

STUDY GUIDE

for

The Acts of the Apostles

by

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INTRODUCTION

Of the five volumes in the Conflict of the Ages set of books written by Ellen G. White, perhaps the most important for the remnant church is *The Acts of the Apostles*. This volume should be required reading for every minister, church leader, and member at this point in the history of God's people—the time when the church looks forward to the second Pentecost and the falling of the latter rain. In *The Acts of the Apostles* and the biblical book of Acts, the remnant people of God find their spiritual roots. To understand what God expects of His church today, believers should study these two books. Here can be found the spiritual model for the modern church. Under the power of God's Spirit, the church of God today is called to service for the purpose of completing the work begun by the apostles twenty centuries ago.

The Study Guide for *The Acts of the Apostles* is designed for use in several ways, depending upon the interests of the user. Certain lessons provide a deeper understanding of the working of the Holy Spirit, or of the growth of the Christian church. Others focus on the lives and ministries of Paul, Peter, or John, or the books that came from the pens of these apostles. For those who wish to get an overview of the entire book of Acts, the Study Guide can be followed in a systematic way through lessons 1 to 29. The following subjects and chapters are suggested for shorter studies:

- Experience of the early Christian church: Lessons 1, 4, 5, 6, 10, 16, 20, 29.
- Ministry (paid, self-supporting, and lay): Lessons 17, 18.
- Holy Spirit: Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4.
- Paul: Lessons 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24.
- Peter: Lessons 4, 8, 10, 25, 26.
- John: Lessons 4, 27, 28, 29.
- New Testament Letters: Lessons 13, 15, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29.

Several lessons include sentences with blank spaces for which words must be supplied. These sentences were carefully chosen because of the spiritual truths they contain. Completing these sentences should not be considered busywork; the sentences were designed to help fix important truths in the mind. It would benefit the student if these sentences were to become “memory verses.”

Finally, a number code is given after each question to help the student find the answer to the question. For example, (153:4) indicates that the answer can be found in paragraph 4 on page 153. We believe that through a study of *The Acts of the Apostles*, the student will obtain a sense of mission and the vision of a completed work.

Ellen G. White Estate
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LESSON 1

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 9-34; John 15

1. List six objectives for which God has organized the church (9:1).
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
2. How does God look upon any betrayal of His church on earth (11:2; 1 Cor. 3:16, 17)?
3. Complete the following sentence: “Enfeebled and _____ as it may appear, the _____ is the one _____ upon which God bestows in a special sense His _____” (12:1).
4. What is meant by the statement, God’s church “is the theater of His grace” (12:1)?
5. In what ways did ancient Israel rob God and man (14:2-15:0)?
6. What kind of people did Jesus choose to carry on His work on earth (17:1)?
7. At what point was the first step taken in the organization of Christ’s church (18:1)?

8. What was the “middle wall of partition” that separated Israel from other nations (18:1-19:3)?
9. How did Jesus propose to bring the disciples into a unity that would make it possible for His work to be done on earth (20:2)?
10. What made the work of the disciples so efficient (22:2; 29:1)?
11. Name two conditions essential to success in spreading the gospel (29:1).
12. Why must the influence of the Holy Spirit accompany the preaching of the gospel (31:1)?
13. Why was the preaching of the gospel to begin in Jerusalem (31:2-32:0)?
14. What assurance do we have that Jesus will return for His people (32:3-34:1)?

Thought Question: Evaluate your own local congregation in view of the reasons why God has organized His church. How does it measure up?

LESSON 2

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 35-46; Acts 2:1-39

1. List seven steps the apostles followed in preparation for the Day of Pentecost. (Share the steps you have chosen with others to see if they are the same.)
 - a. 35:2
 - b. 35:2
 - c. 36:1
 - d. 36:1
 - e. 37:1
 - f. 37:2
 - g. 37:3
2. Complete the following graphic statement which describes what the Holy Spirit is capable of doing: “The sword of the _____, newly edged with _____ and bathed in the _____ of _____, cut its way through _____” (38:1).
3. What was the result of wielding the newly-edged Sword (38:1)?
4. What ceremony took place at Christ’s ascension (38:3)?
5. Of what was the descent of the Holy Spirit a token (39:0)?
6. What was the significance of the tongues of fire (39:1)?

7. For what purpose was the gift of tongues given (39:2-40:0)?
8. How did the gift of tongues affect the disciples' speaking in their own language (40:0)?
9. How do we know the gift of tongues on Pentecost was the gift to speak foreign languages (40:2; Acts 2:8)?
10. Based on the information about tongues given in this chapter, how would you understand the experience of tongues-speaking as recorded in 1 Corinthians 14?
11. What enabled the people to see the truth contained in the apostles' preaching (44:1)?
12. Give a description of the apostles before Pentecost, and then following Pentecost (45:2; 46:1).

Thought Question: What would the gift of the Holy Spirit accomplish in God's church today?

LESSON 3

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 47-56; Acts 2:1-39

1. What will the gift of God's Spirit bring within the reach of Jesus' followers (47:1)?
2. What was the result of the giving of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (48:1)?
3. Complete the following sentence: "So _____ can God work when _____ give themselves up to the _____ of His _____" (49:1).
4. After receiving the power of God's Spirit, to what degree were the early followers of Jesus freed from temptation and trial (49:3)?
5. What unhappy results prevail when the Spirit is a matter little thought of by the church (50:1)?
6. What answer would you give to Ellen White's question (50:2), "Why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit?"
7. Definition of holiness: "Holiness is not _____; it is an _____ of the will to God: it is _____ by every word that _____ from the mouth of _____; it is _____ the will of our _____; it is trusting God in _____, in _____ as well as in the _____; it is _____ by _____ and not by sight; it is _____ on God with _____, and _____ in His love" (51:2).
8. Why is silence golden when it comes to the nature of the Holy Spirit (52:1)?

