity from sin, you will be left in awe of Him, longing to do nothing more than worship Him with all your life for the remainder of your life.

Inside this book, you will find a reading plan with five days of reading for each week, a brief explanation of that week's section of Scripture, a family devotional and activity, and individual or small group discussion questions. Each of these is designed to aid you and your family in reading, understanding, and applying the truth of the Bible to your everyday life.

**-TIM FRITSON**

OUR PRAYER IS THAT:

*The Word of God would*

**SPEAK**

LOUDER THAN ANY OTHER VOICE

**TRANSFORM**

OUR HEARTS INTO THE IMAGE OF JESUS

**INFORM**

OUR MINDS OF THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE

**CREATE HUNGER**

FOR MORE OF GOD AND HIS WORD

**LEAD TO WORSHIP**

IN AWE OF THE MAJESTY OF GOD

## DAILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are a tool to help small groups or individuals engage with Scripture on a daily basis. We hope that utilizing these questions will help you better understand the Bible. We do not want you to simply talk about the Bible; we want you to understand Scripture and know how to apply it to your lives.

### **1. What does this passage say? Where does this passage take place within the Bible's overall story?**

Summarize the main point of the passage as succinctly as possible.

### **2. What does this passage mean to its original audience?**

Understand the context of the passage by discerning the author's intent for its original audience. Often this may require consulting other study tools or cross-referencing other Biblical passages.

### **3. What does this passage tell us about God?**

Discover what the text tells us about the character of God. Does it say anything about His work through the life and death of Jesus Christ?

### **4. What does this passage tell us about humanity? What does the text reveal about sin and humanity's need for the gospel?**

Analyze the text to see what it reveals about humanity. This question should lead to reflection and self-examination.

### **5. What does this passage demand of me?**

Apply the passage to daily life. Hopefully, the first four questions help you gain an understanding of the meaning of the text. Now you are positioned to correctly apply its meaning.

### **6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people?**

Apply the passage to your relationships with others. We want to encourage discussion on how the text shapes both how you relate to other believers and how you "live on mission" in the world.

### **7. How does this passage prompt me to pray?**

Pray. At our core we want to root our prayers in the Word of God. Hopefully, the previous six questions spark passionate prayer in the lives of believers – both in sanctification and in mission to reach the lost. Seek to walk away from each reading with an action step in mind.



## Week 1

# CHURCH FORMATION

Each gospel writer includes Jesus commanding the disciples to take the message of the gospel to the ends of the earth. This command is commonly referred to as “The Great Commission.” John tells of Jesus saying to Peter, “Feed my sheep.” (John 21:17) In Mark, Jesus tells the disciples to, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” (Mark 16:15) Matthew records Jesus saying, “Go and make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28:19) Matthew also records Jesus giving the disciples a reassurance: “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20) Following Jesus’ ascension, the presence of God with believers comes in the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

Luke records the Great Commission at the beginning of his second New Testament book, the book of Acts. Whereas the gospels give an account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the book of Acts records the work of the Holy Spirit beginning to fulfill the Great Commission through the obedience of the 12 disciples, now referred to as the apostles. In fact, the full title of Acts is “The Acts of the Apostles,” and while they play a prominent role in the spread of the gospel in the days following Jesus’ ascension, the book truly records the work of the Holy Spirit in empowering God’s people to fulfill God’s will in spreading the gospel message throughout the earth.

The book of Acts begins in Jerusalem, where the Holy Spirit falls on the apostles in a powerful way and begins to use them to draw people to faith in Jesus. As the Holy Spirit works through the obedience of the apostles, the Church is born and begins to grow rapidly in Jerusalem before making its way around the world.

①

**MATTHEW**  
28

②

**ACTS**  
1-2

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**ACTS**  
3

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**ACTS**  
4

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**ACTS**  
5



# 5 CHRIST-CENTERED DIVISIONS OF THE BIBLE

ANTICIPATION	GENESIS- MALACHI
MANIFESTATION	MATTHEW MARK LUKE JOHN
PROCLAMATION	ACTS
EXPLANATION	ROMANS- JUDE
CONSUMMATION	REVELATION

The large outline of the Bible can be remembered using five Christ-centered words. Everything in the Old Testament *anticipates* the coming of Christ. The Gospels are the *manifestation* of Christ. The book of Acts tells the story of the early Church's *proclamation* of Christ. The epistles are an *explanation* of living in light of Christ. The book of Revelation is the *consummation* of Christ's work, when He will return again to bring final judgment.

## PROCLAMATION

ANTICIPATION | MANIFESTATION | **PROCLAMATION** | EXPLANATION | CONSUMMATION

## Week 2

# CHURCH IN JERUSALEM

In the broadest sense, the book of Acts can be broken into two major sections. Acts chapters 1-12 record the movement of the gospel in Jerusalem, where the apostles are located. Acts 13-28 give an account of the gospel reaching far beyond Jerusalem, throughout what is modern-day Turkey and Greece, all the way to Rome. While the Holy Spirit -- God -- is the main character in the book of Acts, the two sections of the book also focus primarily on two human characters -- Peter in chapters 1-12 and Paul in 13-28.

