

FEATS – Acts: The Mission of God

Homework to be completed prior to first learning session.

1. We are living in the midst of an unprecedented time. In this first article you'll read about a massive shift taking place in global Christianity—the implications of which will be profound and long lasting.
 - (A) Read “An Upside-Down World” by Christopher Wright.
 - (B) Write a response to the following questions:
 - 1) What shift in global Christianity has occurred in recent decades?
 - 2) What impact do you think this shift will have—especially on Western Christians?
 - 3) Why is it so important to remember that “mission is and always has been God’s before it becomes ours”?
2. Throughout this module you will utilize a variety of methods in studying the book of Acts.
 - (A) Begin by reading ch. 6 (“Acts: The Question of Historical Precedent”) in *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart.
 - (B) Now read Acts all the way through—all at once, if possible.
 - (C) As you read make mental notes of such things as key people and places, reoccurring themes, and any natural divisions in the book.
 - (D) Write down your questions and observations.
3. (A) Read ch. 6 (“Formation Prayer”) in Richard Foster’s book, *Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home*.
 - (B) In your first article Chris Wright stated, “I may wonder what kind of mission God has for me, when I should ask what kind of me God wants for his mission.” This month as you engage in Formation Prayer we want you to meditate upon this question: What kind of me does God want for his mission?
 - (C) In your journal regularly record any thoughts, feelings, or impressions as to how God is speaking to you.
4. (A) Read pp. 32-36 in *The New Joy of Discovery Bible Study* (DBS).
 - (B) Applying the method outlined in these pages, analyze Acts 1:1-11. Specifically, record the relevant details related to the Six Guide Words on p. 32.

- (C) Making use of the different approaches on p. 36, consider how this passage might personally apply to your life. Write down your thoughts and reflections.
5. Now, read again through the book of Acts and make notes of the instances you see people being Christ's witnesses (from Acts 1:8).
6. (A) Read "You Will Be My Witnesses: Aspects of Mission in the Acts of the Apostles" by Beverly Gaventa.
- (B) Write down six questions that consider the practical implications of this article. You may be asked to lead a discussion at the next learning session.
7. (A) Read chs. 4 ("Natural and Spiritual Leadership") in *Spiritual Leadership* by J. Oswald Sanders.
- (B) In a page or less, reflect upon the questions listed at the end of the chapter.
- (C) Come prepared to share your reflections at the next learning session.

And if you want to go a bit further:

8. In a previous module some of you studied Luke's Gospel; paying particular attention to one of its most important themes: the Kingdom of God. In this module you are studying Luke's sequel: Acts. The focus of this module is the mission of God (or, as it is sometimes referred to in Latin, the *missio Dei*). This next article helps us understand how these two major themes (the Kingdom of God and the mission of God) relate to one another.
- (A) Read "The Kingdom of God as the Goal of the *Missio Dei*" by Johannes Verkuyl.
- (B) In five sentences or less, summarize the main point(s) of this article. You may be asked to share your summary at the next learning session.
- (C) Write five discussion questions exploring how the ideas presented in this article can be practically applied to different ministry contexts. You may be asked to lead a discussion of this article at the next learning session.