9. What is the office of the Holy Spirit?
 - a. 52:2
 - b. 52:3
 - c. 52:4
 - d. 52:5-53:0
10. Through whom has the Holy Spirit worked in past ages, and for what purpose (53:1)?
11. What is the Spirit enabling God's people to do today (53:2-54:0)?
12. For what are some Christians waiting, and why is it dangerous to wait (54:1)?
13. In the time of the end, what will accompany the earnest efforts of God's people while doing His work (54:2)?
14. With what periods in church history are the early and latter rains identified (54:2-55:1)?
 - a. Early rain
 - b. Latter rain
15. What will the latter rain accomplish (55:1)?
16. Who will receive the latter rain (55:2-56:2)?

Thought Question: What steps are you presently taking to prepare yourself for the latter rain? If you cannot think of any, what changes can you make in your life so you will be prepared to receive the promised power?

LESSON 4

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 57-69; Acts 3; 4:1-31

1. As the disciples began their work, how did they look upon themselves, and how was the problem resolved (57:1)?
2. Give the two preparatory steps taken by Peter and John that placed them in a position where they could be used by God as instruments of healing (57:2).
3. What was it in the crippled man's background that led him to respond quickly to Peter's command (57:2-58:1)?
4. Why were the Sadducees upset with the preaching of Peter and John (60:1-61:1)?
5. Why did the Jewish leaders refuse to recognize that the Holy Spirit was directing the preaching of the apostles (61:-62:0)?
6. Give two reasons why the wrath of God is declared against unrepentant sinners (62:1).
 - a.
 - b.
7. As Peter stood before the Sanhedrin, what was he determined to do (62:2-63:0)?
8. What course did the religious leaders decide to follow in dealing with Peter and John (66:2-67:1)?

9. How many times were the apostles filled with the Holy Spirit, and what do you think was the purpose for each infilling?
 - a. John 20:22
 - b. Acts 2:1-4
 - c. Acts 4:31

10. Under what circumstance have Christians found that they must defy the laws of their countries (68:1-69:1)?

Thought Question: In what ways might God's people today find themselves opposing truth and the working of the Holy Spirit?

LESSON 5

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 70-86; Acts 4:32-5:42

1. Ellen White predicted: “Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 464). How does *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 70, 71, define “primitive godliness,” and who is its source?
2. Explain what Ananias and Sapphira planned to do (72:1; Acts 5:1, 2).
3. Why did God move so quickly against Ananias and Sapphira (73:4)?
4. What did God intend to teach through the punishment against Ananias and Sapphira (73:4-74:0)?
5. Why were each of the following groups angry with the disciples of Jesus (78:1, 2)?
 - a. Sadducees
 - b. Pharisees
6. Summarize Gamaliel’s speech (Acts 5:33-39).
7. What led Gamaliel to caution the Sanhedrin against taking the lives of the apostles (82:3; Acts 5:38, 39)?

Thought Question: Why does God tolerate the spirit of Ananias and Sapphira in the church today?

LESSON 6

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 87-111; Acts 6-8

1. When Satan failed to spread the “spirit” of Ananias and Sapphira among the early believers, what was his next move (87:3-88:1)?
2. What was to be the responsibility of the new leaders within the church, and what did the apostles consider their responsibility to be (89:1-90-1; Acts 6:2-4)?
3. Under what conditions only could the church hope to advance from victory to victory (90:2-91:1)?
4. What qualified Stephen to be an effective preacher (97:1)?
5. Compare the Jews’ reaction to the teachings of Jesus and Stephen, and how they treated both of these preachers (98:1-99:1).
6. What was it about Stephen’s sermon that angered the Jews (99:2 -100:2)?
7. At what point in time was Saul elected to the Sanhedrin (102:1)?
8. At what point in time did Nicodemus publicly demonstrate his faith in Jesus (104:1, 105:1)?
9. How much did his faith in Jesus cost Nicodemus (105:1)?

10. What danger did the church in Jerusalem face as a result of the success God had given to them in soul winning (105:2)?
11. Give the historical background for Philip's success in Samaria (106:2-107:0).
12. What lesson can we learn from the experience of Philip (109:2, 4; 110:0)?
13. Complete the following sentence: "God's _____ have always been _____, consecrating their _____ to the honor of His name and wisely using their _____ in His _____" (109:3).
14. Who in the church is called to work for the salvation of souls (110:1, 2)?

Thought Question: Point out the similarities between the experience of the church in Jerusalem after a period of success and the experience of the Seventh-day Adventist Church today (see 105:2).

LESSON 7

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 112-130; Acts 9:1-30

1. What effect did Stephen's death have on Saul (112:1-113:0)?
2. What did Saul do to resolve the internal conflict he experienced (113:0, 1)?
3. Of what three things was Saul convinced when he saw the risen Lord (115:2)?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. At the time of the heavenly illumination, what did the Holy Spirit bring to Saul's mind (115:3-116:0)?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
5. Before seeing the glorified Lord, what had brought Saul to an almost overwhelming conviction that Jesus was the Messiah (116:2-117:0)?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
6. How did Saul regard his blindness (117:3)?
7. With whom did Saul stay while in Damascus (118:1-119:0)?

8. During the days of blindness, for what did Saul long, and what was his intense desire (119:2)?
9. What does Saul's experience within Judaism teach us about people who oppose truth today (120:2)?
10. Once Saul had humbled himself before God in repentance, to whom did God direct him (120:3-122:4)?
11. Trace the steps Saul followed while alone in the desert which resulted in his establishment in the Christian faith (125:3-126:0).
12. Who was Saul's personal Teacher (126:0)?
13. Complete the following sentence: "When the _____ of man is brought into communion with the _____ of _____, the finite with the _____, the effect on _____ and _____ and _____ is beyond estimate. In such _____ is found the highest _____" (126:1).
14. What was Saul's main purpose for going to Jerusalem after his conversion (128:3)?
15. What was Saul's mistaken opinion of his former teachers (129:1)?

