



**Week 1: Christianity before there was Christianity: The Birth and First Steps of the Church.**  
**An overview of Acts 1-9**

**Date:** January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

**Scripture:** Acts Chapters 1-9

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† Act 1: The ascension, the Holy Spirit, and the birth of the church.

- *Scene 1: The ascension. 1:1-12*
- *Scene 2: The upper room, waiting for the Spirit. 1:12-26*
- *Scene 3: Pentecost, the Spirit, and Peter's first sermon. 2:1-41*
- *Scene 4: The church is launched! 2:42-47*

† Act 2: The early days in Jerusalem

- *Scene 1: Healing of the lame beggar. 3:1-10*
- *Scene 2: Peter's second sermon. 3:11-26*
- *Scene 3: Pushback! Peter and John before Sanhedrin. 4:1-22*
- *Scene 4: The believers pray. 4:23-31*
- *Scene 5: The community of believers. 4:32-37*

† Act 3: The Honeymoon's over, struggle ensues.

- *Scene 1: Ananias and Sapphira. 5:1-10*
- *Scene 2: Signs and Wonders. 5:12-16*
- *Scene 3: Persecution, apostles arrested, Gamaliel's speech. 5:17-42*
- *Scene 4: Internal crisis, raising of new leaders. 6:1-7*
- *Scene 5: Enter Stephen! Arrest, speech and martyrdom. 6:8-7:60, 8:1*

† Act 4: Persecution and the church is scattered.

- *Scene 1: Saul's persecution begins. 8:1-3*
- *Scene 2: Philip in Samaria, Simon the Sorcerer. 8:4-13*
- *Scene 3: Peter and John come to Samaria. 8:14-25*
- *Scene 4: Philip and the Ethiopian. 8:26-40*

† Act 5: Saul's conversion and Peter's journey

- *Scene 1: The road to Damascus. 9:1-9*
- *Scene 2: Saul and Ananias. 9:10-19*
- *Scene 3: Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem. 9:19-31*
- *Scene 4: Peter heals Aeneas and Dorcas. 9:32-42*
- *Scene 5: Peter stays with Simon the tanner. 9:43*

† The stage is set! Next week: Peter and Cornelius. Acts 10:1-23

† Essential themes so far:

- GOD is at work
- The disciples lives were TRANSFORMED
- The disciples experienced their faith in COMMUNITY