

# The Acts of the Non-Apostles

by Nancy Kuhlman

---

## Lesson 2 – God's Purpose

Review:

What was Luke's purpose in writing the book of Acts?

Who has been empowered by God to carry out His work?

What was most meaningful to you from last week's study?

### Read Matthew 18:12-14

1. What does Jesus say is God's will and desire?
2. How does the awareness and understanding of God's intent help you understand the mission of the church today?
3. How does it help you understand *your* part in the church's mission?

### Read Acts 2:41

4. What *beginnings* do you see occurring here?

### Read Acts 2:42-47

5. Last week we looked at this passage to see what the new believers devoted themselves to doing after Pentecost. List again the activities in which they engaged.
6. Think of these activities as a pattern - a progression - toward a goal. What is that goal? (question 1)
7. What is the plan Jesus laid out for His disciples? See Acts 1:8, Mark 16:15.
8. What does the behavior pattern followed in the early church look like in our church today? Be as specific as you can in identifying the counterpart of each activity found in Acts 2:42-47.
9. From your own experiences and observations, what often follows when people devote themselves to doing God's will?



**Read Acts 8:1-4**

10. What is happening here?
  
11. How does this relate to Acts 1:8?

**Read Acts 8:5-8, 26-40**

Note: The Philip mentioned here (named in Acts 21:8 as Philip the Evangelist) is the Philip of Acts 6:5, not Philip the disciple/Apostle (Matthew 10:3 and Acts 1:13).

12. What is significant about the location where we first see Philip witnessing?

What general challenges are there for someone trying to witness in a situation like the one in which Philip found himself?

What are some of the challenges our church faces from our society and culture as we work to carry out our mission?

13. Look at verses 26-30. What did Philip do in these verses?
  
14. In verses 31-35, where do you see God's purpose? The work of the Holy Spirit?
  
15. What are the results of what the Holy Spirit did through Philip in verses 36-40?
  
16. What encouragement for your own role in fulfilling the mission of the church do you receive from Philip's example?

Copyright December 2007. Nancy Kuhlman is a Bible study leader at Christ Lutheran Church, Costa Mesa, California. Distributed by Karen Kogler, author of the paper of the same title on which this study is based. The study's six lessons, with Leader's Guides, and the paper are available at [www.TheEquipper.org](http://www.TheEquipper.org) > Resources.