Acts 6:7 tells us that, "...the word of God continued to increase, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem." Though we meet Paul in chapters 8-9, the primary focus of this week's reading concerns the work of the Holy Spirit through Peter in Jerusalem. This movement does not come without plenty of resistance, though. The apostles are arrested or jailed on multiple occasions in the book of Acts. Our reading this week includes the story of the first Christian martyr, Stephen (Acts 6-7). His speech to those about to kill him is a powerful recounting of God's work to bring redemption from sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

This week's reading in Acts 10 includes a watershed moment for the expanse of the gospel. When Peter shares the gospel with a Gentile (or non-Jewish) family, he sees the Holy Spirit fall on them after they place their faith in Jesus in the same way it did on the apostles. The moment leads Peter to proclaim, "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality..." (Acts 10:34) and provides a launching point for the gospel to be taken to all people, not just those of Jewish descent. For God has always longed to bless all the nations of the earth.

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ACTS  
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ACTS  
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ACTS  
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ACTS  
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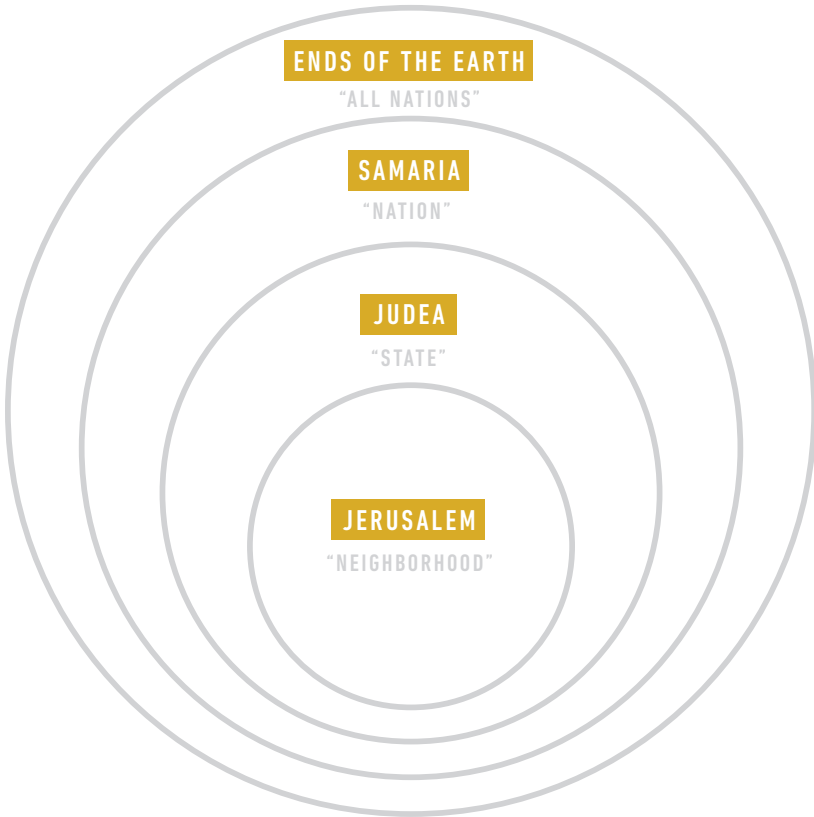
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ACTS  
10

# NEW TESTAMENT VISUALIZED

## ACTS 1:8

“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



## PROCLAMATION

ANTICIPATION | MANIFESTATION | **PROCLAMATION** | EXPLANATION | CONSUMMATION

## Week 3

# LETTERS OF PETER

Peter was a fisherman before being called to follow Jesus, who tells him and his brother, Andrew, “...from now on you will be catching men.” (Luke 5:10) With that, Peter and his brother leave their boats and follow Jesus for the remainder of their lives. This close relationship with Jesus allows Peter to ground the authority of his ministry in the reality that he is a “witness of the sufferings of Christ.” (1 Peter 5:1) Following Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension, the Holy Spirit uses Peter to lead the Church’s growth in Jerusalem, again illustrating God’s delight in using ordinary people to do extraordinary work by His power for the sake of His will.

During his ministry, Peter writes two letters that are included in the New Testament -- 1 Peter and 2 Peter. Both are written as letters intended for circulation among a number of local churches throughout the Roman provinces in Asia Minor -- modern-day Turkey. Both speak of hope. 1 Peter is written as an encouragement to believers to endure hardship and persecution as a means of persevering in the faith and growing in holiness. They are to remain focused on the eternal hope and blessing of their salvation. 2 Peter can be summarized by the word “certainty.” Peter tells his readers that they can be certain of their faith and of the truth and hope of the gospel (2 Peter 1), that false teachers will come (2 Peter 2), and that there will be a final judgment (2 Peter 3). Because of these certainties, Christians can stand firm, trust the truth of the gospel, and await with hope-filled expectation the day they will be ushered into eternity with the Lord.

