



Acts

SEEDS OF THE GOSPEL

Lesson Two

La Mirada Christian Church
a Dwelling Richly Bible Study

Acts – Seeds of the Gospel

Lesson Two

A Dwelling Richly Bible Study



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...Lesson One Looking Back...

Please take a moment before Small Group Discussion time to reflect back on the previous lesson. If you didn't complete it, take a moment to look through this new lesson.

Acts was written by _____ and is a sequel to the Gospel of Luke who was not only a great author but was also a _____ by trade. Luke traveled with the apostle _____ during some of his missionary trips. At the end of Acts we find Paul in _____ or house arrest as he waits for his trial before _____.

In his opening to the Acts Luke states that his purpose for writing his Gospel is " _____ " of the early church after Christ's resurrection.

Which of the following would you say is the most important point of Acts, why?

- 1) The disciples were a highly motivated and brave group who did amazing things in the name of Jesus
- 2) The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves the truth of His claims and gives the apostles the boldness to preach across the known world.
- 3) Acts is the account of how the Jews brought Jesus' message to other Jews and then to Gentiles.

Why did you select that important point? _____

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...Small-Group Guidelines...

- 📖 God's Word is our standard. We'll use the Bible - not personal opinion, popular teachers, or church tradition - as our guide for everything. We are using the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible for this study.
- 🤝 We come from varying faith backgrounds, so please be thoughtful of denominational and religious differences. *'In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.'*
- 🚫 Avoid commentaries or study notes in your Bible – do your own thinking. Trust God, pray, ask for wisdom then read and answer on your own.
- ❤️ We're all learning. Be gracious and patient with yourself and with others. No one has it all figured out.
- 👍👎 This is a Bible study – not a personal opinion share group. So, there are going to be “right” and “wrong” answers in keeping with the truth of God's Word.
- 🗣️ You don't have to share, but if you did the reading and the study this week, why not chime in? We all benefit from one another's thoughts and questions. I bet you have something great to share!
- 😊 Discussion questions are written with care to move you through the previous lesson and prepare you for the lesson to come. Please read and answer them all and do not skip over or make up your own questions.
- 👉 Didn't finish the study this week? That's ok. Life gets busy. You're here! Yay you! This will be a good week for you to listen and perhaps jot down thoughts as others share.
- ⌚ Be considerate of how much you're talking. Share your thoughts and allow time for others to do the same – limit yourself to about 2 minutes maximum. Your group leader will help with that.
- 🕒 Watch the time. Teaching begins after small-group discussion at 7:45pm (evening) or 10:45am (morning). Leaders will wrap up the discussion five minutes before that.

...Small Group Discussion...

Let's share what we've learned and how God is teaching us through this past lesson in Acts. If you are new or didn't get a chance to do your study from Lesson One, please enjoy the fellowship and insights of others in your group.

1. Recite together Lesson One memory verse Acts 4:12 (ESV) “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
2. Share your “Looking Back” responses. (page 19 in this lesson)
Share your responses to the following questions from Lesson One....
3. Page 9, #4
4. Page 11, #3
5. Page 13, #4
6. Page 16, #5
7. Take turns and share one of your responses from Lesson One/Day 9
8. Let's see your Create and Share! What inspired you to draw or write what you did?
9. Pass around the Prayer and Connections Journal. There is space for you to write down group prayer requests and praises on the next page. If you have a prayer request that is more private, you can share with your group leader or our teaching leader, Jennifer after the study.

...Mark Your Calendars...

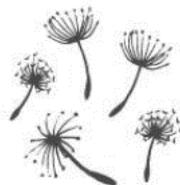
Our next Dwelling Richly study meets:
Tuesday, October 22 or Wednesday, October 23

Take a minute to check in on Instagram or Facebook, share a photo of your group, tag a friend, and let others know you're at #LaMiradaChurch with #LMCCWomen enjoying #WomensMinistry and the #DwellingRichlyBibleStudy



... Lesson One Review Notes ...

