

Dear All,

This week we look at Acts. For the first time, we travel outside the land of the Bible and share this deeply Israelite and Jewish story with the world.

You will find the link [HERE](#) or here: <http://bit.ly/3TKb8jD>

Optional Questions:

1. What did you hear that was new or that stirred up questions for you?
2. What do you find remarkable in the book of Acts?
3. In Acts we see a process of a Jewish church learning to allow gentiles into the community. What is your opinion about the obligation of gentiles to learn the Israelite and Jewish history? What does it mean to recognize our Jewish roots?
4. What is it about the death and resurrection of Jesus that has the power to transform people?

Additional Readings:

Read Acts 1–5 and 15

- Consider how every member of the initial “church” was Jewish. Have you thought of that before? Does it sound normal or strange to you?
- Do you think Peter and Paul were friends? What did they agree on and what did they disagree on?

Read Acts 17–19

- How do these chapters seem different from the ones you read above?
- How does context change the way Paul interacts with communities?

Additional Resources:

1. There are several podcast episodes I did with a scholar who is a Jewish believer on the remarkable nature of the book of Acts. The most recent was published a couple weeks ago. It is a three part series. The first one covers Acts 10 and you can find it [HERE](#) or listed as Israel Bible Podcast, Season 2, Episode 5. (And as a point of clarification, one of my jobs is with Israel Bible Center. Do not feel obligated to pay to join the group!)
2. We know how valuable the study of the land is to understand the Bible, but what about the study of the Mediterranean Sea? Join Dr. Linford Stutzman as he discusses what it is like to follow the Apostle Paul on his watery journeys. It is in two parts. [HERE](#) and [HERE](#), or find it as Context Matters, Season 3, Episodes 5 and 6.
3. Dr. Stutzman has a book called *Sailing Acts* in which tells a personal story of following Paul’s travels on the Mediterranean Sea.