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1 PETER  
1-2

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1 PETER  
3

③

1 PETER  
4-5

④

2 PETER  
1-2

⑤

2 PETER  
3

## KEY CONCEPT

# SANCTIFICATION:

A PROGRESSIVE,  
LIFELONG WORK  
BETWEEN GOD AND  
MAN, MAKING US  
INCREASINGLY FREE  
FROM SIN AND LIKE  
CHRIST IN ALL OF  
ASPECTS OF DAILY LIFE

## EXPLANATION

ANTICIPATION | MANIFESTATION | PROCLAMATION | **EXPLANATION** | CONSUMMATION

# CHURCH PROGRESS

We first met Paul in Acts 8:1. His name was Saul, then. He is present and approving of the execution of Stephen. In Acts 9, while on his way to persecute the Christians in Damascus, Saul has an encounter with Jesus that forever changes his life. Saul goes from being a zealous, Jewish pharisee who persecuted the Church, to the primary vessel that God uses to begin the spread of the gospel throughout the world. We have seen it repeatedly in our reading throughout the year, but this is yet another example of God using unexpected individuals to bring about the fulfillment of His will.

Though the location and primary human character of Acts shifts in chapter 13, the Holy Spirit is still the main agent in the progress of the early Church. In Acts 13:4, we are told that Saul and Barnabas are “sent out by the Holy Spirit” on the first of three missionary journeys. It is the Holy Spirit who sends them, leads them, empowers them, sustains them, and brings fruit to their ministry. The same is true in the lives of believers and the ministry of the Church today. Incidentally, beginning in Acts 13:9, Saul is referred to as Paul, the name we most commonly call him.

Acts 13-14 record the details of Paul’s first missionary journey. The trip takes him and Barnabas through Cyprus, Perga, Pisidia-Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe and then ultimately back to Jerusalem in chapter 15, where they meet with the rest of apostles. The exact cities are less important than seeing the large movement: The gospel is going to the nations. The Holy Spirit, through the obedience of Paul, is beginning to take the message of salvation to the ends of the earth, bringing ultimate and eternal blessing to those who respond in faith.

