



WEEK 1

Saturday, August 1 – Sunday, August 9

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Acts 1:1–11 (NLT) [1] In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach [2] until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. [3] During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God. [4] Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. [5] John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” [6] So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” [7] He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. [8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” [9] After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. [10] As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. [11] “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

REFLECT:

1. What are the truths and/or principles that stood out to you from what you just read?
2. Is there anything you believe God would want you to do in response to today’s scripture reading?
3. Is there any sin you need to confess to God and/or to others that God revealed to you through what you just read?

PRAY:

- Tell God at least one thing you love and appreciate about who He is
- Thank God for something that happened in your life yesterday
- Pray for at least one other person
- Pray for yourself and commit to God your cares and concerns
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SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Acts 1:12–26 (NLT) [12] Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. [13] When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). [14] They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. [15] During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. [16] “Brothers,” he said, “the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. [17] Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us.” [18] (Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. [19] The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name *Akeldama*, which means “Field of Blood.”) [20] Peter continued, “This was written in the book of Psalms, where it says, ‘Let his home become desolate, with no one living in it.’ It also says, ‘Let someone else take his position.’ [21] “So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus—[22] from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus’ resurrection.” [23] So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. [24] Then they all prayed, “O Lord, you know every heart. Show us which of these men you have chosen [25] as an apostle to replace Judas in this ministry, for he has deserted us and gone where he belongs.” [26] Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven.

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MONDAY, AUGUST 3

PRAY:

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READ:

Acts 2:1–21 (NLT) [1] On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. [2] Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. [3] Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. [4] And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. [5] At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. [6] When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. [7] They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, [8] and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! [9] Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, [10] Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome [11] (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!” [12] They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other. [13] But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, “They’re just drunk, that’s all!” [14] Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. [15] These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that. [16] No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: [17] ‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. [18] In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike— and they will prophesy. [19] And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below— blood and fire and clouds of smoke. [20] The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the LORD arrives. [21] But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.’

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Acts 2:22–41 (NLT) [22] “People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. [23] But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. [24] But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. [25] King David said this about him: ‘I see that the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. [26] No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope. [27] For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave. [28] You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.’ [29] “Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn’t referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. [30] But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David’s own descendants would sit on his throne. [31] David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah’s resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave. [32] “God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. [33] Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. [34] For David himself never ascended into heaven, yet he said, ‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit in the place of honor at my right hand [35] until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet.” ’ [36] “So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!” [37] Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” [38] Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39] This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” [40] Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” [41] Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

PRAY:

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READ:

Acts 2:42–47 (NLT) [42] All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. [43] A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. [44] And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. [45] They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. [46] They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—[47] all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Acts 3:1–26 (NLT) [1] Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. [2] As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. [3] When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. [4] Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" [5] The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. [6] But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" [7] Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. [8] He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. [9] All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. [10] When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! [11] They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John. [12] Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. "People of Israel," he said, "what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? [13] For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate's decision to release him. [14] You rejected this holy, righteous one and instead demanded the release of a murderer. [15] You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact! [16] "Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes. [17] "Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance. [18] But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah—that he must suffer these things. [19] Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. [20] Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. [21] For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets. [22] Moses said, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your own people. Listen carefully to everything he tells you.' [23] Then Moses said, 'Anyone who will not listen to that Prophet will be completely cut off from God's people.' [24] "Starting with Samuel, every prophet spoke about what is happening today. [25] You are the children of those prophets, and you are included in the covenant God promised to your ancestors. For God said to Abraham, 'Through your descendants all the families on earth will be blessed.' [26] When God raised up his servant, Jesus, he sent him first to you people of Israel, to bless you by turning each of you back from your sinful ways."

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

PRAY:

Ask God to speak to you through the Bible reading today.

READ:

Acts 4:1–22 (NLT) [1] While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees. [2] These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead. [3] They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning. [4] But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of men who believed now totaled about 5,000. [5] The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem. [6] Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. [7] They brought in the two disciples and demanded, “By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?” [8] Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of our people, [9] are we being questioned today because we’ve done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? [10] Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. [11] For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’ [12] There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” [13] The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. [14] But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say. [15] So they ordered Peter and John out of the council chamber and conferred among themselves. [16] “What should we do with these men?” they asked each other. “We can’t deny that they have performed a miraculous sign, and everybody in Jerusalem knows about it. [17] But to keep them from spreading their propaganda any further, we must warn them not to speak to anyone in Jesus’ name again.” [18] So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. [19] But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? [20] We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.” [21] The council then threatened them further, but they finally let them go because they didn’t know how to punish them without starting a riot. For everyone was praising God [22] for this miraculous sign—the healing of a man who had been lame for more than forty years.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

PRAY:

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READ:

Acts 4:23–37 (NLT) [23] As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. [24] When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: “O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—[25] you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, ‘Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? [26] The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the LORD and against his Messiah.’ [27] “In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. [28] But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will. [29] And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. [30] Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” [31] After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. [32] All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. [33] The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God’s great blessing was upon them all. [34] There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them [35] and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need. [36] For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means “Son of Encouragement”). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. [37] He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

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READ:

Acts 5:1–16 (NLT) [1] But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. [2] He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest. [3] Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. [4] The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!" [5] As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified. [6] Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him. [7] About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. [8] Peter asked her, "Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?" "Yes," she replied, "that was the price." [9] And Peter said, "How could the two of you even think of conspiring to test the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too." [10] Instantly, she fell to the floor and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. [11] Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened. [12] The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon's Colonnade. [13] But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high regard for them. [14] Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women. [15] As a result of the apostles' work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter's shadow might fall across some of them as he went by. [16] Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed.

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