This talk is recorded to the Dwelling Richly podcast so you can listen again and share it with a friend.



Lesson Two — Day One

Memorize & Meditate on the Word — Write Acts 1:8 here...

...Dwell in the Word...

Write... [Acts 2:29](#) on the "Write the Word" pages. Read... [Acts 1:1-2:41](#)

Think & Reflect...

1. Over Lesson Two you'll finish writing Peter's sermon in Acts 2:29-41. Check the "Write" note for that day's writing.

2. From today's reading (see above), note the following in your Bible and write your responses here...

Repeated key words or phrases

Locations

PEOPLE

3. Write the complete name of this book as written in your Bible: _____

4. Name something you think would have been exciting, something difficult, and something energizing to have personally experienced from today's passage:

Exciting...

Difficult...

Energizing...

...Reflect on the Word...

Have you ever felt like the more things change the more they stay the same? It's an old saying, and I think it's interesting and true. We may have the modern inventions of technology, but really, when you think about it, we're just like the men and women you read about in Bible. It may have been 2000 plus years ago that their stories were written, but like you and I they lived and breathed, ate and drank, had families, lost loved ones, worried and rejoiced just like you and just like me. And just like you and me wanting to know and experience Jesus Christ, the disciples 2000 years ago wanted more of Him and what they received we still receive today. Let's read with anticipation then as we move through this account called "The Acts of the Apostles" keeping in mind that while we might imagine times with togas and stone-paved roads and think we have little in common, we have the most important thing in common and it unites us across time — Jesus Christ.



Lesson Two — Day Two

Memorize & Meditate on the Word — Write Acts 1:8 here...

...Dwell in the Word...

Write... [Acts 2:30-31](#) on the "Write the Word" pages. Read... [Acts 1:1-3](#); [Luke 1:1-4](#)

Think & Reflect...

1. Why did Luke write this account? (Reminder, read the day's reading in order to answer "Think & Reflect" questions.)

Do you think Luke's reason in writing to Theophilus is true for readers today? Why or why not?

2. Read [Luke 6:12-16](#). What is an "apostle?"

3. Review Acts 1:2-3. Look for verbs and extra information about what Jesus did:

He had given...

He presented...

He appeared...

He spoke about...

4. Always notice what happens, and also think about what *didn't* happen. Think again about what Jesus did to provide "many proofs." He didn't have to do that. Why do you think He did? What benefit is that to you today that He did?

5. Read [Matthew 28:17-20](#) - What were the two responses to seeing and hearing from a resurrected Jesus? (v17)
Some _____ and some _____. Does this surprise you? It does me! You'd think that if you actually saw Jesus dead then alive again, you'd have absolutely no doubts at all, and yet, "some doubted." How are people (maybe even you) like this still today?

6. How many days was Jesus walking the earth after His resurrection? _____
What did Jesus do with apostles during this time?

What does this say about Jesus' priorities?

...Know the Word...

Apostle (ἀποστόλους *ap-os'-tol-os*) is from the Greek roots *apo* + *stelló* meaning "to send away from."

...Bonus...

Write the names of the apostles here:



Lesson Two — Day Three

Memorize & Meditate on the Word — Write Acts 1:8 here...

...Dwell in the Word...

Write... [Acts 2:32-33](#) on the "Write the Word" pages. Read... [Acts 1:4-5](#)

Think & Reflect...

1. What does Jesus command/order the disciples to do? Why?

How did Luke word this command in [Luke 24:49](#)? _____

2. Consider the last time Jesus asked the disciples to do something. How did that turn out? Read [Luke 22:39-46](#).

What would you say explains the change – their willingness to obey at this time?

3. Read [Matthew 3:11](#), [Joel 2:28-29](#), and [Ezekiel 36:25-27](#). This is history – God's great story in the making! – Joel was written about 900 years and Ezekiel about 600 years before this moment. They both record God's words speaking of a time to come, and now, in Acts chapter one...it is "not many days from now."

