



Group 22 – Year 1- Preview Sheet

Session: Acts of the Apostles – The Spirit, The Church, and The Mission

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Religious orders periodically gather their members for lengthy meetings called “General Chapter” whose purpose is to assess the order’s ongoing fidelity to the Gospel and the saintly founder’s original intent. They ask: “How are we, in our daily living, carrying out the mission that God and our founder have called us to?”

Reading the Acts of the Apostles offers contemporary pastoral ministers, like you and me, an opportunity to do the same. This majestic work by St. Luke beautifully portrays life in the early Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, featuring zealous missionaries animated by post-Pentecost fervor.

Our goal in this session is to become very familiar with key episodes in the Biblical text of Acts and then to assess the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in our contemporary ecclesial and pastoral situations.

To prepare, please spend prayerful and reflective time reading through the 28 chapters of the Acts of the Apostles. As you read, pay particular attention to these 10 key events ...

1. The Ascension and Commissioning of the Apostles – 1:6-11
2. Pentecost – 2:1-13
3. Peter’s First Speech – 2:14-41
4. Life in the Early Church – 2:42-47, 4:32-37
5. 7 Hellenist Assistants Appointed – 6:1-6
6. Stephen’s martyrdom – 7:54-60
7. Paul’s Conversion – 9:1-19
8. Cornelius – 10:1-49
9. Council of Jerusalem – 15:1-21
10. Paul’s missionary journeys – 13:1-28:31

Finally, as you read and reflect on Acts, come prepared to share your insights on these two questions:

- “Where do I see the Holy Spirit actively at work in the Church today?”
- What challenges does the Church face in its response to fulfilling its mission?

I look forward to joining you for our study of the Acts of the Apostles