

Inside/Out: The Church on Mission
Crestview Church of Christ
Adult Education Ministry • Fall/Spring 2017-2018

For the past year, the adult education ministry at Crestview trained its focus on the Gospel. Through the lens of the Gospel According to John, Paul’s Letter to the Romans, the Sermon on the Mount, and James’ Christian Wisdom sermon, we sought to comprehend God’s “Good News” to the cosmos through Jesus Christ. Now, having grasped, in large measure (hopefully), the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the universal impact of Jesus, and the calling Jesus’ gospel makes on us, we turn our attention to the question of what it means to be Gospel people in and for the world.

Luke tackles this question in his second volume about God’s impact on the world in Jesus Christ: the Acts of the Apostles. Our series title, “Inside/Out: The Church on Mission” expresses the central theme of Acts as we watch God by the leading of the Holy Spirit develop and nurture Christian communities and scatter them from “Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” What we see unfolding in Acts is not merely stories of the courage of the earliest Christians, but a perennial calling to contemporary Christians to direct their vision not ever-inward, but always-outward, taking up the calling they will then hear to follow out the mission of God through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit for the world.

Along the way, the nature, character and quality of this mission is explored, addressing deeply important contemporary concerns. Luke highlights through Acts the diversity of the Christian community: Jews and Gentiles being bound together, living beyond their ethnic differences; women playing substantial roles in the ministry and growth of the Christian movement; the poor being enfranchised in a way that disrupts ancient, secular ideas about power; and much more. Luke also speaks to the intended unity of the Christian community, reflected in the assumption that churches across the Mediterranean should support the Christians in Jerusalem. And, of course, Acts paints a picture of the Church “on mission” bringing their encounter with Jesus to others so that they take up the commission to follow Jesus Christ.

Our study of Acts will follow another, excellent study guide written by N.T. Wright in concert with frequent writing partner Dale Larsen and his wife, Sandy Larsen. Interspersed throughout our study of Acts, we will break away from the narrative to hear from other voices from the early Church on mission. Pausing along the way to hear from Peter, Paul and John will take us deeper into the story and enrich our perspective on the calling and task of the Christian community. Classes that engage these missionary writings of the apostles will not be “deep dives” into the texts, but readings of these letters with the explication of key themes that tie into Luke’s narrative in Acts.

As with every plan for a year-long study, the following schedule is subject to change based on things that may come up in the life of our Christian community as we are on mission. However, this schedule has been constructed with at least our most common events in mind.

Date	Topic
August 20	Acts 1 (Wright, 11-15)

August 27	Acts 2.1-41 (Wright, 16-22)
September 3	Acts 2.42-3.26 (Wright, 22-27)
September 10	Acts 4.1-31 (Wright, 27-31)
September 17	Acts 4.32-5.42 (Wright, 31-35)
September 24	Acts 6 (Wright, 35-39)
October 1	Acts 7.1-8.3 (Wright, 39-44)
October 8	Acts 8.4-40 (Wright, 44-48)
October 15	Acts 9.1-31 (Wright, 48-53)
October 22	Acts 9.32-10.48 (Wright, 53-58)
October 29	Acts 11 (Wright, 58-62)
November 5	2 Peter 1.1-2.3
November 12	2 Peter 2.4-3.18
November 19	Acts 12 (Wright, 62-66)
November 26	(Biker Sunday, No Classes)
December 3	Acts 13 (Wright, 66-70)
December 10	Acts 14 (Wright, 70-75)
December 17	Acts 15 (Wright, 75-80)
December 24	(Christmas Eve, No Classes)
December 31	(New Year's Eve, No Classes)
January 7	Acts 16 (Wright, 80-84)
January 14	Philippians 1.1-2.30
January 21	Philippians 3.1-4.23
January 28	Acts 17 (Wright, 84-89)
February 4	Acts 18 (Wright, 89-94)
February 11	Acts 19 (Wright, 94-98)
February 18	Ephesians 1.1-2.22
February 25	Ephesians 3.1-4.32
March 4	Ephesians 5.1-6.23
March 11	Philemon
March 18	Acts 20.1-21.14 (Wright, 98-103)
March 25	Acts 21.15-22.30 (Wright, 103-108)
April 1 (Easter)	Acts 23-24 (Wright, 108-113)
April 8	Acts 25-26 (Wright, 113-117)
April 15	Acts 27-28 (Wright, 117-122)
April 22	2 Timothy 1-2
April 29	2 Timothy 3-4
May 6	1 John 1.1-3.17
May 13	1 John 3.18-5.21
May 20	2 John/3 John