Thought Question: Compare your conversion to that of Saul. What are the similarities or differences? Is one type of conversion more genuine than another?

LESSON 8

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 131-65; Acts 9:32-13:3

1. Give a short biographical sketch of Cornelius (132:3-133:1).
2. What is God's plan for those who receive the light of truth (134:1-3)?
3. Describe Peter's attitude toward Gentiles (135:3-136:3).
4. Why did Peter take six fellow Jews with him to Cornelius' house (137:2)?
5. How does the Bible make clear that Peter's vision of the sheet was not permission from God to eat unclean animals (138:2-4; Acts 10:28)?
6. How do we know that the gift of the Holy Spirit and tongues given to Cornelius and his household was identical to what was given on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 10:44-47; 11:15-17)?
7. What was accomplished by Cornelius' conversion (142:2)?
8. What had Herod failed to do in the execution of James that he now planned to do with Peter (144:3)?
9. Why did the religious leaders not want Peter's execution during the Passover (144:3-145:0)?
10. At what point had the presence of God been withdrawn from the temple in Jerusalem (145:2)?

11. What precautions did Herod take to keep Peter in prison (145:4-146:0)?
12. How did Herod relate to Peter's release (149:3)?
13. What brought about Herod's downfall (149:4-151:1)?
14. What benefit to the gospel resulted from the death of Herod (152:2)?
15. What responsibilities has God assigned to angels (152:4- 154:2)?
16. Who opened up the gospel work in Antioch of Syria (156:1)?
17. What name was attached to the followers of Jesus at Antioch? Who gave them this name? What kind of name is it (157:1, 2)?
18. What conviction was brought home to Paul's mind as he worked together with Barnabas (159:1)?
19. What does the work and success of Paul and Barnabas in Antioch suggest to you, seeing they had not yet been ordained to the gospel ministry (160:1)?
20. Although these men were not ordained at first, what office did they hold (Acts 13:1)?
21. From what event did Paul date the beginning of his apostleship (164:2-165:0)?

Thought Question: Based on 163:1-164:1, what philosophy would you develop for independent ministries?

LESSON 9

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 166-87; Acts 13:4-14:26

1. What suggestion did Barnabas make as he and Paul prepared for their first missionary tour (166:3-167: 0)?
2. What is Satan's reaction whenever the gospel is preached to prominent persons of integrity (167:2)?
3. When working for this kind of person, what should the gospel worker not fear (167:3-168:0)?
4. In what forms may the worker for Jesus meet the archenemy (169:1)?
5. What led Mark to desert Paul and Barnabas (169:3-170:0)?
6. Contrast the attitude of Paul with that of Barnabas toward the deserter (170:1, 2).
7. What motivated the Jews at Antioch in Pisidia to turn against Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:44, 45)?
8. How did Jesus foretell the spread of the gospel to the Gentiles (174:2)?
9. What was the final response of the Jews in Antioch to the preaching of the gospel (176:1, 2)?

10. What methods did the enemies of the gospel use in Iconium in an attempt to stop the preaching of the apostles (178:1-179:0) ?

11. What approach was taken by Paul and Barnabas to present Jesus to the people of Lystra (180:1-181:0)?

12. Explain the change in the attitude of the people in Lystra (183:1-184:0)?

13. List five things the apostles did in order to care for the spiritual well-being of new converts (185:2-186:2).
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.

Thought Question: Can you think of a modern-day parallel to the Jews' attitude toward the preaching of Paul and Barnabas?

LESSON 10

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 188-200; Acts 15:1-3.

1. After Paul and Barnabas returned from their first missionary trip, what doctrinal controversy arose at Antioch in Syria (188:2 -189:1)?
2. What fear motivated the actions of Paul's opponents (189:2)?
3. What had these Jewish opponents failed to understand (189:3- 190:1)?
4. What decision was reached by the believers in Antioch (190:2)?
5. Give the two agreements that were entered into by the disputing parties (190:2).
 - a.
 - b.
6. Besides circumcision, what other items demanded the attention of the representatives at the council?
 - a. 191:2
 - b. 191:3
 - c. 192:2
7. Who, in reality, had already settled all of these issues (192:3; 194:3)?
8. How did Peter defend the rights of Gentile Christians (192:4-194:0)?

9. When the discussion was over, what decision was announced by James (195:1, 2)?

10. How seriously was the decision of the Council to be taken? Why? (196:0)

11. How did God Himself answer the question that was considered by the Council (196:1)?

12. After the decisions of the Jerusalem Council were announced in Antioch, what effects were seen in that church (197:3-198:0)?

13. Name two influential people who were affected by these events (198:0).

14. Why did God permit Peter to fall into this embarrassing situation (198:1-199:0)?

15. Complete the following sentence: “The greater the _____ placed upon the human agent, and the larger his _____ to _____ and _____, the more _____ he is sure to do _____ he does not carefully follow the way of the Lord and _____ in harmony with the _____ arrived at by the general _____ of _____ in united _____” (199:1).

16. What guided Paul’s thinking through this church controversy (199:3-200:2)?

Thought Question: What lessons for God’s church today can be learn from the experience of the Jerusalem Council and its aftermath?

