



New Beginnings

The Story – Chapter 28; Acts 1-10, 12

Personal Study Guide

April 19, 2009

Read the chapter from The Story in one sitting (each chapter is about 12 pages long). Consider doing the reflection questions on three separate days to put space between your learning and allow for better and deeper retention. If three separate reflection times aren't practical, you may choose to read and answer all three days' questions in one extended personal devotional time.

Day One

1. On page 323 Jesus commands his disciples to wait for a “gift”. What was that gift and why was it so critical for them to wait in obedience? When and how was this gift given (page 324)? This “baptism in the Holy Spirit” was and still is for the purpose of sharing our faith with others. Who do you need to tell God’s good news to this week? Ask the Lord for courage to lovingly share the gospel with those people.
2. Notice how Peter, once cowering in fear of the Jews (see John 20:19), now stands before the crowds, full of the Holy Spirit, preaching the gospel (page 324) and 3,000 put their faith in Christ that day (page 326). Can you see how the power of the Holy Spirit made the difference? In what ways do you need the Holy Spirit’s power working in your life today?

Day Two

1. Pages 327 -329 record how Peter and John faced early opposition from the established church leaders. How did they endure those early trials? How are you mistreated for your faith in Christ? Will you respond in God-honoring ways to persecution? Take time today to pray for believers around the world who are being harmed for the sake of Christ.
2. Throughout these chapters, we get glimpses of how the young church functioned. What do we learn about “normal Christian living” from the top two paragraphs on page 326 and the center paragraph on page 328?

Day Three

1. On pages 331 -332 we read the story of Saul’s conversion. Reflect on how you came to trust Christ with your life. Are you living in obedience to the call He’s placed on your life today?
2. Humility is an important aspect of godly teachers and leaders. What lessons can you draw from the following leaders’ words and actions?
 - Peter before Cornelius (page 334)
 - Herod before the people (page 336)