Resource 1

**Acts Acrostic**

Acts ____________________________ (fill in reference)

As you read the Scripture and study the lesson, note Actions of the Holy Spirit (those things that are directly attributed to Him in the passage), Church Facts, Transitional Details, and Supernatural Events.

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(Make 13 copies for this study.)

Israel and Surrounding Areas in Acts
The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

In the Old Testament

(1) The Spirit of God came upon certain people in order to accomplish something He wanted them to do. Upon whom did the Spirit come in the following passages?

Judges 6:34 ______________________
Judges 14:6 ______________________
1 Samuel 10:6 ____________________
1 Samuel 16:13 ____________________
2 Chronicles 15:1 ________________
2 Chronicles 24:20 ________________
Ezekiel 11:5 ______________________

(2) The Spirit of the Lord could also depart from a person. From whom did the Spirit depart in these two passages?

1 Samuel 16:14 ____________________
Judges 16:20 _____________________

(3) Read Psalm 51:11. David prayed that the Spirit would ______ ______________ from him. This is not a prayer for believers today!

In the New Testament

(4) Read these verses: Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19; John 14:16. What happens the moment a person trusts Christ as Savior? The Holy Spirit _______________ that person. This is permanent indwelling.

(5) Read 2 Corinthians 1:21 and 22 and Ephesians 1:13. At the same time a believer is indwelt by the Spirit, she is also ______________ by the Spirit. Sealing is the “proof” that we belong to Christ.

(6) Read 1 Corinthians 12:13. At the same time a believer is indwelt and sealed, she is also ______________ into the Body of Christ. We are never instructed to pray for the baptism of the Spirit. The baptism of the Spirit attaches us to the Body of Christ and is not to be repeated.

(7) The Spirit also gives ________________ (1 Corinthians 12:4–7), and He ___________ submissive believers (Ephesians 5:18).

(8) While a true believer never “loses” the Holy Spirit, it is possible to _____________ the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19) and to _________________ the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30).
Join All the Glorious Names

WORDS: Isaac Watts. MUSIC: John Darwall

1. Join all the glorious names Of wisdom, love, and pow’r, That
ev’rer mortals knew, That angels ever bore: All are too
poor to speak His worth, Too poor to set my Savior forth.
news of sins for-giv’n, Of hell subdued and peace with heav’n.

2. Great Prophet of my God, My tongue would bless Thy name: By
Thee the joyful news Of our salvation came. The joyful
blood did once a-tone And now it pleads before the throne.
feet e’er turn a-stray To wander in the crooked way.

3. Jesus, my great High Priest, Of-fered His blood, and died; My
guilt-y con-science seeks No sac ri-fice be-side; His pow’r-ful
pow’r; be-hold I sit In willing bonds beneath Thy feet.
fee-ding of Thy love, The fountain of Thy grace.

4. Thou art my Coun-sel-or, My Pat-tern, and my Guide, And
Thou my Shep-herd art; O keep me near Thy side: Nor let my
steal-ing of Thy love, The fountain of Thy grace.

5. My Sav-i-or and my Lord, My Con-qu’ror and my King, Thy
neigh-ing grace, I sing: Thine is the
be-hold I sit In willing bonds beneath Thy feet.
neigh-ing grace, I sing: Thine is the
Jewish Religious Groups in Acts

A. Pharisees
After the Captivity, priests and scribes were virtually identical in Israel. The Pharisees eventually came from the ranks of the scribes. The characteristic feature of Pharisees was their legal tendency. They were known as separatists.

The Pharisees believed in the afterlife, angels, and spirits.

The Pharisees were a religious group, not political, and their main goal was strict adherence to the law, including the oral traditions of the Law. They stressed outward conformity to the law.

(1) Read Matthew 23:13–34. Describe Jesus’ overall impression of the Pharisees.

(2) To what did Jesus compare the Pharisees in verse 27?

(3) What was the apostle Paul’s religious background? See Philippians 3:5.

B. Sadducees
The Sadducees came from the ranks of the priests. The characteristic feature of Sadducees was their social position. They accepted the law (the books of Moses) as the final authority, placing it above the Prophets and Writings. The Sadducean high priests were the leaders of the Sanhedrin.

(1) Read Mark 12:18 and Acts 23:8. In what did the Sadducees not believe?

(2) The Pharisees and Sadducees are often mentioned together in the Gospels. Neither group was ready to accept Jesus as Messiah. Read Matthew 16:1. Rather than following Christ, what did these religious groups do?

C. The Sanhedrin
The word “Sanhedrin” means “council,” or “assembly.” The head of the Sanhedrin was the high priest. The council was formed of high priests (i.e., the acting high priest, those who had been high priests, and members of the privileged family from which the high priests were taken), elders and scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees. The Sanhedrin had seventy members, plus the high priest. It appears that membership was for life. The Sanhedrin was the final court of appeals for all issues regarding the Mosaic law. It
acted as the supreme court of the land. It could impose punishment, but it could not execute offenders. The land of Israel was under the domination of Rome, but Roman authorities allowed the Sanhedrin to maintain authority for religious matters.

(1) The word “council” is frequently used of this group in Acts. Read, for instance, Acts 4:15; 5:21; 23:1.

(2) Who was the high priest and head of the Sanhedrin in Jesus’ time? (See Matthew 26:3 and 57.)

(3) Who was the high priest and head of the Sanhedrin in Paul’s time? (See Acts 23:2; 24:1.)

(4) At least one member of the Sanhedrin became a believer in the time of Christ. Who was he (John 3:1)? Luke 23:50–52 seems to indicate that Joseph of Arimathea was also a member of the Sanhedrin and a follower of Jesus.
Stephen’s Sermon before the Sanhedrin

Acts 7:2–52

I. Jewish History (Acts 7:2–50)

A. Abraham (vv. 2–7)

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B. Isaac, Jacob, Jacob’s twelve sons (v. 8)

C. Joseph (vv. 9–16)

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D. Moses (vv. 17–44)
   1. First forty years (vv. 20–29)
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   2. Second forty years (vv. 30–35)
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   3. Third forty years (vv. 36–44)
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   E. Joshua (v. 45)
   F. David (vv. 45, 46)
   G. Solomon and the temple (vv. 47–50)

II. Jewish Responsibility (Acts 7:51–54)
   A. Verse 51—
   B. Verse 52—
   C. Verse 52—
   D. Verse 54—