LESSON 11

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 201-20; Acts 15:36-16:40

1. Why did Paul and Barnabas want to revisit the churches they had established in Asia Minor (201:1, 2)?
2. Give the reasons why Paul objected to taking Mark on the second missionary journey (202:1).
3. Do you agree with Paul, or do you think he was too hard on Mark?
4. Give the qualifications of Timothy for the gospel ministry (202:3-205:2).
5. Why did Paul advise Timothy to be circumcised (204:1)?
6. Upon what basis can Paul be considered a true shepherd of God's flock (206:1-207:1)?
7. Identify the characteristics of the ministry of the early workers in the church of Christ (209:1).
8. Give the prescription for success in the ministry today (209:2).
9. What position does the cross take in the experience of a Christian (209:3-210:1)?
10. How was the call to take the gospel to Europe given to Paul (211:1, 2)?

11. Why did Paul not take kindly to the free advertising he and his evangelistic team received from the woman who followed them around Philippi (212:2-213:0)?
12. List the motives behind the arrest of Paul and Silas (213:1-3).
13. After the city fathers of Philippi arrested and beat Paul and Silas, what did they learn, and why did they decide to release them privately the next morning (214:2)?
14. Following the earthquake and the opening of the prison doors, what kept the prisoners from escaping (216:0)?
15. Explain the “new, strange dread” that replaced the fear in the heart of the Philippian jailer (216:3-217:1).
16. List the various ways Satan works against those who are doing God’s work (219:1-220:1).

Thought Question: What is your reaction to the split between Paul and Barnabas?

LESSON 12

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 221-254; Acts 17:1-18:18

1. What evidences could Paul and Silas call upon from the Old Testament to convince the Jews in Thessalonica that Jesus was the Christ?
 - a. 222:1
 - b. 222:2
 - c. 222:3
 - d. 223:1-3
 - e. 223:4-224:0
 - f. 224:1,2
 - g. 225:1-226:2
 - h. 226:3-227:0
 - i. 227:1
 - j. 227:2-228:0
2. What personal testimony did Paul give to the Jews in Thessalonica (228:1-229:0)?
3. What moved the unbelieving Jews against Paul and Silas (229:3)?
4. List two accusations brought against Paul and Silas (230:0).
 - a.
 - b.

5. When they heard the gospel, how did the Berean Jews respond differently from the Jews in Thessalonica (Acts 17:11)?
 - a.
 - b.
6. How did the art and culture of the city of Athens affect Paul (234:2, 3)?
7. What impression did Paul make on the “intellectuals” of Athens (235:2)?
8. What did Paul teach concerning
 - a. God (238:1)?
 - b. Man (238:2-239:0)?
 - c. Jesus (239:1)?
9. Why was the preaching of the cross “foolishness” (1 Cor. 1:18) to the Athenians (240:1)?
10. What is our responsibility toward educated people and persons in positions of power today (241:2-242:1)?
11. Why was it important to have a Christian church in Corinth (243:1)?
12. Describe the moral condition of Corinth (243:3-244:0).
13. Point out the differences in Paul’s approach to the people in Athens and in Corinth (244:1-245:1).

14. Why did Paul think of the cross as being the heart of the gospel message (245:3-246:1)?
15. Give the step-by-step sequence that Paul followed in preaching the gospel to his fellow Jews (246:2-248:0).
16. Describe Paul's method of working for Christ (250:3; 251:3- 252:0).
17. Who was the source of Paul's efficient ministry (251:2)?
18. What turn of events did Paul witness for the first time in Corinth (253:2)?

Thought Question: Why does not the preaching of the gospel today raise opposition as it did when Paul and Silas preached?

LESSON 13

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 255-280; Acts 18:18-28;
1 and 2 Thessalonians; 1 Corinthians

1. What important doctrine had the believers in Thessalonica misunderstood, and what was Paul's instruction on this doctrine (257:3-258:2)?
2. How did Paul's instruction affect the church (259:1-3)?
3. What does Paul teach regarding an indifferent attitude toward the signs of Jesus' coming (259:4-260:1)?
4. What did the Thessalonians mistakenly think Paul taught about the second advent of Jesus, and how did he correct their misunderstanding (264:1-265:1)?
5. What must develop in the religious world before Jesus would return (265:2-266:2)?
6. Where did Paul first meet Aquila and Priscilla (243:2)?
7. What service did Aquila and Priscilla render in Ephesus (269:2-270:1)?
8. How effective was Apollos' ministry (270:2)?
9. What problem arose after Apollos arrived in Corinth (270:2)?

10. Summarize Paul's work for the Corinthian church (270:3-273:1).
11. How had the advancement of some of the Corinthian believers been hindered(271:1)?
12. What does the grace of God do to the natural disposition of the human being (273:2)?
13. How did Paul look upon the discussion in the Corinthian church as to the merits of different ministers (273:3-274:0)?
14. As the messenger of the Lord, how did Ellen White look upon the tendency to compare one worker in God's cause with another (274:1-276:2)?
15. In what ways is God dishonored by some church members (277:2)?
16. Why is a church benefited by having different ministers over the years (277:2-278:1)?
17. What danger lurks for those who have an independent spirit and refuse to listen to the voice of the church (278:4; 279:2)?
18. Describe the personal relationship between Paul and Apollos (280:2).

Thought Question: What do you think would be the best way to settle a disagreement in your church that is rooted in a party spirit?

LESSON 14

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 281-297; Acts 19:1-20:1

1. How did God prepare the way for the Jews of the dispersion to hear and respond to the good news about Jesus (281:3-282:0)?
2. What message was being preached by the “disciples” Paul found in Ephesus (282:1)?
3. Whose disciples were they (282:1)?
4. How do we know that they had not been baptized in the name of Jesus (282:2-283:1)?
5. How were these disciples now qualified to labor as Christian missionaries in Ephesus (283:1)?
6. What lesson of great value can be learned from the experience of these disciples (283:2-284:0)?
7. How does Ellen White describe the working of the Holy Spirit within the life of a born-again Christian (284:1-285:0)?
8. Why did these disciples decide to be rebaptized (285:1)?

