

**The Books Acts: Part #1 Fuel for the Journey:
How to Get Through What You Are Going Through**

Course Dates: January 9 - March 13, 2019

Course Times: Wednesday - 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Course Description: In this course we will study the first four chapters of the book of Acts. The course looks at the foundation of the birth of the church of Jesus Christ, the role of the Holy Spirit in that birthing process and the key actors who led this movement. Special emphasis will be placed on how these stories speak to us individually and collectively. We will also examine with intense focus the role, power, presence and work of the Holy Spirit.

Learning and Life Application / Integration Goals:

1. Disciples will be familiar with how the church of Jesus Christ was born.
2. Disciples will be able to apply what they learn about the maturation process of the early church leaders to their lives as they seek to mature in Christ.
3. Disciples will become acquainted with the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit and how it is a force that is alive and well in the church today.
4. Disciples will begin to see how the church laid the foundation for the growth of the church and then be able to apply those theological principles and practices to inform the vision realization and growth of God's church that we call Wheat Street Baptist Church.

A Review with a View Forward: The Book of Acts 1:1 - 4:37

What did you see?

What did you hear?

How will you respond?

How should we respond?

Lesson #1:

Acts The Evidence and Fulfillment of the Resurrection: The Holy Spirit has Come
Acts 1:1-11

Key Verse: Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." NRSV

You will receive power ... Holy Ghost power!

What are we do with that power?

How are we to be witnesses?

How do we go to our community and share the love of Christ by what do we do?

See a need....

Meet a need....

For the Glory or GOD!

Jerusalem = the people like us who live near us 176,000

Judea = the people like us but don't live near us

Samaria = the people who are not like us and to do not live near us

Missional Bridges: They Go Both Ways

We have to create missional bridges...

1. We have to go out and connect with the community.
2. We have to continue to create partnerships that deepen our relationships with our community.
3. We have to feel their needs and then create opportunities to connect with them on the Wheat Street campus and these opportunities have to be intentionally developed in to needs meeting ministries.
4. Ministries that meet the needs of those we have been called to disciple.
5. Ministries that nurture their faith, getting them closer to Jesus and sustain them along their journey.

Lesson #2:

Replacing Judas: Are You Ready for Your Next Assignment

Acts 1:12-26

Key Verse:

26 And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Matthias had been there from the beginning but he didn't expect this call but he accepted the call. There is no hint in the text that he hesitated. He was next up.

People come and people go and you find yourself next up.

What is God calling you to next?

What is next for you in life and the life of the church?

What is God calling you to that you are ready for but don't even know it?

When God calls will you be like Matthias?

Note: God is always calling us to what is next!

Lesson #3:

The Power in You and the Church: Keep on Pushing

Acts 2:1-13

Key Verse: **12** All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" **13** But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

When you are doing what God has called you to do, the way God has called you to do it, some will be amazed and others will think you are drunk / crazy. Those who are bold in the Lord have to trust in the Lord. They have to learn to lean on the Lord for wisdom, understanding and direction.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;

6

In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths. NKJV

1. How do you deal with what people think of you?
2. Does it matter?
3. Does it bother you?

4. How do you move on and get along when the folk, who you care about, when they don't agree with the direction you are taking with your life?
5. How do you deal with folk who don't have the level of faith you have and they tell you it don't take all of that? They want you to mute your faith because of the immaturity of their faith.

Lesson #3:

The Story and Our Story: What Sustains Us and Propels Us

Acts 2:14-36

Key Verse: Acts 2:21

21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

What does it mean to be saved?

Romans 10:8-10

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): **9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

1. What does it mean to be "saved"?
2. How do you know you are "saved"?
3. What are the characteristics, competencies, practices, and life habits of people who are saved? - The fruit question!
4. How do saved people live and what do saved people do?
5. How do others who meet you on a daily basis know that a person is saved (how do they know you are saved)?
6. Why should our lives reflect our salvation?
7. Is your life a good witness for who God is?

Lesson #4:

Walk Together Children Don't You Get Weary: The Power of Community
Acts 2:37-47

Key Verse: Acts 2:44-47

44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; **45** they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46** Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Daily Rhythms of the Early Church & Today's Church

1. They had all things in common, they shared what they had. They didn't hoard what they had.
2. They met the needs of the truly needy
3. They spent time together in the temple / in the church
4. They ate together at each others homes
5. They were generous and glad about it
6. They praised God
7. The church multiplied

Lesson #5:

Loving to Live: Helping Helps Us!
Acts 3:1-26

Key Verse: Acts 3:6-7

6 But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." **7** And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.

1. Do we see the people who are in need?
2. How many people walked by this man without even noticing him?
3. Who has God called us to empower with the Gospel but we don't see them or we don't take time to share the love of Christ with them?
4. What needs do we see?
5. What needs do we ignore?

6. Who is sitting at the gate waiting for us to walk by?
7. Do we walk by or do we take time to stop and have that potentially life saving conversation (a conversation about life is a conversation about God)? When you take time to notice and talk somebody God is in that very present conversation without you ever having to quote scripture or mention the name of God.

