



Smith Rock  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

# acts

OF THE APOSTLES

Sermon notes  
and  
study guide

For the week of  
31st January 2021  
“The Purpose”



# The Purpose

Acts 2:42-47 or page 857 in a church bible.

## Main points

### 1. D \_\_\_\_\_

*31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him,  
“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,  
32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you  
free.”*

John 8:31–32 (ESV)

### 2. T \_\_\_\_\_

*14 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ  
Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by  
his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be  
ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke,*

*and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

2 Timothy 4:1–4 (ESV)

**3. F** \_\_\_\_\_

*3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

1 John 1:3 (ESV)

**4. P** \_\_\_\_\_

*6 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (ESV)

# WHAT NEXT?



**What have you heard God say to you this morning and what are you going to do with what you heard?**

**What was the main point of the sermon?**

**What stood out for you in this text.**

**What is one thing you are going to do with what you  
heard this next week**

*42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

*Acts 2:42–47 (ESV)*

### **The Church**

*A group or assembly of persons called together for a particular purpose. The term appears only twice in the Gospels (Mt 16:18; 18:17) but frequently in the Book of Acts, most of the letters of Paul, as well as most of the remaining NT writings, especially the Revelation of John.*

*The use of this word in the NT is somewhat dependent upon the OT and the Greek world. In the former, the word designated the congregation of the Israelites, especially when they are gathered for religious purposes and specifically for the purpose of hearing the Law (Dt 4:10; 9:10; 18:16; 31:30; Jgs 20:2; Acts 7:38). In the Greek world the word “church” designated an assembly of people, a meeting, such as a regularly summoned political body, or simply a gathering of people. The word is used in such a secular way in Acts 19:32, 39, 41.*

*The specifically Christian usages of this concept vary considerably in the NT. (1) In analogy to the OT, it sometimes refers to a church meeting, as when Paul says to the Christians in Corinth: "... when you assemble as a [in] church" (1 Cor 11:18). This means that Christians are the people of God especially when they are gathered for worship. (2) In texts such as Matthew 18:17; Acts 5:11; 1 Corinthians 4:17; and Philippians 4:15, "church" refers to the entire group of Christians living in one place. Often the local character of a Christian congregation is emphasized, as in the phrases, "the church in Jerusalem" (Acts 8:1), "in Corinth" (1 Cor 1:2), "in Thessalonica" (1 Thes 1:1). (3) In other texts, house assemblies of Christians are called churches, such as those who met in the house of Priscilla and Aquila (Rom 16:3; 1 Cor 16:19). (4) Throughout the NT, "the church" designates the universal church, to which all believers belong (see Acts 9:31; 1 Cor 6:4; Eph 1:22; Col 1:18). Jesus' first word about the founding of the Christian movement in Matthew 16:18 has this larger meaning: "I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it."*

*The church, both as a universal reality and in its local, concrete expression, is more specifically designated in Paul's writings as "the church of God" (e.g., 1 Cor 1:2; 10:32) or "the church of Christ" (Rom 16:16). In this way a common, secular Greek term receives its distinctive Christian meaning, and sets the Christian assembly/gathering/community apart from all other secular or religious groups.*

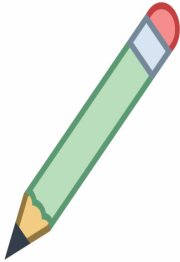
*It is clear from the NT as a whole that the Christian community understood itself as the community of the end time, as the community called into being by God's end-time act of revelation and divine presence in Jesus of Nazareth. So Paul tells the Christians in Corinth that they are those "upon whom the end of the ages*

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# Sermon notes

## *for kids*

Favourite song today

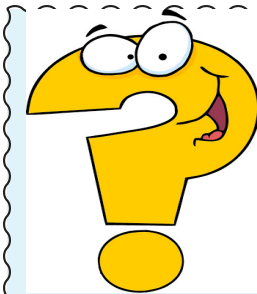
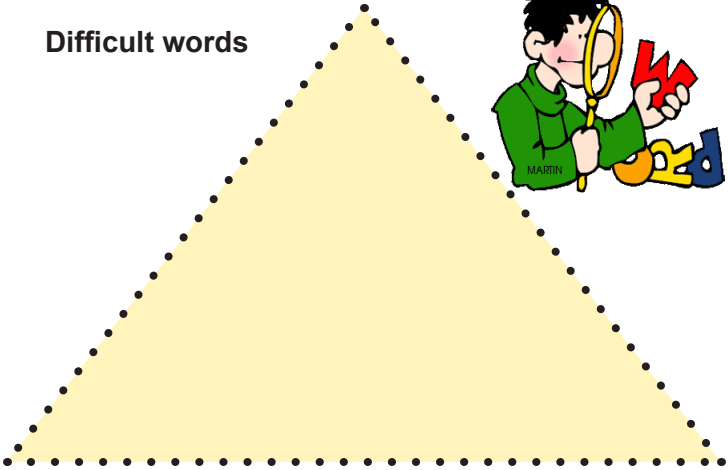