9. How did God use Paul to work against the superstitions that were connected with the goddess Diana (286:2-287:0)?

10. What information was contained in the books that were burned (288:4-289:0)?

11. Identify two ways in which the ministry of Paul had an impact on heathen worship in Ephesus.
 - a. 291:3-292:1
 - b. 292:2; 295:1

12. Who was the ringleader of the opposition against Paul (292:3-293:0)?

13. Who defended Paul (295:2)?

Thought Question: What form has spiritualism taken in our modern world?

LESSON 15

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 298-334; 1 and 2 Corinthians

1. Complete the following sentences: “The _____ must be _____. Every weak, doubting, struggling soul who _____ fully to the Lord is placed in direct _____ with _____ that enable him to _____. _____ is near to him, and he has the _____ and _____ of _____ of mercy in every time of _____ and _____” (299:1).

2. What effect did Paul’s presence have upon the believers in Corinth (299:2)?

3. When Paul left Corinth, what happened (299:3-300:0)?

4. Describe the nature of the letter that the Corinthian believers sent to Paul while he was in Ephesus (300:2)?

5. Identify five problems that had come into the Corinthian church (300:3):
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.

6. How does Ellen White describe the book of First Corinthians (301:0)?

7. How is it that we can consider what Paul wrote in First Corinthians as being inspired when God did not give him direct communications about some of the matters in Corinth (302:3-303:0)?

8. What was one of the more serious evils that developed among the Corinthians (303:2-304:0; 1 Cor.5:1)?
9. How are the Olympic races and the Christian's preparation for heaven compared (309:1-312:0)?
10. List the weights that hinder Christian progress and that must be laid aside (312:1).
11. What effect will one cherished sin have on a person's character (312:1)?
12. How much effort is necessary to gain the eternal prize (314:1-315:0)?
13. What sins and conditions led to the downfall of ancient Israel at Baalpeor (315:2-316:0)?
14. What does Paul include in the term idolatry (317:1)?
15. What virtue characterizes the life of a true disciple (318:2-319:0)?
16. How did Paul meet the idea that there is no resurrection of the dead (319:5-321:1)?
17. What were Paul's feelings after he sent his first letter to the Corinthians (321:3-322:0)?

18. Give the background for the writing of Second Corinthians (323:1-325:0).
19. What was Paul's reaction to the way his first letter had been received by the Corinthian church (324:3-325:2)?
20. What did Paul mean when he wrote, "Ye are our epistle" (327:2 -328:1; 2 Cor. 3:2)?
21. How is a true minister for Christ described by Ellen White (328:2-329:1)?
22. How great was the price paid by Paul and his fellow laborers in order to bring the gospel to the Corinthians (330:2-332:2)?

Thought Question: How would you have handled the problems that plagued the church in Corinth?

LESSON 16

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 335-345

1. What is God's plan for the support of those who preach the gospel message (335:1-337:0)?
2. What kind of sin does God consider it when one withholds tithe (336:1)?
3. What was the tithing system designed to teach Israel (337:1)?
4. Give the major difference in tithing of ancient Israel and God's church today (337:2-338:1).
5. Through what attitude and practice does a person reveal that he has no real love for Christ's service in his heart (338:2)?
6. When one really loves Christ, how will he look upon the act of giving to Christ's work (338:3-339:0)?
7. What leads people to keep for themselves what belongs to God (339:1)?
8. What is the spirit of heaven (339:2)?
9. At what point is the follower of Jesus relieved from bringing his tithes and offerings to Jesus (339:4-340:0)?

10. What is the responsibility of the church toward its ministers (340:1-341:1)?
11. What is the responsibility of ministers (341:1, 2)?
12. Upon what two principles is the value of the offering estimated (342:1)?
 - a.
 - b.
13. What group of churches were especially generous, and was the church at Corinth included among them (343:1-344:1)?
14. How did these churches look upon their act of giving to the cause of Christ (343:2)?
15. What level of spirituality is closely associated with Christian liberality (344:3-345:1)?
16. What accompanies the retention of possessions for selfish purposes (345:0)?

Thought Question: After examining your local church and the world field, what needs are the most urgent? (Give two in your local church and two in the world field.)

LESSON 17

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 346-58

1. What example was set by Paul for those who wish to engage in some type of self-supporting ministry (346:1-347:2)?
2. In what city do we first read that Paul maintained himself by manual labor (347:2)?
3. Why did Paul feel that it was necessary to set an example of physical labor in Thessalonica (347:3-348:0)?
4. Give the reasoning of those who refused to work (348:1)?
5. Why did Paul feel he must labor with his hands while he was in Corinth (349:1, 2)?
6. From whom did Paul accept some financial help (348:2; 350:1, 2)?
7. In what other city did Paul carry on a self-supporting ministry (351:1)?
8. List several reasons why the time Paul spent making tents was not wasted as far as the advancement of the gospel was concerned (351:2-352:0).
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

- e.
 - f.
9. Who profited from Paul's physical labor (352:1)?
 10. For what reason is physical labor a blessing (352:3-353:0)?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 11. What is the result of the spirit of indolence (352:3; 353:1)?
 12. What counsel has God given to young men who wish to preach the gospel (353:2-354:2)?
 13. Against what influence was Paul's example as a self-supporting worker an argument (355:1)?
 14. What is Ellen White's counsel to self-supporting workers (355:2-358:0)?

Thought Question: What type of self-supporting ministry can you engage in so the gospel may be spread abroad in your community?