Lesson #6:

What Do You Do When People Try to Shut You Down and Shut You Up?
Acts 4:1-22

Key Verse: Acts 4:18-20

18 So they called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in God’s sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; **20** for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

What do you do when people who don’t understand what God is doing in your life try to tell you to stop doing what God has called you to do?

How do we resist being intimidate by those who look us in the face and oppose us, threaten us and incite fear in us?

What are some offensive strategies?

- Believe what God said to you
- Pray what you believe
- Act on what you believe
- Don’t quit, don’t give up, don’t stop
- Bathe your work in prayer
- Find support from fellow saints who believe in the God in you and what God is doing in you
- Speak to yourself, talk to your doubt and rebuke your fear
- Confess these two passages and make it a part of your daily prayer life:

2nd Timothy 2:6-7

6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. **7** For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. NKJV

Romans 8:14-16

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons (and daughters) of God. **15** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” **16** The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Lesson #7:

The Power of Prayer: Pray with Your Bad Self

Acts 4:23-31

Key Verse: Acts 4:31

31 When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

Revival starts here!

Dave Clayton says in his book, Revival Starts Here:

“You would be hard-pressed to find any significant movement of God across human history that was not first preceded by a group of faithful men and women who were committed to the Lord in prayer and fasting.”¹

1. What were the results of their prayer in Acts 4:31?
2. We know we have prayed and God has heard prayer when the word of God is spoken with boldness and we see God doing amazing things.
3. What are you praying for?
4. Who are your praying for?
5. How often do you pray for God’s church?
6. How often do you pray for those God has called us to reach, serve and nurture in the faith?
7. What family member(s) are your praying for?
8. What co-workers are you praying for?

¹Clayton, Dave. Revival Starts Here: A Short Conversation on Prayer, Fasting, and Revival for Beginners Like Me . HIM Publications. Kindle Edition.

9. What enemies are you praying for?
10. What miracles are you praying for?
11. How are asking God to grow you?
12. How are you asking God to give you vision for your life?
13. Who are you praying with?
14. How often do you pray?
15. How important is prayer in your life?

Lesson #8:

Sharing is Caring: Let Go to Be Lifted Up
Acts 4:32-37

34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. **35** They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

1. What has God given you that you are giving back to God?
2. Could you do what these believers did?
3. What holds us back from giving it all up to get it all back?

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 - Sweet Hour of Prayer
Next Week: Prayer Time from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Pizza from Edgewood to follow the Prayer Hour

The Discipleship Experience

Coming in May!!

Sunday Mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.

Vision:

We exist to develop mature disciples of Jesus Christ who make a real difference in the world by actively seeking the love, justice, freedom, liberation and peace of God.

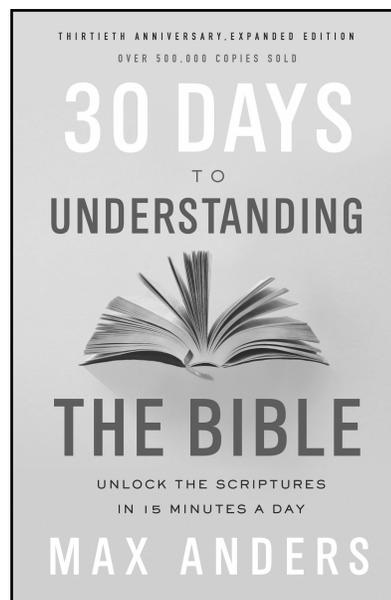
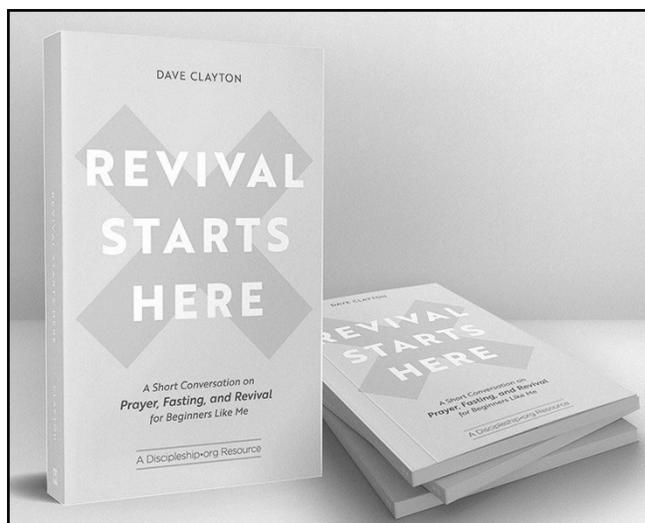
Mission:

The Discipleship Experience is committed to develop mature disciples of Jesus Christ. At the core of the Discipleship Experience is the belief that Jesus' method and message are sacred. Jesus' method of making disciples is what the Discipleship Experience is designed to reflect and act on as we make mature disciples of Jesus Christ who make a real difference in the world.

Biblical Foundation: Matthew 28:16-20

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



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