

Lesson 6 | July 10, 2022

The Expanding Church

Study Text: Acts 8:1–40; 9:32–43; 10:1–48

Central Truth: The Holy Spirit gives power and direction for ministry.

Key Verse: Romans 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (KJV).

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God (NLT).

Learning Objectives

- Students will examine how God supernaturally extended the witness of the Early Church.
- Students should recognize their need for God's power and direction as they share the gospel today.
- Students will be encouraged to seek God's assistance in everything they do in their witnessing for Christ.

Introducing the Lesson

Say: As God helped the Early Church expand its witness for Christ, He used a variety of means and circumstances. He used persecution by unbelievers. He used desperate human need, and He used specific, supernatural guidance. The Church was not merely commanded to spread the gospel. They were empowered and guided along the way. (*Play the video available at [RadiantLifeCurriculum.com/Adult](https://www.RadiantLifeCurriculum.com/Adult).)*)

Opening Activity—Interruptions, Interruptions!

Ask: How do you respond—or react—when your day is interrupted? Does it make you irritated or angry, or do you consider the possibility that God may have a better plan for your time?

Say: This happens to me sometimes. I plan to do one thing then things happen and I have to do something else. I like to take a nap on Sunday afternoon. Sometimes I have to go another direction. My wife always plans and then her plans are interrupted. I try to be understanding so when she asks me what I have planned, I ask her what she wants. Most of the time, people do not like to be interrupted, despite the possibility of a positive result. However, as we surrender our schedules to God, He can surprise us with opportunities to witness for Him. God can guide even the smallest details of the lives of His followers. His great plan to draw people to himself through Jesus Christ, and to build His eternal kingdom, is carried out as believers walk closely with Him and follow His leading. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The witness of the Church was off to a powerful start in the city of Jerusalem. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost had brought three thousand to salvation, joined later by thousands more. Yet this was only the beginning. God's plan included those who would come to Christ from outside of Israel and Judaism. Philip and Peter were privileged to be the first to bring the gospel to Samaritans and Gentiles.

Part 1—Philip the Evangelist's Ministry

Joy in the City

Acts 8:4–13

[Act 8:4-13 KJV] 4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. 5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. 6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed [with them]: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. 8 And there was great joy in that city. 9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: 10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. 11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

Say: The gospel has the power to change your life, and the life of everyone you witness to. Philip experienced this power in Samaria as he shared Christ and received God's supernatural blessing. God—and the gospel—remain the same today. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Those who stoned Stephen and began persecuting the Church did not anticipate that the scattered believers would extend the message of Jesus Christ wherever they went (Acts 8:4).

In Acts 1:8, Jesus specifically told His followers to witness for Him in Samaria, among people who for centuries had been rejected by mainstream Jews because of their mixed race and their deviation from proper Judaism. Jesus himself had

reached out to the Samaritans (John 4:1–42); here, Philip would share with them the full message of Christ (Acts 8:5).

As Philip told the Samaritans about the coming kingdom of God, and how they could enter a relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ, **God blessed Philip’s preaching with miraculous signs (verses 6,12). The experience of many—as they were healed of lameness, paralysis, and demon possession—brought great joy to the city (verses 7–8). Also, the miracles reinforced the words of Philip, as the crowds fixed their attention on him.**

Philip’s message—and the miracles that accompanied it—drew the people’s attention away from Simon, a sorcerer who “for a long time . . . had astounded them with his magic” (verses 9–11, NLT). Verse 10 suggests that the Samaritans believed Simon’s power came from God himself. However, Satan’s lie was broken as the Samaritans believed the gospel. Simon himself became a believer (verse 13), although he would later be reprimanded by the apostle Peter for attempting to purchase God’s power for his own purposes (verses 18–24).

Resource Packet Item 1: What Happens When God Heals the Sick?

Distribute the information sheet and draw attention to the many evangelistic results of the healing ministry. Ask if any class members were brought to Christ through physical healing. Give them an opportunity to share if they wish.

Discuss

? In what ways can you reach out with the gospel to those who have been rejected by others?

? How should a Christian respond to a friend or family member involved in a cult or in the occult?