LESSON 18

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 359-71

1. What principle of God's character is to be the basis of all Christian ministry (359:1)?
2. How did Jesus try to establish this principle in the hearts of His disciples (359:2)?
3. What is one of the major responsibilities of the ambassadors of Christ (360:1-361:1)?
4. What will be the end result if the ambassador loses his spiritual sensitivity and fails in his responsibilities (361:1)?
5. As the faithful watchman is guided by the Holy Spirit, what will he be able to do (361:2-362:0)?
6. What degree of commitment is required of a co-worker with Christ (362:1, 2)?
7. How do co-workers with Christ receive power in their ministries (362:3-363:0)?
8. Against what must the minister guard himself? How is he to do this, and why (363:1)?
9. Why is house-to-house ministry important (363:2-365:0)?

10. How else is the minister today to follow Christ's method of labor (365:1)?
11. What about moonlighting (365:2-367:0)?
12. What can we learn from Paul's training of Timothy and Titus (367:3-368:1)?
13. How can this principle be applied by a minister to his local congregation?
14. What assurance does God give to all who dedicate themselves to work for Him (368:3-371:1)?

Thought Question: How can the instruction found in this chapter be applied to laymen who hold positions of responsibility in local churches?

LESSON 19

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 372-88; Romans; Galatians

1. What change had taken place in the experience of the Corinthian church as a result of the letters Paul wrote to them (372:1, 2)?
2. To whom did Paul send a letter during his return trip to Corinth (373:1)?
3. Why has the epistle to the Romans been so significant for the Christian church throughout New Testament times (373:2-374:0)?
4. What is the major concern expressed by Paul in this epistle (374:1, 2)?
5. Explain what Paul means when he says that God has not cast off Israel (374:3-379:1).
6. What has the nation of Israel still failed to achieve (379:2)?
7. To whom did Isaiah refer when he said, "A remnant shall be saved" (379:3-380:1)?
8. What special work does God predict will take place during the closing proclamation of the gospel (381:1)?
9. Where was Paul when he wrote Galatians (383:1)?

10. What decisions were ignored by false teachers who were urging Jewish traditions upon the churches in Galatia (383:1)?

11. Identify the differences between Paul's approach to the problems in Galatia and those in Corinth (384:3-385:2).

12. Why did Paul think it was important to remind the Galatians that he had received his instruction in the gospel from Jesus Himself (386:1)?

13. Describe the men who were misleading the Galatian Christians (386:2-387:0).

14. Complete the following sentence: "To substitute _____ of religion for _____ of heart and life is still as _____ to the _____ as it was in the days of these _____" (387:1).

15. What deception did Satan attempt to bring into the church during apostolic times, and what is he attempting to do today (387:1)?
 - a. Apostolic times:

 - b. Today:

16. What was the result of Paul's letter to the Galatians (388:3)?

Thought Question: What can your local congregation do to reach the Jews who live around you ?

LESSON 20

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 389-418; Acts 20:4-23:35

1. List the reasons why Paul wanted to return to Jerusalem for the Passover (389:1).
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
2. How did the Jews regard Paul's teaching, and what were they determined to do about it (389:2-390:1)?
3. Which day was Paul's final day in Troas, and why did the believers gather together (391:2; Acts 20:7-12)?
4. If the believers gathered on the first day of the week and Paul preached until midnight, according to Western calculations when was the meeting held?
5. What had the Holy Spirit revealed about Paul's stay in Jerusalem, and how was this message later confirmed (396:2; Acts 20:22, 23; 21:10-12)?
6. What dangers were to come to the church at Ephesus after Paul's death (395:1)?
7. Why had the wrath of the whole Jewish nation turned upon Paul (390:1; 397:5-398:2).

8. Explain the attitude of some in Jerusalem toward Paul when he finally presented the contributions of their Gentile brethren (399:1-400:1).
9. What was the underlying cause behind the opposition that Paul met in Jerusalem (401:1,2)?
10. What golden opportunity was missed by the leaders of the church in Jerusalem (402:3-403:1)?
11. Why did the leaders in Jerusalem suggest a compromise to Paul (404:1-405:0)?
12. Why did Paul agree to the compromise, and what was the result (405:1-406:0)?
13. Who “blew the whistle” on Paul (406:2)?
14. In the wild excitement that followed, what charges were hurled against him (406:3-407:0)?
15. List three things Paul anguished over when he was alone again in his cell (412:2-413:0)?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

16. How did comfort come to Paul in his lonely cell, and, in the meantime, what were his enemies doing (413:1, 3-414:1)?

17. How did God look upon the leaders of the church in Jerusalem who opposed the work of Paul (416:2-417:2)?

18. What similarity exists between Paul's experience and the experience of some in the church today (417:3-418:1)?

Thought Question: How can Christians today prevent a repetition of Paul's experience with those who opposed him in Jerusalem?

LESSON 21

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 419-38; Acts 24:1-26:3

1. What type of person was Felix (419:1-420:0)?
2. How did Paul defend himself against the charges leveled by Tertullus (420:1-422:0)?
3. Why did Felix keep Paul in prison when he knew Paul was innocent of the charges brought against him (422:0)?
4. How did Paul present the gospel to Felix and Drusilla (422:2-423:2)?
5. Give some of the truths of the gospel that Paul touched upon (423:3-425:2).
6. How did Felix react to Paul's preaching (425:3-426:2)?
7. Why did Paul not take advantage of the opportunities for his release from prison (426:3-427:0)?
8. What finally happened to Felix (427:1, 2)?
9. What plans did the Jews make when Festus replaced Felix (428:1)?
10. Who influenced Festus' decision to leave Paul in Caesarea (429:1)?

11. What led Paul to appeal to Caesar (429:3-430:1)?
12. What experience awaits God's true people in the last days (430:4-432:0)?
13. Who was Agrippa II (433:1)?
14. What was the content of Paul's message to Agrippa (436:1-437:1)?
15. What prevented Agrippa from accepting Jesus (438:1-4)?

Thought Question: What lessons can we learn from the lives of Felix and Agrippa?