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ACTS  
11

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ACTS  
12

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ACTS  
13

④

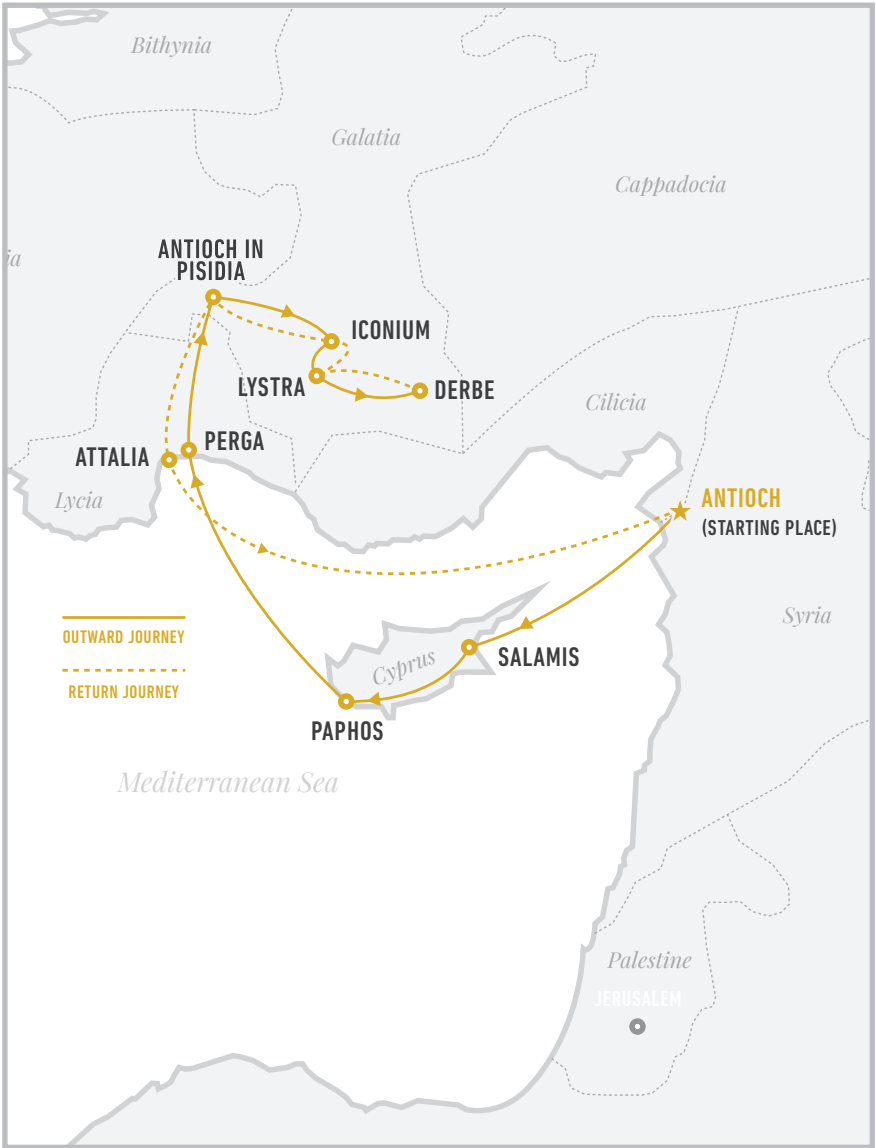
ACTS  
14

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ACTS  
15

# PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

## FIRST JOURNEY, ACTS 14-15



# PROCLAMATION

ANTICIPATION | MANIFESTATION | **PROCLAMATION** | EXPLANATION | CONSUMMATION

## Week 5

# LIFE OF PAUL

Paul's conversion from Christian persecutor to one of history's greatest gospel proclaimers is one of the most well known stories in the book of Acts. Were it not for God's powerful work through the life of Paul, the gospel's spread in the early days of the Church may have looked significantly different. Not only were his missionary journeys integral to the Holy Spirit's work in building the church throughout the Mediterranean region, but his letters make up much of what is the New Testament today. In total, 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament were written by Paul over a period of about 18 years.

We will read a number of Paul's letters over the next few weeks, but want to pause from Acts this week to read two -- Galatians and Philippians -- which contain a bit of biographical information about Paul. Paul did not spend much time writing about himself, instead using his effort to write about the truth of the gospel and its application in the lives of believers. The majority of what we know about him comes from Luke's writing in the book of Acts. That being said, Paul includes some personal information in Galatians 1-2 as well as Philippians 3.

Galatians is all about grace. In writing Galatians, Paul addresses the issue of whether or not Gentile Christians need to be circumcised and uphold the outward ceremonies of Jewish Law in order to be saved. This was an important issue in the early Church. In response, Paul says, "...a person is not justified by works of the Law, but by faith in Jesus Christ." (Galatians 2:16) Paul wrote Philippians while in prison in Rome. The focus of Philippians is a reminder for Christians in all circumstances to "Rejoice in the Lord always..." (Philippians 4:4)

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GALATIANS  
1-2

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GALATIANS  
3-4

③

GALATIANS  
5-6

④

PHILIPPIANS  
1-2

⑤

PHILIPPIANS  
3-4



# 5 CHRIST-CENTERED DIVISIONS OF THE BIBLE

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## EXPLANATION

ANTICIPATION | MANIFESTATION | PROCLAMATION | **EXPLANATION** | CONSUMMATION

## Week 6

# CHURCH TO THE NATIONS

The remainder of the book of Acts records Paul's second and third missionary journeys and his imprisonment in Rome. With each trip, the Holy Spirit leads Paul farther and farther from Jerusalem, expanding the reach of the gospel. The map to the right depicts Paul's second and third missionary journeys. Though he visits many of his previous churches, in each trip, Paul is intentional about expanding the reach of the gospel message into new areas of his known world.

All told, Paul spent much of 46-57 AD traveling over 7,000 miles by road or boat in order to faithfully proclaim the gospel, as led by the Holy Spirit. During that time, he not only preached the message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, but he also wrote many of his letters that would later become the books of the New Testament. Tradition holds that Paul was eventually martyred in Rome in 67 AD after a lengthy imprisonment.

The book of Acts records the beginning of the Holy Spirit's work to empower believers to reach the ends of the earth with the message of Jesus Christ. The work of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide the apostles as they proclaimed the gospel is the same work the Holy Spirit does in the life of believers today. Our obedience should model theirs as Christians today continue the work of fulfilling the Great Commission: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19)

