

Bethel Bible Series

Christ the Lord

New Testament Week 9

Welcome & Announcements

Opening - Why is it important that Jesus didn't just die on the cross but also rose back to life?

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Week - *The Empty Tomb*

Review of Last Week - Responses to Jesus' Death and Resurrection

How did people respond to Jesus' Death?

Witnesses expressed despair & gave up hope in Jesus as the Messiah

Centurion proclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

Pilate was surprised he had actually died, Chief priests asked for guard to seal tomb

How did people respond to the Empty Tomb?

Guards & women afraid, shook, froze like dead

Women ran away from the tomb, Mary returned to the tomb & cried

Guards reported to priests & elders, Elders bribed guards to say disciples stole body

Apostles disbelieved women & went home; Peter ran to tomb, saw linens, wondered

Disciples were confused and hid behind locked doors in fear of Jews

How did people respond to Jesus' Resurrection?

Mary Magdalene & disciples recognized Jesus and told apostles

Apostles did not believe Mary nor two walking disciples

When Christ appeared, the apostles thought they saw a ghost

After proof, apostles were overjoyed; Thomas said, *My Lord and my God!*

At ascension, the apostles worshipped him, but some doubted

Explanation of Luther's Small Catechism - Apostles' Creed, Third Article, IV and V

195. What do the Scriptures teach of the resurrection of the body?

God will raise up me and all the dead, so that our bodies...shall be made alive.

196. What difference will there be in the resurrection of the dead?

A. The believers will rise with glorified bodies to everlasting life in heaven.

B. The unbelievers will rise to eternal death,...shame, contempt and torment in hell.

197. What do the Scriptures teach of eternal life?

A. At...death the soul of the believer is at once received into the presence of Christ.

B. The believer will live with Christ, according to body & soul, in eternal joy & glory

198. To whom will God give eternal life?

God will give eternal life to me and all believers, but to believers only.

199. Are you sure that you will enter eternal life?

I firmly believe..God has..called me by the Gospel,..chosen me..unto life everlasting

200. Why do you close this article with the words "This is most certainly true"?

Because all that I confess in this article is taught in the Bible; I firmly believe it.

The Empty Tomb - Picture Concepts

The Empty Tomb = Christ is risen

The Descending Dove = The outpouring of the Spirit is promised

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Lesson - Christ the Lord

The Apostles Await the Power (Acts 1)

Figures Approaching Walled City = Disciples go to Jerusalem to await the promised power

Acts 1:4	Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift ...
Acts 1:9	He was taken up before their very eyes
Acts 1:12, 14	They returned to Jerusalem; joined constantly in prayer

Walled City, Green Pastures and Globe = Believers are to spread the gospel ...

Acts 1:8 ...in Jerusalem, Judea & Samaria and to the ends of the earth

Be A Witness

Do we need to have sermons prepared for when we recognize opportunities to share our faith?

Acts 1:8 = No, we are to be witnesses

What is a witness? = *A person who has seen or knows something,*

Funk & Wagnalls = *and is therefore competent to give evidence concerning it*

Is a witness expected to perform with a slick, well-rehearsed speech?

Proverbs 12:17 = No, witnesses are to give honest testimony of the truth - in their own words

God's Plan

When Jesus ascended into heaven, the angel Gabriel approached Him and commented, "Master, you must have suffered terribly for men down there."

"I did", He said.

Gabriel asked, "Do they know all about how you loved them and what you did for them?"

"Oh, no," said Jesus, "not yet. Right now only a handful of people in Palestine know."

Gabriel was perplexed. "Then what have you done to let everyone know about your love for them?"

Jesus said, "I've asked Peter, James, John and a few more friends to tell other people about Me. Those who are told will in turn tell other people about Me, and My story will be spread to the farthest reaches of the globe. Ultimately, all of mankind will hear about My life and what I have done."

Gabriel frowned and looked rather skeptical. He knew well the sinfulness and irresponsibility of people. "Yes," he said, "but what if Peter and James and John grow weary? What if the people who come after them forget? What if way down in the 21st century people just don't tell others about You? Haven't You made any other plans?"

Jesus answered, "I haven't made any other plans. I'm counting on them."

Twenty centuries later ... He still has no other plan. He's counting on you and me. His early disciples adopted His priorities and devoted themselves to reaching their world. Christ counted on them and they delivered. Have we done as well?

