



THE BOOK OF ACTS

FACILITATOR: Dr. Bob Morris - rdmorris@sympatico.ca

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the foundation and development of the Early Church that initiated a great missionary movement, in addition to biblical themes such as redemption, prayer, proclamation, and “all nations”. We will develop a biblical theology of mission that builds on the historical development of the Church in the book of Acts as we discover how the early church penetrated pagan culture and grew rapidly in a hostile world. This theology of mission will also serve as a lens for considering current approaches and challenges in cross-cultural ministry.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand the origins and development of the early church
- Have an appreciation of the character and ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Deduce the factors which motivated the church in mission
- Develop a personal theology of mission
- Evaluate current approaches to mission compared to the early church

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Text:** Brandt, Howard, Acts: Courageous Witness in a Hostile World (a guide for Gospel Foot Soldiers Wipf and Stock, 2013
- B. Required Reading: Book of Acts in a different version than you are accustomed** – Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you as you read. Record ideas that need further reflection or personal response from you. **Due date: Oct. 27 (5% of final mark)**
- C. Personal Reflection Paper:** Students will submit a 3-page personal reflection on any one of the themes discussed in class (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font). This is intended to be your personal thoughts and learning and is not a research paper on what

others say. The student can choose any week's theme or class discussion as we go along. **The paper is due one week after the class on that theme (25% of final mark)**

D. Theology of Mission. Drawing on the readings, lectures and class discussion, students will develop a personal understanding of mission and how it will shape their life. A separate handout will explain this assignment in more detail. **This paper should be 3-5 pages and is due Dec. 15th. (60% of final mark)**

E. Attendance and Class Participation. Attend each class and participate in class discussions by being prepared, asking questions and interacting with other classmates. Each class missed reduces the participation mark **(10% of final mark)**.

F. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Assignment	Due Date	Percentage of Final
Read the book of Acts	Oct. 27	5 %
Personal reflection paper	Throughout	25%
Theology of Mission	Dec. 15	60%
Attendance and class participation	Throughout	10%
TOTAL		100%

E. SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:

9 sessions from 6:30pm to 9:30pm:

Tuesday, October 14 The Jewish Church is Formed (Acts 1: 1 – 2: 47)

Monday, October 20 Witness and Opposition; the church in Jerusalem matures
(Acts 3: 1 - 5: 42)

Monday, October 27 The Church Faces Internal and External Conflict (Acts 6: 1 – 7: 60)

Monday, November 3 God's Chosen Instruments for Expansion Beyond Jerusalem
(Acts 8: 1 – 11: 18, 12: 1-24)

Monday, November 10 Paul's First Missionary Journey (Acts 11: 19 - 15: 35)

Monday, November 17 Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Part 1) (Acts 15: 36 – 17: 34)

Monday, November 24 Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Part 11) (Acts 18: 1 – 21: 16)

Monday, December 1 Paul Faces Jewish Authorities in Jerusalem (Acts 21 : 17 – 23: 22)

Monday, December 8 Paul Faces the Roman Authorities (Acts 23: 23 – 28: 31)