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ACTS  
16-18

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ACTS  
19-20

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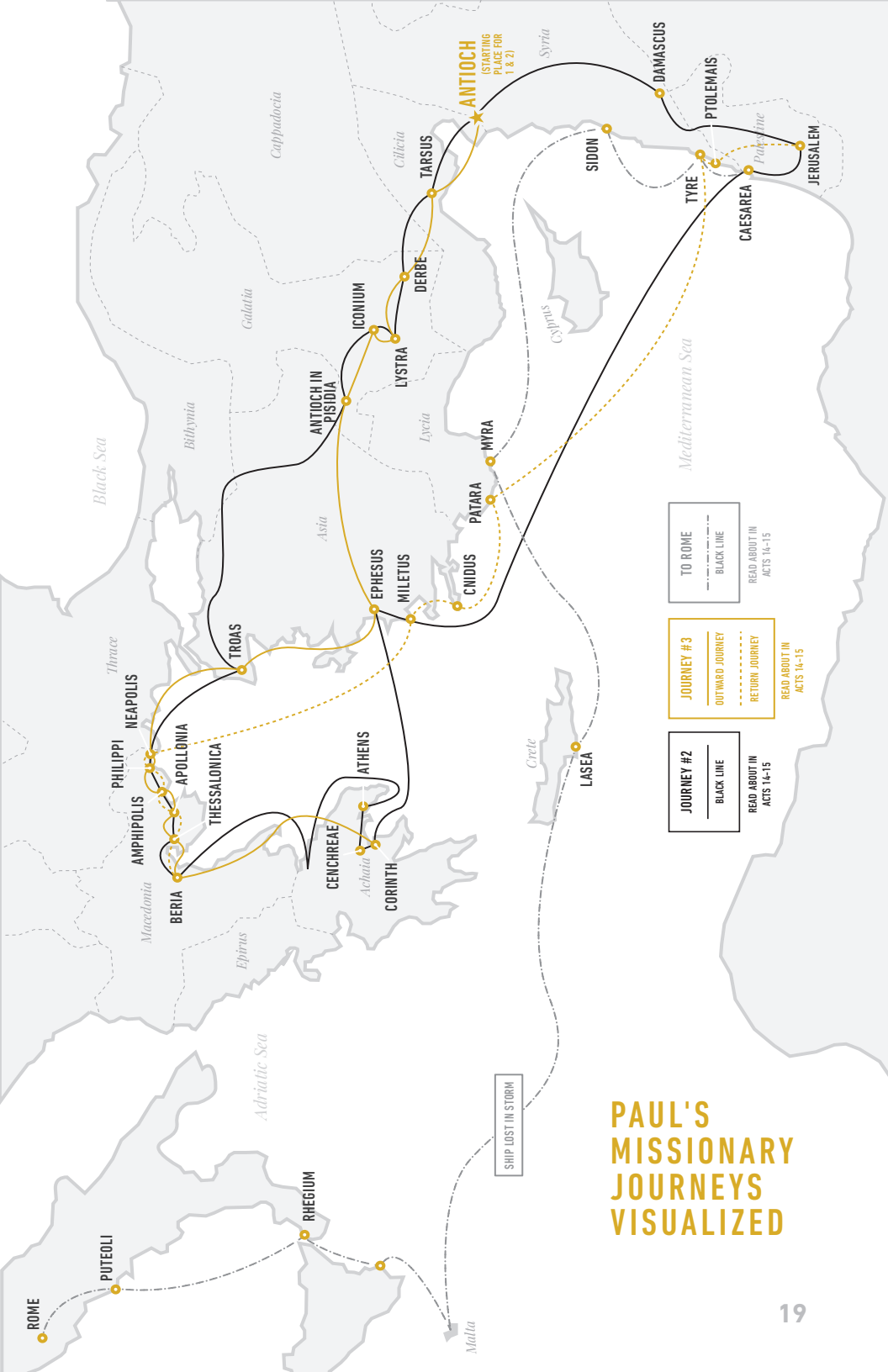
ACTS  
21-23

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ACTS  
24-26

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ACTS  
27-28



**TO ROME**  
 DASHED BLACK LINE  
 READ ABOUT IN ACTS 16-15

**JOURNEY #3**  
 DASHED YELLOW LINE  
 RETURN JOURNEY  
 READ ABOUT IN ACTS 14-15

**JOURNEY #2**  
 SOLID BLACK LINE  
 READ ABOUT IN ACTS 14-15

SHIP LOST IN STORM

# PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS VISUALIZED

## Week 7

# LETTERS OF PAUL

PT. I:  
ROMANS

Romans is the first of Paul's letters that we come upon in the sequence of the New Testament. It was not the first that he wrote, but appears first in the Bible because it is the longest of all his letters. Unlike most of his letters, Romans -- sent to the church in Rome -- was written to a church he had never visited. Romans contains the longest, most logical and linear explanation of the gospel in the New Testament. In it, Paul clearly explains the doctrine of justification, that by faith in Christ's work on our behalf, humanity can be declared right before God.

The following statements help summarize Paul's explanation in Romans and give context to our reading throughout the week:

1. All are sinful and must be justified before God (Romans 1-2).
2. No one can be justified, or saved, by their own work or obedience to the Law (Romans 3:20).
3. Justification is only possible for sinful humanity because Christ died in our place (Romans 3:24).
4. Faith in Jesus is the only way in which a person can receive the benefits of His saving work (Romans 3:22).
5. All can be justified by faith in Jesus -- no person or ethnic group is excluded (Romans 4-5).
6. Though we are justified by faith alone in Christ alone, justifying faith is never alone. Saving faith results in a transformed life (Romans 6-8).
7. God has been faithful to fulfill His promise to Abraham and the Israelite people through His Son, Jesus (Romans 9-11).
8. Because of God's mercy in justifying us by faith in Jesus, we can and should give our lives to Him fully, as an act of worship (Romans 12-16).