What prophecy is about to come true?

4. Who was John – the man who "baptized with water?" Use your concordance, an online Bible source, or the [references](#) provided below, and write down five facts about John "the baptizer."

[John 1:23](#); [Luke 1:36](#); [Matthew 3:4, 13-15](#); [Luke 7:28](#)

Lesson Two — Day Four

Memorize & Meditate on the Word — Write Acts 1:8 here...

...Dwell in the Word...

Write... [Acts 2:34-35](#) on the "Write the Word" pages. Read... [Acts 1:6-11](#)

Think & Reflect...

1. What question is on the apostles' mind?

Jesus had instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for what? _____ They must have been thinking something else was going to happen as well.

2. How does Jesus respond to their question? Explain what they don't get and what they do get...

They don't get to know...

They do get to know what's coming...and what they're going to be doing...

3. Consider Jesus and compare the promises made in [Luke 24:46-49](#) to the promises kept in [Acts 1:3-8](#).

PROMISE MADE



PROMISE KEPT

Luke 24:46

Acts 1:3

Luke 24:48-49

Acts 1:4-5

Luke 24:47

Acts 1:6-8

4. Consider Acts 1:8. What is Jesus telling the apostles? How does this apply to you personally as a follower of Jesus?

5. Draw the sequence of events from Acts 1:9-11...Go ahead! You can totally draw this! #ILoveStickFigures

Give your drawing/description a title:

Did you draw it? Why not share it? Post it on Instagram, Facebook, or text it to a friend.
Use the hashtags #LMCCWomen #DwellingRichly and #ILoveStickFigures

Lesson Two — Day Five

Memorize & Meditate on the Word — Write Acts 1:8 here...

...Dwell in the Word...

Write... [Acts 2:36](#) on the "Write the Word" pages. Read... [Acts 1:12-26](#)

Think & Reflect...

1. Underline the word "Sabbath" in verse 12. Read the information on [page 28](#)
2. From what experience have the disciples returned? _____
3. I love how detailed Luke is in his descriptions, don't you? Share at least three details about this gathering of disciples in the upper room that you found interesting...

4. Luke also records the first words of Peter in his account. Summarize Peter's message to the disciples and what he tells them they have to do.

5. What one unifying spiritual discipline do you notice in the disciples' interaction with one another?

6. What does their prayer tell you about their priorities in selecting the next disciple?

7. In addition to prayer, how did the disciples decide which man to select as Judas' replacement? Did this method surprise you? Why or why not?

Would you use this method to make a decision in your life? Why or why not

Dig a little...see how many other times casting lots is mentioned in the Bible — Old and New testaments. Write what you learned here...

Lesson Two — Day Five

???

...The Sabbath...

Acts 2:12 says that the disciples had returned from Mt. Olivet to Jerusalem which was a "Sabbath day's journey away." What is the Sabbath?

"The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant. It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he abstained from work and rested" ([Exodus 31:16-17](#)).

God commanded the Jews to observe a day of rest, and He called it the "Sabbath." This was observed from sundown on the last day of the Jewish week (our Friday) to sundown the next day (Saturday). Because God commanded no work to be done on this day, the rabbis (Jewish teachers) taught that the distance someone could travel on a Sabbath should be a little less than three-fourths of a mile. Since this happened forty days after Easter, it was a Thursday, not a Sabbath day.

Don't miss

...Casting Lots...

Prescriptive -vs- Descriptive

If it's in the Bible, we should do it, right? The disciples cast lots (rolled dice or flipped a coin perhaps) to decide between two disciples. They even prayed for God's help. So, that means we should pray and cast lots when we have a big decision to make too, right?