LESSON 22

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 439-68; Acts 27:1-28:31; Philemon

1. Who were Paul's companions during his trip to Rome (439:1-440:0)?
2. What was the burden of Paul's heart as the ship was ravaged by the storm (442:1,2)?
3. How close did Paul come to not reaching Rome (445:1)?
4. What type of ministry did Paul carry on while on Melita (Acts 28:7-10)?
5. Describe Paul's outlook as he began the 140-mile trip from Puteoli to Rome (448:1, 2).
6. How was Paul's heart cheered as he progressed toward Rome (448:3-449:1)?
7. Who were the first to whom Paul presented Christ upon arriving in Rome (450:1-452:1)?
8. From Paul's approach to the Jews in Rome, what practical lessons can we learn about the presentation of the gospel (450:2-452:2)?
9. Who were some of Paul's companions during his imprisonment in Rome (454:2-455:0)?

10. At this point in Paul's life, what do we know about Mark (455:1)?
11. What are the principles of the gospel that are contained in the relationship between Paul, Onesimus, and Philemon (456:1-459:0).
12. What effect should Christianity have upon the political and social systems in our society (459:3-460:1)?
13. Why does the gospel have its greatest success among the humbler classes? Is this true today (461:1)?
14. What was the moral condition of Nero and those who attended him in his court (461:3-463:0)?
15. By what means did the message of the gospel take root in Ceasar's household (463:1-464:3)?
16. What lessons can Christians today learn from the spread of the gospel into the household of Nero (465:1-466:0)?
17. What testimony do the believers in Nero's household bear to Seventh-day Adventists who cluster together in one center (466:1-467:0)?
18. What characteristics will those possess who take opportunity to witness for God (467:1, 2)?

19. How is Christian character developed (467:3-468:0)?

Thought Question: How would you have dealt with Onesimus?

LESSON 23

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 469-84; Colossians; Philippians

1. Give Paul's credentials as an inspired writer (469:1).
2. What special help can be found in Paul's epistles (471:0)?
3. What was Paul's desire for the believers in Colosse (471:1)?
4. What spiritual possibility is held out to the children of God (471:2)?
5. What still proves to be a greater danger to the church than persecution (473:3-474:0)?
6. What is the standard of truth (474:0, 2-475:0)?
7. What is the fruit of higher criticism (474:1)?
8. What is the fruit of spiritualism (474:1)?
9. By what means is the image of Christ recreated within the human being (475:1, 2)?
10. When we become members of the spiritual kingdom, what opposition and difficulties may we expect (477:0)?

11. List the spiritual insights that can be gained from Paul's epistle to the Colossians (477:2-478:3).
12. Name another epistle that was written by Paul from Rome (479:1).
13. How did God reveal His way of working with His children through Paul's experience (481:1)?
14. Why is it necessary for human beings and God to work together in the plan of salvation (482:1-483:2)?
15. What was Paul's aim and all-absorbing motive in his ministry (483:3-484:0)?

Thought Question: What changes in your life would finally give to you the same aim and motive that filled Paul's life?

LESSON 24

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*. pp. 485-513; 1 and 2 Timothy

1. Identify the two problems that Paul faced as he neared the end of his second year of confinement in Rome (485:1, 2).
 - a.
 - b.
2. Describe the nature of Paul's ministry after his release (487:3-488:1).
3. Upon what pretext was Paul arrested the second time (489:1)?
4. Who stood by the imprisoned apostle, and what happened to the rest of his team (490:1-491:2)?
5. On what did Paul focus as he defended himself at his second trial (494:3-495:1)?
6. What effect did Paul's defense have on Nero (496:1, 2)?
7. What finally happened to Nero (496:3-497:1)?
8. In the last letter Paul ever wrote, what was his advice to Timothy (498:1-501:0)?
9. What counsel can a minister in God's church today glean from Paul's words to Timothy (501:1-502:2)?

10. How is sin in the church to be handled (502:3-504:1)?
11. When Paul spoke about those who would not endure sound doctrine, to whom does Ellen White say he is referring (504:2-505:0)?
12. What is the best way to counter the growing contempt for God's law (506:1, 2)?
13. What qualities are needed by church workers today (506:3-507:2)?
14. Why did Nero put off Paul's execution (509:1)?
15. What good resulted from Paul's execution (509:2-510:1)?
16. During the final moments of his life, of whom was Paul thinking (510:2-511:1)?
17. As far as Paul himself was concerned, upon what did his thoughts dwell (511:2-513:0)?

Thought Question: How can God's people prepare for difficult times ahead?

LESSON 25

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 514-28; 1 and 2 Peter

1. In what geographical area did Peter's early ministry take place (514:1)?
2. What double responsibility did God lay upon Peter (514:2-515:2)?
3. How was Peter prepared for the work to which Jesus called him (515:1)?
4. What is the one condition of heart essential for fruitful work (515:3-516:1)?
5. Complete the following sentence: "Of the _____ that is _____, of the _____ that _____ to heal, of the _____ that _____ hope, they have _____ to _____" (516:3).
6. What was the fruit of Peter's ministry (516:4-517:0)?
7. What elements of his personal experience do Peter's epistles reflect (517:1)?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
8. Although written originally for Christians living in the first century, why are Peter's two epistles important to us today (518:1-519:0)?
9. By what means is the soul "born again" (520:1-521:1)?

10. List some of the subjects Peter deals with in his epistles:

- a. 521:3-522:1
- b. 522:2
- c. 522:3-523:0
- d. 523:1-524:0
- e. 524:1, 2

11. What purposes does God have in allowing trials to come into the life of a Christian (524:2-525:0)?

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.

12. What responsibility does Peter, the undershepherd, pass on to the elders of the church (525:2-527:0)?

Thought Question: What truths have you found in Peter's epistles that have been especially meaningful to you?