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ROMANS  
1-3

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ROMANS  
4-6

③

ROMANS  
7-9

④

ROMANS  
10-12

⑤

ROMANS  
13-16

# NEW TESTAMENT VISUALIZED

## ROMANS

### INTRODUCTION

PAUL & THE THEME OF ROMANS

1:1-17

### CONDEMNATION

UNIVERSAL NEED BECAUSE OF UNIVERSAL SIN

1:18-3:20

### SALVATION

CHRIST PROVIDES JUSTIFICATION FOR SIN

3:21-5:11

### SANCTIFICATION

GROWTH IN HOLINESS IN RESPONSE TO GRACE

5:12-8:39

### VINDICATION

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IN RELATIONSHIP TO ISRAEL

9:1-11:36

### APPLICATION

RIGHTEOUSNESS AT WORK IN DAILY LIVING

12:1-15:13

### CONCLUSION

PAUL'S MISSION AND FINAL GREETINGS

15:14-16:27

## EXPLANATION

ANTICIPATION | MANIFESTATION | PROCLAMATION | **EXPLANATION** | CONSUMMATION

## Week 8

# LETTERS OF PAUL

PT. II:  
EPHESIANS  
COLOSSIANS

Paul's letters typically follow a similar pattern. Though they are addressed to different audiences, cover different topics, and are usually written in response to different situations, Paul begins his letters with the theological truth of the gospel before moving on to the practical application of the gospel. Another way to think of this would be to say that the indicative truths of who we are in Christ come before the imperative truths of how we should live because of Christ. This pattern is evident in Ephesians and Colossians, which we will read this week.

Paul wrote Ephesians to the church he founded in Ephesus, which was an important port city in western Asia. Ephesus' position as a global trading ground made it a hub of worldly religious and philosophical practices. Paul writes in response to this, in order to remind the church at Ephesus that by faith in Jesus, they have union with the creator and sustainer of all things. Chapters 1-3 remind the Ephesians that by their faith, they have embraced the love of Christ, while chapters 4-6 encourage them to also embrace the way of Christ in how they live.

Colossians was written to the church in Colossae, which was likely formed by a man named Epaphras, who heard the gospel while Paul was ministering in Ephesus. It begins with one of the more beautiful christologies, or statements about Jesus, in all of scripture (Colossians 1:15-23). Paul goes on to tell the Colossian people that they have been made alive by the grace of God through their faith in Christ (Colossians 2). Because of this, they should live lives that are motivated by their new life in Christ, putting to death anything that is contrary to Him and His commands (Colossians 3-4).

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EPHESIANS  
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EPHESIANS  
3-4

③

EPHESIANS  
5-6

④

COLOSSIANS  
1-2

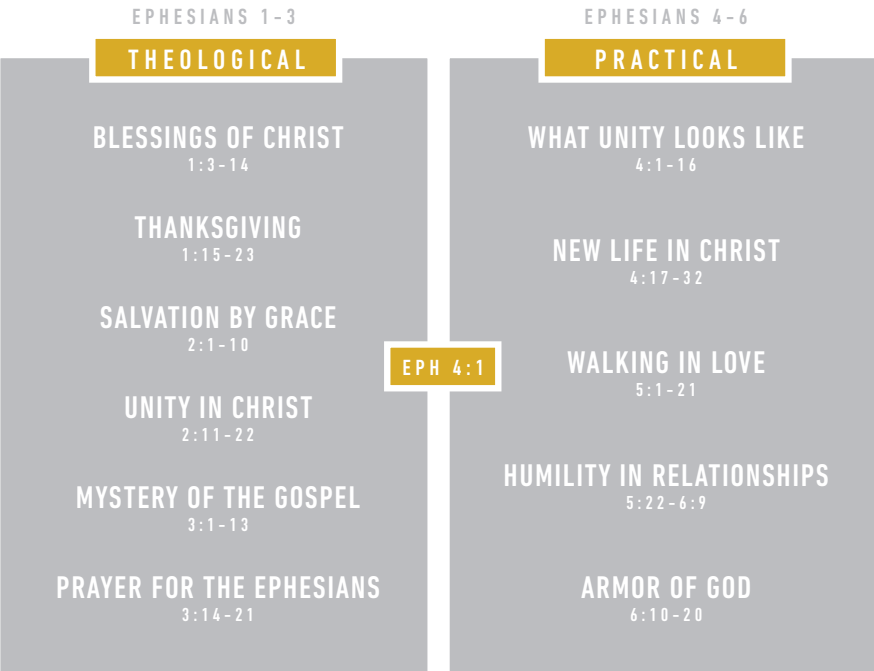
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COLOSSIANS  
3-4

