**DEEP DIVE ON THE BOOK OF ACTS**

**& THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH**

*Faith Church | 9.13.20*

1. **Introducing the Book of Acts**
   1. The Receiving Society
      1. Multi-Cultural/Religious
      2. The Roman Age of Tolerance
   2. Purpose & Approach
      1. Author: Luke

* + 1. Luke’s Purpose in Acts: *To show the unfolding of God’s plan in the creation and expansion of His church across the world.*

* + 1. Luke’s Approach in Acts: *Theological Narrative History*
  1. Make-up
     1. Geography: *Jerusalem (chs. 1-7); Samaria & Coastal Regions (8-12), Ends of the Earth (13-28)*
     2. Characters: *Peter (chs. 1-8, 10-12); Paul (9, 13-28)*
     3. Summary Statements: *Acts 6:7; 9:31;12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:31*
     4. Story & Discourse: *Story (75% of Acts) and Speeches (25% of Acts)*

1. **Studying the Book of Acts**
   1. Major Themes
      1. Acts showcases the *continuing acts* of Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, in the lives of the Apostles & Early Church Disciples (1:1-2).

* + 1. Acts demonstrates God’s commitment to *fulfilling His promises* to Israel & the Nations.
    2. Acts describes how the apostles & early disciples *obeyed the Great Commission*.
    3. Acts describes both *the nature & mission of a local church*.

* + 1. Acts records the *unstoppable progress of the gospel & expansion of the church*, in the midst of significant opposition.
  1. Reading Strategies
     1. *Round the Bases*
     2. *Utilize the Literary Plot Arc*
     3. *Look for Repeated Words, Phrases, and Themes*
     4. *Distinguish between Descriptive and Prescriptive*
     5. *Recognize the Intentional Allocation of Space*