

The Story Devotional Plan 2023

Chapter 9: The Church



Welcome to Chapter 9a of “*The Story*”, an exciting journey through the Bible!

Below are 21 days of Scripture to use in your [time alone with God](#) & to [prep for the upcoming Sunday](#).

Here are some tips to get you started:

- For each passage, we encourage you to [SOAP](#) the text.
- For each day, we provide a question or statement to help you observe the text in order to apply it to your life. Ask God: “How should I apply this text to my life today?”
- For an overview videos of the book of Acts, click [HERE](#).

Let's begin!

THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH (ACTS 1-7)

READ	REFLECT
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/09: Acts 1	See v1 . Where do you think you will see Jesus in the Book of Acts? See v8 . Do you think “witnesses” refers to those who will speak or watch or both? See v15 . How big was the first church plant team? Were you expecting a smaller or larger number? What have you seen so far in Acts 1 that would lead to church growth?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/10: Acts 2	See v41 . What have you seen so far in Acts 2 that would lead to explosive church growth? See vv42-47 . What was happening that led to growth? Who ultimately caused the growth?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/11: Acts 3:1-4:4	What is happening in ch3 that would lead to church growth? What are multiple reasons it was important that this man was healed?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/12: Acts 4:5-37	Notice the different places where “boldness” is mentioned. See vv24-28 . Consider how God uses the worst evil to accomplish His will. What caused the apostles to have this boldness and how can this lead to church growth today?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/13: Acts 5	What is happening in ch5 that would lead to church growth? Do you think miracles (<i>in a specific area & time</i>) occurred more or less then vs. now? Why?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/14: Acts 6	Why was the office of Deacon first created and how did this help the church grow? Are deacons not supposed to preach the Word? <i>Glance at Stephen & Philip in chs7-8.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/15: Acts 7	Why did Stephen spend so much time in the Old Testament? What contributed to his death? <i>Glance back at ch6.</i> Was it him, them, and/or other factors? How might his message and death have contributed to the church's growth?

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH (ACTS 8-15)

READ	REFLECT
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/16: Acts 8	Compare Acts 1:8 w/ Acts 8:1 . Consider how God uses evil to accomplish His will. Do a “character study” on Philip, making observations re: his walk w/ God and approach to ministry.
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/17: Acts 9	How many miracles can you count in this chapter? Which miracle was the most profound? (Conversion? Healing? Resurrection?) Which miracle had the greatest impact on the church? How does this motivate you in your personal ministry today?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/18: Acts 10	Why should you be thankful for these two trips and vision? Why was it significant that Peter went to Cornelius instead of Cornelius going to Peter? According to vv44-48 , which comes first: Conversion or Baptism?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/19: Acts 11-12	What observations can you make re: the function and mission of the church in ch11-12 ? See v26 and click HERE . If someone read your mind and watched your actions for a week, what would they call you?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/20: Acts 13	Where do you see the mission of God driving the mission of the church? How can you tell if your mission is actually God's mission?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/21: Acts 14	What is it about living on mission for God that excites you? What makes you hesitant? If you were Paul living out ch14 , what would you have said/done and where would you have gone?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/22: Acts 15	See Galatians 2:11-21 . What happens when you try to add a requirement to obtain grace? How serious is Paul about the importance of getting the gospel right? See Galatians 1:6-9 .

THE IMPACT OF THE CHURCH (ACTS 16-28)

READ	REFLECT
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/23: Acts 16:1-17:9	The church was growing (Acts 1-7) and going (Acts 8-15) and it turned the world upside down (17:6). So far in Acts (and in 16:1-17:9), where have you seen the church <i>turning the world upside down</i> . How might God be calling you to turn the world around you upside down?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/24: Acts 17:10-34	What “provoked” Paul's spirit into action? What are areas in the world around you which God may be calling you to address? Pray that God would give you the eyes to see and the voice to speak.
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/25: Acts 18	Notice the various believers living on mission in ch18 and consider the impact they were making. Why is living on missions with others better than doing it alone? Who are you laboring alongside of?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/26: Acts 19	In your place of work, your social interactions, or in the public square... Has your faith been ‘bad for business’? Whether in vv11-20 or 23-34 , notice how the Gospel has the power to turn the world upside down. How might God be calling you to stand for the Gospel where it may not be well received?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/27: Acts 20	See vv26-27 . What does it mean for Paul to declare himself “innocent of the blood of all”? What does this imply about our responsibility to share the gospel with those we know? See vv36-38 . What do these emotions indicate re: the impact Paul had on these elders? Do you have this level of relationships with other believers?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/28: Acts 26	Notice how Paul's testimony can be divided into 3 parts: 1- Life before Christ ; 2- How/when he came to know Christ ; 3- Life since becoming a Christian . People who may not be interested in Jesus... may be interested in you. If you are a Christian, how can you tell your story in way that clearly communicates the gospel?
<input type="checkbox"/> 09/29: Acts 28	Even right up until the last words of Acts, Paul didn't waste an opportunity to make an impact. Pray, asking the Lord to help you see opportunities for impact that could otherwise be wasted.