Not necessarily. Just because the Bible *describes* something happening, doesn't mean it is *prescribing* for us to do the same. This is what we call the difference between "prescriptive and descriptive" passages in the Bible. Nowhere in the Bible are we instructed to cast lots. We *are* told to pray, seek God, and have patience. The lot casting account in Acts is an example of descriptive writing which simply tells us what happened and should not be misunderstood as prescriptive — a passage telling or prescribing for us to do the same.

Understanding Jewish Holy Days

If I said that our family got together on Christmas day, you'd have a quick picture in your mind of what that might look like...tree, presents, traditional foods, music, and family all together. Just thinking of Christmas brings to your mind the memories with all its sights, sounds, and even smells, doesn't it?

Well, naming a Jewish holy day would do the same for any observant Jew.

Chapter two opens with "the day of Pentecost" and any Jew would immediately know what that meant — do you? Read here to understand more...

After God had given the ten commandments to His people through Moses and they were all still gathered at the foot of Mt. Sinai, God gave them seven celebrations to observe. This is all recorded in Leviticus 23. Each of these celebrations or feasts has a prophetic connection to God's amazing plan of redemption from the crucifixion all the way through the ultimate coming of the Kingdom of God.

What does this have to do with Pentecost?

Pentecost is the Greek word for the Jewish holy day of Shavuot (Hebrew for "weeks") or, as you will see in Leviticus 23, the "Feast of Weeks" which took place 50 days after Passover. This holy day is one of three sojourn feasts where all who were able were required to return to Jerusalem. This city would have been filled to fifty times its normal occupancy during the feast. Devout Jews — men and even women and children gather in Jerusalem every year during Pentecost. Jesus was crucified on Passover fulfilling this feast day and fifty days later as the Jews were observing Shavuot, He fulfilled this feast day as well.

Lesson Two — Day Six

Memorize & Meditate on the Word — Write Acts 1:8 here...

...Dwell in the Word...

Write... [Acts 2:37](#) on the "Write the Word" pages. Read... [Acts 2:1-13](#)

Think & Reflect...

1. Skim [Leviticus 23](#) — Write the headings for each Feast of the Lord in the following passages:

Feasts of the Lord

Leviticus 23:3	_____
Leviticus 23:4-8	_____
Leviticus 23:9-14	Feast of _____
Leviticus 23:15-22	Feast of _____
Leviticus 23:23-25	Feast of _____
Leviticus 23:26-32	Day of _____
Leviticus 23:33-44	Feast of _____

2. Describe what the disciples saw and heard...

Acts 2:2 They heard... _____

Acts 2:3 They saw... _____

Acts 2:4 They heard... _____

3. On what feast day did this moment occur? _____ (Acts 2:1)

4. How is this moment a fulfillment of Jesus' promise in Acts 1:8? What emotional impact do you think this would have had on them?

5. How does Luke describe the men who were in Jerusalem at this time? (2:5) _____

6. Why were there "men from every nation under heaven" in Jerusalem at this time? (*Hint: Did you read the articles on the [previous page](#)?*)

7. What point do you think Luke is making by naming all the people groups and nations that were present?

8. How did the people respond to this miraculous sound? Luke records two distinct responses (2:6-12 and 2:13).

9. What did they all want to know about what was going on? (2:12)

Lesson Two — Day Seven

Memorize & Meditate on the Word — Write Acts 1:8 here...

...Dwell in the Word...

Write... [Acts 2:38](#) on the "Write the Word" pages. Read... [Acts 2:14-24](#)

Think & Reflect...

This is the first of fifteen sermons in Acts. Most are from Paul, one from James, one by Stephen and finally seven or maybe eight are by Peter. Peter, who was once just a simple fisherman, is now giving a powerful and passionate sermon! Peter who rashly defended and then terribly denied Jesus Christ is now preaching with conviction and confidence! What a difference fifty days makes!