Draw a picture from the sermon

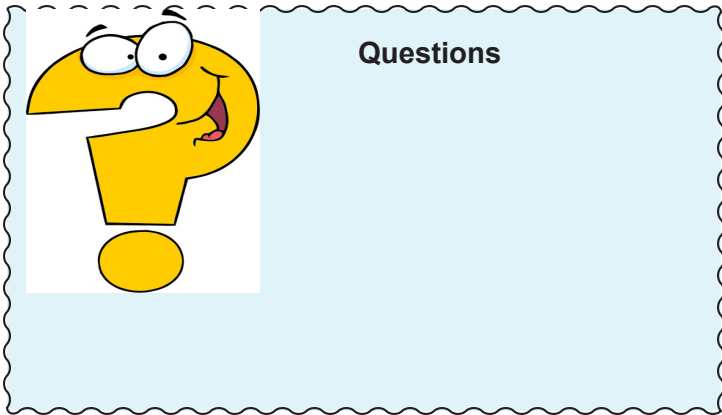


NAME OF THE BOOK

Difficult words



Questions



Today I learned

Handwriting practice lines for the 'Today I learned' section, consisting of six horizontal lines on a light orange background.



## **Further study for** *Groups and individuals*

### **Review**

Look back at last week's sermon notes and take a moment to review what you wrote you were going to take action on.

How did it go? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the communities you are a part of? \_\_\_\_\_

Which ones do you feel most comfortable in and why? \_\_\_\_\_

How much do you feel like you don't fit into the world? \_\_\_\_\_

If you could create an "ideal" community, what would it look like? \_\_\_\_\_

As the church grew from 120 to 3,000 +, what kind of challenges do you think it and the apostles faced? \_\_\_\_\_

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To “devote,” means to give time or resources to something or someone, and it carries the idea of loyalty as well.

If you look at your life what kind of things are you devoted to? \_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus said:

*24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*

Matthew 6:24 (ESV)

Paul warns the Corinthians;

*3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

2 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV)

And writing to Timothy;

*4 nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.*

1 Timothy 1:4 (ESV)

Why is do we find being devoted to the church community hard?

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When Moses led the Hebrew slaves out of Egypt to form God's community He gave them this instruction;

*4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (ESV)

Jesus leads us into a new life away from our previous slavery to sin, why is teaching paramount in this new community? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Where do we get the teaching from and how do we interpret it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John writes;

*3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus*

*Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.*

1 John 1:3–4 (ESV)

What gives us fellowship? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How often should we have fellowship? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How could we have more fellowship in our community? \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What does our fellowship say to the outside world about our community? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*

Revelation 5:8 (ESV)

Why is prayer such a vital privilege and part of the community of God's people? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*has come” (1 Cor 10:11). That is, God had visited his creation, had called out of both Judaism and the gentile world a new people, empowered by his Spirit to be present in the world, sharing the good news (gospel) of his radical, unconditional love for his creation (Eph 2:11–22). The Gospels tell us that Jesus chose 12 disciples who became the foundation of this new people. The correspondence to the 12 tribes of Israel is clear, and shows that the church was understood both as grounded in Judaism and as the fulfillment of God’s intention in calling Israel to become “a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth” (Is 49:6; Rom 11:1–5). It is this recognition that allows Paul to call this new gentile-Jewish community, this new creation, “the Israel of God” (Gal 6:15, 16). In this new community the traditional barriers of race, social standing, and sex—barriers that divided people from one another and categorized them into inferior and superior classes—are seen to be shattered: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:28 NIV).*

*This broad understanding of the church is furthered and amplified throughout the NT through a variety of concepts and images, each revealing a particular facet within the early church’s understanding of itself, its nature and mission.*

Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, “Church,” *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 458–459.