Your Friends

How are we to systematically make disciples of all nations?

Acts 1:8 = Trust in Spirit's power; Work from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria to the ends

What is our world? Where is our Jerusalem?

Luke 5:27-32 = The field where we live. To the people around us

How should we consider the relationships we have with unchurched people?

Esther 4:14b = We may be here as THE opportunity for our friends to get the gospel

How do we respond to our calling as God's way for our friends to hear His saving message?

Acts 4:20 = *We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard*

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In Jerusalem (Acts 2-7)

Three Spires Within Walled City = The church was affected three key ways in Jerusalem

First Spire = The fellowship was empowered (tongues, boldness, wisdom, forgive, healing)

Acts 2:1-4 Acts 2:5-8	Day of Pentecost ... tongues of fire ... speak in other tongues Jews from around the world heard in their own languages
Acts 4:18-20 Acts 4:31 Acts 5:28-29	told not to teach of Jesus ... we cannot help speaking ... they were filled with the Holy Spirit & spoke the Word boldly Peter replied, "We must obey God rather than men!"
Acts 4:13 Acts 6:9-10	Sanhedrin astonished that Peter & John were unschooled Jews could not stand against the wisdom of Stephen
Acts 2:37-39 Acts 4:12	"Repent and be baptized, receive forgiveness & the Spirit" Salvation is found in no one else
Acts 2:43 Acts 3:7, 16 Acts 5:15-16	miraculous signs by apostles Peter healed crippled beggar; Faith in Jesus gave healing People brought sick so Peter's shadow might heal them

Second Spire = The fellowship increased in number

Acts 1:15 Acts 2:41 Acts 2:47b Acts 4:4	... a group numbering about 120 (note:12x10) ... about 3000 were added that day (Pentecost) The Lord added to their number daily ... grew to about 5000
Acts 5:12-14 Acts 6:7	No one else dared join them ... more and more were added number increased rapidly, including a large number of priests

Third Spire = The fellowship was unified and dispersed by persecution

Acts 2:46 Acts 2:44-45 Acts 4:32, 34-35	Met every day in temple, Broke bread in homes Everything in common, Sold possessions and gave as needed One in heart & mind, shared everything, sold land
Acts 5:17-18 Acts 5:33-34, 38-40 Acts 7:54-58 Acts 8:1-3	Sadducees arrested and jailed the apostles Sanhedrin wanted to kill them ... they had them flogged Stephen is stoned ... Saul watches A great persecution broke out ... Saul went house to house

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In Judea and Samaria (Acts 8-12)

Arched Doorway & Path to Green Pastures = Witness is carried to Samaritans

Acts 8:1	All except apostles were scattered thru-out Judea & Samaria
Acts 8:4	Those who had been scattered preached where they went

Acts 8:5-6, 12	Philip preached in a city in Samaria; they were baptized
Acts 8:14-17	Peter & John came, prayed & laid hands; they rec'd Spirit

Broken Portion of City Wall = Message is brought to the Gentiles

Acts 8:26-27, 34-38	Philip witnesses to Ethiopian & baptizes him
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Acts 9:10-15	God tells Ananias that Saul is to take message to Gentiles
Acts 9:19b-20	Saul preaches in Damascus (Syria)

Acts 10:1-2, 27-29a	Peter accepts invitation to visit Cornelius (Italian)
Acts 10:34-35, 44, 48	God accepts all men who fear him, Peter baptized them
Acts 11:2-3, 18	Apostles objected, then praised God for including Gentiles

Acts 11:19-21	Some went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks
Acts 11:25-26	Barnabas & Saul built first Christian church at Antioch

To The Ends of The Earth (Acts 13-28)

Globe Surrounded by Light = Christ's message is proclaimed to the whole world

Acts 13:44-49	"Since you reject it, we turn to the Gentiles." Word spread
Acts 22:21	"I send you far away to the Gentiles."

Open Book = Christ was more than man, spokesman, teacher, example, miracle worker...

Acts 2:22-24	Jesus did miracles ... God raised him
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Xristos 'O Kurios = "Christ The Lord" - Christ is King!

Acts 2:33-36	right hand of God ... made both Lord & Christ
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Closing Prayer

Summary = Review picture concepts

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 9 and Assignment 10

Next Week - *Reversion*