1. What objection does Peter address before he begins to preach? (2:15)

What time is that in our day? _____ (use your Bible's footnote)

2. Peter then quotes from which prophet? _____ He explains that what they are witnessing is actually...

Read and mark [Joel 2:2-32](#) in your Bible, then paraphrase it here:

3. Was Jesus' death and crucifixion a surprise to God or a change in His plans? Explain...

4. What will be the exciting result of this prophecy? (2:21)

5. Peter's sermon has the elements of what every true gospel message should have — essential truths of Jesus and a call to respond to these truths. Summarize Acts 2:22-24 focusing on the truths of who Jesus is:

6. Read [Matthew 4:18-19](#). How is this passage fulfilled in what you read today?

Lesson Two — Day Eight

Memorize & Meditate on the Word — Write Acts 1:8 here...

...Dwell in the Word...

Write... [Acts 2:39-40](#) on the "Write the Word" pages. Read... [Acts 2:25-36](#)

Think & Reflect...

Peter continues with his message to the "devout," "bewildered," "amazed," and "perplexed" crowd. The people who thought the disciples must be filled with new wine are realizing now they are filled with something more powerful — the spirit of God Himself!

1. Today's passage continues Peter's sermon with a prophecy of David — the second King of Israel. What scripture is Peter citing in Acts 2:25-28? (Use the cross-references in your Bible) _____
What does this prophecy foretell about the death of Jesus?

2. Look back at Acts 2:24. What did Peter say about death and its power?

3. What basic truth did Peter remind the crowds of in Acts 2:29?

Why do you think he took the time to point this out?

4. Peter does with this scripture what all good preachers should do from the Scripture. Describe what Peter is doing as he continues to preach in Acts 2:29-31

5. To whom is Peter referring when he says, "we all are witnesses?" (Remember the qualification for being an apostle from [Acts 1:22](#).) _____
6. Take a close look at what Peter says in 2:33. He summarizes the events that have happened after Jesus' resurrection. Write those events here:

7. All this wraps up in one important point that Peter wanted them to "know for certain." What is the main point?

Considering the meaning of "Lord" and "Christ" (Messiah) what is Peter saying about the identity of Jesus?

...Know the Word...

"Lord" is **Κύριον** (koo-ri-on) and refers to Jesus as one who has all ownership rights.

"Christ" is **Χριστόν** (Kris-ton) and is the Greek word for the Hebrew "anointed one" — it comes from the root meaning to "anoint with olive oil"

Underline these in your Bible

Lesson Two — Day Nine

Memorize & Meditate on the Word — Write Acts 1:8 here...

...Dwell in the Word...

Write... [Acts 2:41](#) on the "Write the Word" pages. Read... [Acts 2:37-41](#)

Think & Reflect...

Read from several translations

If your hairdresser told you that your hair was thinning out, what would you ask? If your mechanic said you had a bad leak, what would you ask? What if your vet said your dog had fleas, what would you ask? If you're like most people, you'd probably ask, "What should I do?" You have heard some important news from an expert...now what? Shrug and move on? Of course not. Get the help you need to make it right. Our final passage in this lesson begins with this question, "What shall we do?"

1. Read Acts 2:37 from several translations. What does this figure of speech "cut to the heart" imply?
2. Why do you think they were "cut to the heart"?
3. Look back at Peter's sermon from [Acts 2:14-36](#). Does he preach a call to action (you should do this or that), does he preach the facts or does he preach a little of both? Explain...
4. Peter answers their questions with two requirements and two blessings. What does he say?
5. What is the "promise" Peter is referring to and who is it for? (2:39)
6. How does Peter describe his own generation? _____ What does he say must be done in response?

Do you think this applies to our generation today? Why or why not?

7. Read [John 14:12](#). How is that promise coming true at Pentecost?

Lesson Two — Day Ten

Memorize & Meditate on the Word — Write Acts 1:8 here...

...Create ^{AND} Share the Word...

