

# Inductive Study of The Acts of the Apostles

## Pleasantview Alliance Church

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## Week 1 Outline

### **I. Class Syllabus**

### **II. Introduction: Why Inductive Bible Study?**

- A. “Here then, is the real problem of our negligence. We fail to study God’s Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or a lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy.” – R. C. Sproul, Knowing Scripture
- B. Context – understand common verses in their context – immediate, book, author, Scripture – Romans 7:14-23 (cf. 6:20-23, 8:2)
- C. Forces you to slow down
  - 1. There are so many wonderful resources at our fingertips – internet, software, Bibles
  - 2. However, in the busyness of our world, we’ve lost the ability to ‘Be still and know I am God’ (Psalm 46:10), or ‘I love your law! I meditate on it all day long’ (Psalm 119:97), or ‘I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you’ (Psalm 119:11).
- D. Allows Scripture to interpret Scripture
  - 1. Where Scripture is clear, we should be clear
  - 2. Where Scripture is less clear or vague or dark, we should be careful of our pronouncements.
- E. By observing Scripture, you can interpret Scripture and, ultimately, rightly apply Scripture

### **III. Helpful Resources**

- A. How to Study Your Bible – Kay Arthur
- B. How to Do Inductive Bible Study – [www.path-light.com/inductive.htm](http://www.path-light.com/inductive.htm)
- C. How to Read the Bible Book By Book – Fee and Stuart
- D. Exegetical Fallacies – D. A. Carson
- E. <http://www.blueletterbible.org> – offers various translations, parallel study, chain reference, concordance, Hebrew and Greek lexicon, audio tools, study tools, dictionary tools, commentaries, hymns, images, maps.
- E. Others to follow as we continue in our study

#### **IV. Ten Steps in Interpreting Scripture**

- A. The Bible must be read like any other book.
- B. Read the Bible as though it were written to you.
- C. Historical Narratives (stories) are interpreted by Didactic (instructional).
- D. Implicit (that which is presumed in the text) is to be interpreted by the explicit (that which is clearly stated in the text).
- E. Carefully determine the meaning of words in their original usage.
- F. Note the presence of cultural forms of literature.
- G. Note the difference between proverb and law – e.g. Proverbs 26:4-5.
- H. Observe the difference between the spirit and the letter of the law – what is the principle that God is teaching?
- I. Be careful with parables – every item of a parable doesn't have to have a meaning.
- J. Be careful with prophecy – it is primarily intended for the people who will live through it.

#### **V. Homework**

- A. Read Acts once without any study goals.
- B. Read Acts one more time and do the following:
  - 1. Mark in your booklet all occurrences of God the Father↑ with an arrow next to the reference that points up.
  - 2. List the names for God the Father used in the book. What do the references and names for God tell us about Him?