LESSON 26

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*. pp. 529-38; 2 Peter

1. What household article for climbing does Ellen White use to illustrate Christian progress as presented in Peter's second epistle (529:1-530:1)?

2. List the rounds of the ladder the Christian must climb (530:1).
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
 - h.

3. What is the ultimate goal of character development for the Christian (530:2)?

4. How are God's people made complete (530:2)?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

5. What can a true knowledge of God accomplish (531:0)?
 - a.
 - b.
6. How can the Christian attain to perfection of character (531:2)?
7. In the plan of salvation, what is the responsibility of the Christian (532:1)?
8. What happens if we try to climb the Christian ladder while losing sight of Jesus (532:3-533:0)?
9. What eliminates the possibility of failure in the Christian's experience (533:1)?
10. What convincing evidence of the certainty of our hope do we possess (534:3-535:0)?
11. At what point in time was Peter placed under arrest by Nero (537:1)?
12. Why did Peter request to be crucified with his head downward (537:2-538:0)?

Thought Question: Upon which round of the ladder of Christian progress are you presently standing?

LESSON 27

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 539-56; 1 John

1. Why was John called “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (539:1, 2; 544:2, 3)?
2. How would you describe John’s character prior to meeting Jesus (540:0)?
3. Contrast Christ’s approach to the wayward and the erring with the approach of those motivated by the spirit of Satan and who have a pretense of zeal for righteousness (540:1-541:1).
4. What determines a person’s position in the kingdom of God (543:1)?
5. Complete the following sentence: “The one who stands _____ to Christ will be he who has _____ most deeply of His _____ of _____.” (543:2).
6. In rebuking the man who was casting out devils in Jesus’ name, whose honor were James and John seeking to protect (544:0)?
7. Why could John talk so eloquently about the Father (545:2)?
8. Why was John’s preaching so effective (546:1, 2)?
9. Describe the early experience of the apostolic church (547:3-548:0).

10. How was a change brought about in the experience of the early church (548:1)?
11. What endangers the church most (549:1)?
12. What makes a Christian worker effective (550:3-551:1)?
13. Describe the love that will fill the heart of God's true people (551:2).
14. What will the presence of true love do for the person who possesses it (551:3-553:0)?
15. List the errors that crept into the church during John's lifetime (553:1).
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
16. What does God require of His people (555:0, 1)?

Thought Question: How does a Christian today obtain a relationship with Jesus similar to the one possessed by John?

LESSON 28

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 557-77; 1 John

1. Contrast the responses of John and Judas to Jesus (557:1-558:1)?
2. Describe the experience of the person who has been sanctified (559:3-560:1).
3. What is the first step in the experience of sanctification (560:2)?
4. Read carefully paragraph three of page 560. On the basis of this paragraph, what can you tell someone about the experience of sanctification?
5. As a person draws closer to God, what will be his attitude toward sin and toward his need of Christ (561:1, 2)?
6. Complete the following sentence: “At every _____ step in our Christian _____ our _____ will _____” (561:2).
7. How is love for God revealed in the life of the Christian (563:0)?
8. What is prayer designed to do (564:1)?
9. Sanctification means (565:1)
 - a. Perfect _____.
 - b. Perfect _____.
 - c. Perfect _____.

10. Why do many not make greater advancement in their spiritual lives (565:2)?
11. Why were the Jews upset with John (568:1-569:2)?
12. Where and before whom was John tried (569:3, 4)?
13. How did the enemies of Christ intend to execute John (570:1, 2)?
14. When the first attempt to silence John failed, what did his enemies do (570:3, 4)?
15. What became the topic of John's study while on Patmos (571:1-572:1)?
16. How can God use "aged workers" (572:2-574:1)?
17. What can workers for God learn from trials and opposition (574:2-575:2)?
18. If you are imbued with the Spirit of Christ, what treatment can you expect from Satan and the world (576:1-3)?
19. Why does God permit His children to suffer trials and persecution (576:4-577:0)?

Thought Question: What does Ellen White mean when she says, "He asks us to be absolutely and completely for Him in this world. . ." (566:1)?

LESSON 29

Reading: *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 578-602; Revelation 1-3

1. What do you see as the primary experience of the church at Ephesus while they were still in their “first love” (578:3-580:0)?
2. What caused the decline in zeal among the Ephesians (580:1-581:0)?
3. What is presented to God’s people in the book of Revelation (582:3-583:1)?
4. What do the seven churches symbolize (585:3)?
5. How is Jesus’ untiring care for His church symbolized (586:1)?
6. What is the meaning of Jesus holding seven stars in His right hand (586:2-587:0)?
7. What is communicated to the world and to God’s church through the symbols of a lion and lamb (589:2)?
8. What does God intend to teach His children by allowing them to face sore conflicts (590:2)?
9. Why was the history of the apostolic church recorded (593:1)?

10. Give a description of what is involved in the experience of consecration to Jesus (593:3-594:0).
11. Why were the apostles able to accomplish so much for God (594:1)?
12. Why are the apostles spoken of as “builders” (595:3-597:1)?
13. How did later reformers contribute to the erection of God’s temple (598:1-599:0)?
14. Why has not the building of God’s temple been completed today (599:1)?
15. What does God expect of His people today (600:1)?
16. Complete the following sentences, “The church is God’s _____ for the _____ of truth, _____ by Him to do a _____ work; and if she is _____ to Him, _____ to all His commandments, there will dwell within her the _____ of divine _____. If she will be _____ to her _____, if she will _____ the Lord God of Israel, there is no _____ that can against her” (600:2).
17. What is the privilege of every Christian (600:3)?
18. Endowed with divine energy, what is the message of God able to do (601:1)?

Thought Question: What is hindering the church today from seeing accomplishments similar to those achieved by the apostles?