If there's one thing about Peter's preaching that stands out today it is that he did not avoid calling out the sins of the crowd listening. Many preachers today hold back on making any focus on sin until they think they have won the crowd over with stories, music, or other methods that they believe are more enticing. Not Peter. Peter dove right in to the truth. Peter was bold. Peter spoke the truth loud and clear, "This Jesus that you crucified...!"

Ouch.

Here's the deal, why would someone ask, "What should I do?" if they don't feel a need?

Why would anyone think they need a savior if they don't feel a need to be saved? Jesus did not fear losing his audience by his hard sayings — he boldly preached the truth because dying without it is eternal just as much as living with it will be.

Today, our world is more interested in comfort and encouragement than in hard realities of dying and sin. It's too black and white to say there's a heaven and a hell and a direct path to one or the other that depends on receiving the truth and acting on it.

You're "judgmental" if you tell someone they are a sinner.

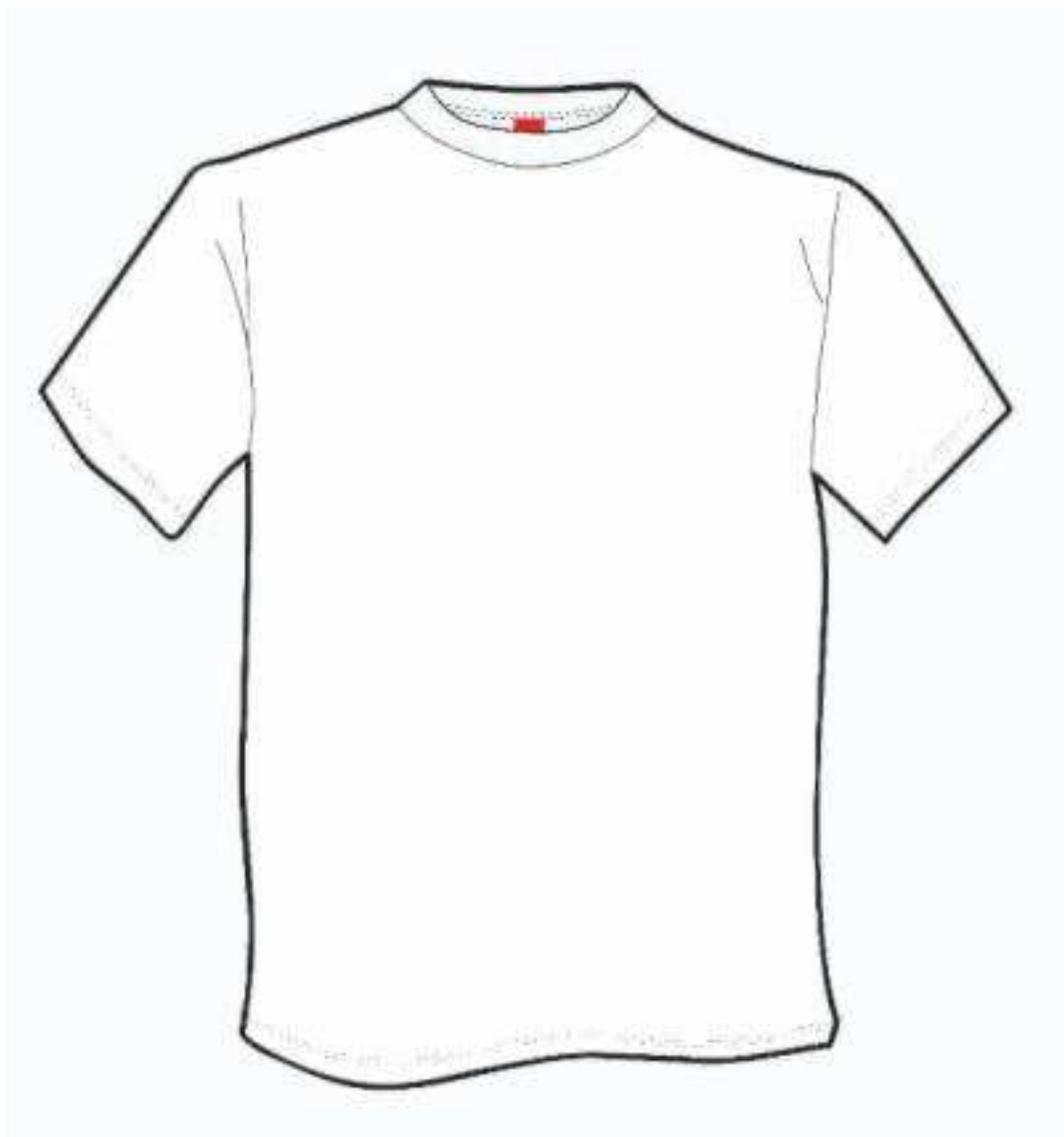
In our society of Instagram photos, Twitter quotes, and Facebook posts people want a cozy message that fits on a coffee mug or t-shirt. What do you think Peter would say on a mug or print on a t-shirt?