# NEW TESTAMENT VISUALIZED

## PAULINE EPISTLE STRUCTURE

# EPHESIANS



Paul's epistles follow a similar structure, which always begins with theological truths about the gospel and concludes with practical applications of the gospel. There is usually a linking verse that transitions from one section to the other. In Ephesians 4:1, Paul transitions by saying, "I therefore... urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

## EXPLANATION

ANTICIPATION | MANIFESTATION | PROCLAMATION | **EXPLANATION** | CONSUMMATION

## Week 9

# LETTERS OF PAUL

PT. III:  
1 & 2 TIMOTHY  
TITUS

Not all of Paul's letters in the New Testament were originally addressed to whole churches. Three of them -- 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus -- are what are commonly referred to as the Pastoral Epistles. They are so named because in them, Paul discusses issues of church leadership and discipleship. All three letters flow out of the close personal relationships Paul had with Timothy and Titus, both of whom he discipled at various points in his own ministry.

Paul and Timothy's relationship began during Paul's second missionary journey. Timothy served alongside Paul as a sort of apprentice and was then left in Ephesus to oversee the church as Paul continued on to spread the gospel (1 Timothy 1:3). We learn of Paul and Titus' relationship in Galatians 2, where we are told that Titus was present with Barnabas and Paul as they made a trip to Jerusalem. Eventually, Titus is sent to Crete to help organize and lead the church on the island.

Paul writes personal letters to both Timothy and Titus as a means of encouraging and instructing them as they lead their respective churches. In each, you can hear Paul's love and care for Timothy and Titus. The letters overflow with insight into the personal, practical, and organizational necessities of leading a church. Some of the topics Paul instructs upon in the Pastoral Epistles include discipleship, personal holiness, the qualifications of a leader within the church, protecting sound doctrine, and the importance of scripture. Each of these are still foundational for the leadership and organization of churches today.

①

1 TIMOTHY  
1-3

②

1 TIMOTHY  
4-6

③

2 TIMOTHY  
1-2

④

2 TIMOTHY  
3-4

⑤

TITUS

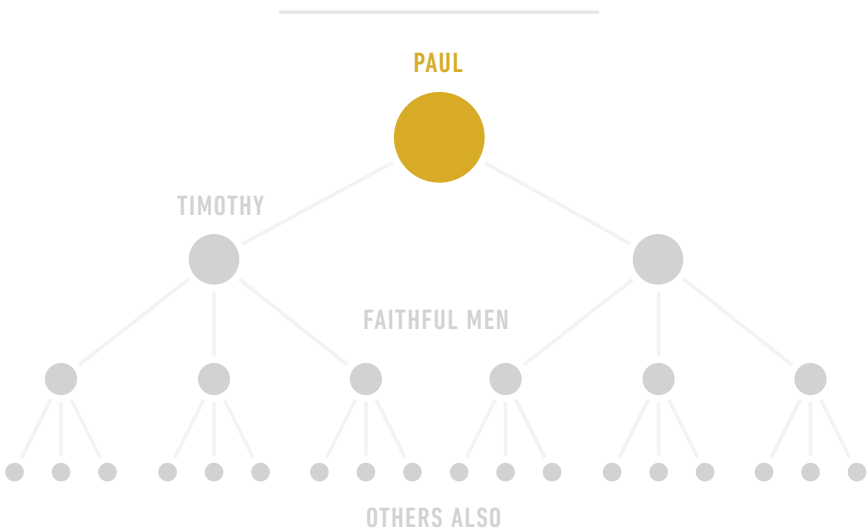


# NEW TESTAMENT VISUALIZED

## MULTIPLICATION

2 TIMOTHY 2:2

“...AND WHAT **YOU** HAVE HEARD FROM **ME**  
IN THE PRESENCE OF MANY WITNESSES  
ENTRUST TO **FAITHFUL MEN** WHO WILL BE  
ABLE TO TEACH **OTHERS ALSO**.”



This chart depicts the four generations of 2 Timothy 2:2, but discipleship doesn't stop at four generations. It should continue perpetually through faithful followers of Christ.

## EXPLANATION

ANTICIPATION | MANIFESTATION | PROCLAMATION | **EXPLANATION** | CONSUMMATION

## Week 10

# GENERAL EPISTLES

Peter and Paul were not the only people who were writing letters encouraging the early Church. Others who were disciples of Jesus or witnesses to His life, death, and resurrection gave their lives to spreading the gospel message. This week, we will read letters from two of those individuals: John and James.

