

The Bible: The Acts of the Apostles

Chapter 20 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will explore how the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was a central event in the life of the early Church and in the spread of Christianity.
- The participants will examine various events in the Acts of the Apostles and the work of Peter and Paul.

Content Summary

1. The Acts of the Apostles is a written account of the early Church following Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven.
2. The Acts of the Apostles focuses on the Church of the Apostles and their first followers.
3. This book's main theme is how the Holy Spirit guided the Apostles so the Word of God could spread, and it focuses in particular on the work of Saints Peter and Paul.
4. The Acts of the Apostles begins with the Ascension of Jesus and then gives an account of the event of Pentecost.
5. Saint Peter emerges as the leader of the early Church as it struggles to find its way. In an important event, Peter realizes that the Good News is meant for everyone—Gentiles as well as Jews.
6. After his conversion, Saint Paul brought the Church to the far reaches of the Roman Empire through his missionary activity.
7. The Acts of the Apostles ends with the image of Saint Paul in Rome, teaching about the Lord Jesus and proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

(All summary points are taken from *The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers, Second Edition*. Copyright © 2014 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.)