Design one or both — (The t-shirt is on the next page.)

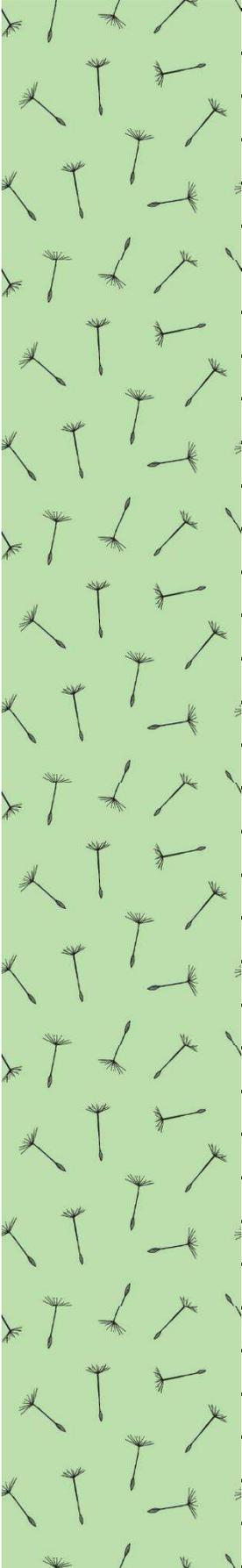


When you finish writing or drawing, take a picture of your creation and share it with your study buddy, a friend, or on social media to your Instagram, Facebook, or YouTube page.

When you share on social, use the hashtags #LMCCWomen #DwellingRichlyBibleStudy and be sure to tag @LMCCWomen.

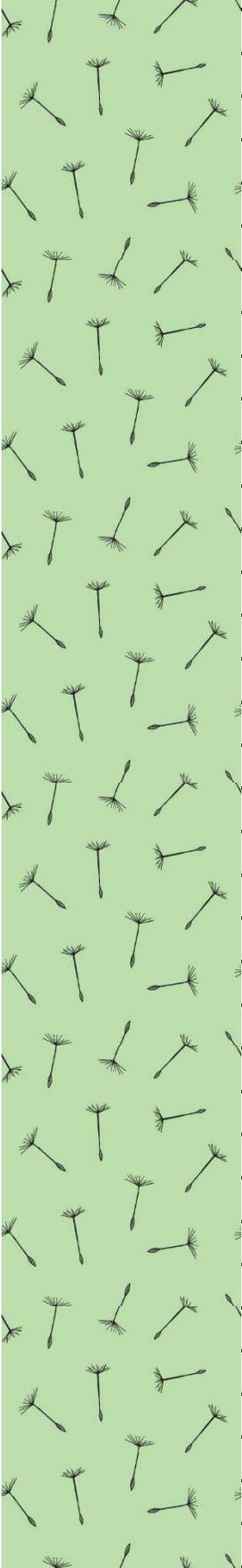


Acts 2:29-41



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Acts 2:29-41



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Acts

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