We have already read some of John's writing -- the gospel of John. He is the author of five New Testament books: The Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation. In fact, by word count, he is the third most prolific author in the New Testament, trailing Luke (Luke and Acts) and Paul (13 epistles). When reading John's epistles, one cannot help but be reminded of his gospel account. 1 John centers around three tests for professing Christians to test the genuineness of their faith. There is a moral test -- are you obedient to the commands of God? A life transformed by the gospel is a life that longs to be obedient to the Lord. There is a doctrinal test -- do you believe that Jesus is the crucified and risen Son of God? Finally, there is a love test -- does your faith in Jesus lead you to love God and love His people? These tests are interconnected at times and provide the backdrop for John's general encouragement: that believers test themselves to be sure they are in the faith.

The book of James is written by Jesus' brother, who was a leader in the church in Jerusalem. The epistle of James focuses on the relationship between faith and works, between belief and behavior. His letter is full of practical encouragements and illustrations about what the Christian life is to look like. Motivated by our faith in Jesus, Christians are to, "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only." (James 1:22)

①

1 JOHN  
1-2

②

1 JOHN  
3

③

1 JOHN  
4-5

④

JAMES  
1-3

⑤

JAMES  
4-5

# NEW TESTAMENT VISUALIZED

## EPISTLE AUTHORS

The epistles were letters written by influential members of the early church and distributed throughout the known world.

NAME OF AUTHOR

LETTERS AUTHORED

**JAMES**

**JAMES**

James was not one of the twelve disciples, but was the brother of Jesus, a witness to the resurrection, and leader of the Jerusalem council, as mentioned in Acts 21.

**JUDE**

**JUDE**

Jude was the brother of Jesus and James who became an early defender of the purity of the Christian faith.

**PETER**

**1/2 PETER**

Peter was one of the original twelve disciples who was also a part of Jesus' inner circle of three and an important figure in the early church as recorded in Acts.

**PAUL**

ROMANS  
1/2 CORINTHIANS  
GALATIANS

EPHESIANS  
PHILIPPIANS  
COLOSSIANS

1/2 THESSALONIANS  
1/2 TIMOTHY  
TITUS & PHILEMON

Paul was born Saul of Tarsus and was a Jewish pharisee before being called by Jesus on the road to Damascus. Paul gave his life to spreading the message of the Gospel to Jews and Gentiles throughout the known world.

**JOHN, AUTHOR OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, WROTE 1/2/3 JOHN & REVELATION**  
(SEE GOSPELS BOOK FOR BIO)

## EXPLANATION

ANTICIPATION | MANIFESTATION | PROCLAMATION | **EXPLANATION** | CONSUMMATION

# REVELATION

The book of Revelation is the most challenging book of the Bible to understand. Written by John while in exile on the island of Patmos, it records a vision from Jesus of the end of the world as we know it. It should create within us a sense of dreadful awe at His glory, judgment and justice. This vision is full of imagery that can be challenging to decipher. Despite these interpretive challenges, there are concrete realities in the book of Revelation, which our reading will focus on this week.

1. God sits in glory on the throne (Revelation 4). Nothing is random or happenstance. He has controlled it all since the beginning and will control it all until the end.
2. Judgment is coming (Revelation 6-20).
3. Jesus is coming back a second time, and when He does, He will judge fully, finally, and righteously (Revelation 1:7). Those who have not placed their faith in Him will be eternally cast from His presence; those who have placed their faith in Him will spend eternity with Him.
4. There is a new heaven and new earth coming where believers will dwell with the Lord. In it, death will be replaced by life, darkness by light, brokenness by purity, and the curses of the fall by the blessings of redemption (Revelation 21-22).

Revelation completes the work of God to restore humanity into right relationship with Himself. For this reason, as believers, we do not have to fret about the future. In fact, we can hope in it. Like John, after we have seen and heard of the future, justice-restoring judgment of God, we can excitedly, expectantly, and hopefully proclaim, “Come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20). And do so as we continue to work to share the message of the gospel to the ends of the earth.

①

REVELATION  
1-2

②

REVELATION  
3-4

③

REVELATION  
16

④

REVELATION  
19-20

⑤

REVELATION  
21-22

# 5 CHRIST-CENTERED DIVISIONS OF THE BIBLE

ANTICIPATION	GENESIS- MALACHI
MANIFESTATION	MATTHEW MARK LUKE JOHN
PROCLAMATION	ACTS
EXPLANATION	ROMANS- JUDE
CONSUMMATION	REVELATION

The large outline of the Bible can be remembered using five Christ-centered words. Everything in the Old Testament *anticipates* the coming of Christ. The Gospels are the *manifestation* of Christ. The book of Acts tells the story of the early Church's *proclamation* of Christ. The epistles are an *explanation* of living in light of Christ. The book of Revelation is the *consummation* of Christ's work, when He will return again to bring final judgment.

## CONSUMMATION

ANTICIPATION | MANIFESTATION | PROCLAMATION | EXPLANATION | CONSUMMATION

















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