Joy in the Desert

Acts 8:26–40

[Act 8:26-40 KJV] 26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. 27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, 28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. 30 And Philip ran thither to [him], and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? 31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip

that he would come up and sit with him. 32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: 33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. 34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. 36 And as they went on [their] way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, [here is] water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

Say: God worked a powerful awakening in the city of Samaria as Philip preached Christ to many. However, God was just as concerned with the salvation of a solitary individual in a remote place. Calling Philip to leave his ministry in Samaria, God brought him together with a man who was ready to hear, and respond to, God's Word. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

In the midst of a powerful spiritual awakening in Samaria, God had another assignment for Philip. He sent an angel to direct him to a desert road between Jerusalem and Gaza (Acts 8:26). There, he met a court official, the treasurer, of the queen of Ethiopia (verse 27). This Gentile, from what is now called the Sudan, worshipped the God of Israel; he was now returning home from Jerusalem, reading aloud from Isaiah, using an expensive, hand-copied scroll (verse 28).

At the prompting of the Holy Spirit, Philip approached the chariot, and was invited by the man to ride with him (verses 29–31). God had prepared the Ethiopian to be ready for Philip's witness. Having read Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus' humble, willing sacrifice, the eunuch was unsure whom the passage referred to (verses 32–34).

Philip gladly shared "the Good News about Jesus" and how to become His follower (verse 35, NLT). Seeing some water—possibly a fountain or a pond—the eunuch immediately wanted to show his commitment to Christ through water baptism (verse 36). Philip had obviously included the command to be baptized in

his witness, as he had at Samaria. Upon the eunuch's confession of faith, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (verse 37, KJV), Philip baptized him (verses 37–38).

God then supernaturally "snatched Philip away" (verse 39, NLT). This Greek verb is used in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 to refer to the rapture of the Church. Philip later appeared at Azotus, and preached all the way to Caesarea (Acts 8:40; see 21:8). The eunuch went back to his native land, rejoicing in the same great salvation that the Samaritans had received.

Resource Packet Item 1: Isaiah Saw Christ

Distribute the work sheet and divide the class into groups to read the passages the Ethiopian eunuch was reading from Isaiah 53 and record their responses. Have a representative of each group share what Philip may have told the eunuch about Christ.

Discuss

? Why is it important to listen for God's guidance daily?

? What would you tell a professing believer who refuses water baptism?

Part 2—The Apostle Peter's Ministry Healed as a Witness

Acts 9:32–35

[Act 9:32-35 KJV] 32 And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all [quarters], he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda. 33 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. 34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately. 35 And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.

Say: The same Jesus who healed during His earthly ministry continued to do so after His resurrection and return to heaven. His ongoing relationship with those who knew Him—including Peter—was a powerful key to the mission of the Church in the Book of Acts. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Peter's itinerant ministry brought him on a mission to visit Christian disciples in Lydda (Acts 9:32). Near the seacoast and about 12 miles from Joppa, Lydda's only New Testament mention is in this passage.

In Lydda, Peter found Aeneas, suffering from a long-term paralysis that had confined him to bed for eight years (verse 33). Luke did not record whether it was

illness or injury that had caused Aeneas' paralysis; however, after this length of time, he would have been quite weak and his muscles would likely have atrophied.

Peter's action toward Aeneas reflected both his experience of walking with Jesus during His earthly ministry, and his ongoing relationship with Him after His return to heaven. **He was there when Jesus ordered a paralytic to rise, pick up his mat, and go home (Matthew 9:1–8). Here, Peter announced Jesus' healing action to Aeneas, and ordered him to rise (Acts 9:34).**

The Book of Acts records the salvation of individuals, of families, and of massive groups of people. **God used Aeneas's healing to bring the entire population of the city of Lydda, as well as Sharon (a fertile plain about 55 miles long on the Mediterranean coast) to a relationship with Him (verse 35).**

Discuss

? Read Hebrews 13:8. How does the fact Jesus is unchanging give us faith for healing?

? How can we maintain high expectations for God to work in our evangelism efforts today?

Raised as a Witness

Acts 9:36–43

[Act 9:36-43 KJV] 36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. 37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid [her] in an upper chamber. 38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring [him] that he would not delay to come to them. 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning [him] to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. 41 And he gave her [his] hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. 42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord. 43 And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner.

Say: How do you respond to a life-or-death need? When believers turned to him after the untimely death of a friend, Peter knew what to do. After spending three years walking with Christ before His death and resurrection, Peter knew that a proper response to the crisis would include a serious—although brief—time of prayer. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Word of Peter's ministry at Lydda had reached the believers in Joppa. Faced with a serious need, they begged him to come quickly (Acts 9:38). Tabitha (also known as Dorcas), a believer living in Joppa, had a lifestyle of good works and helping those in need (verse 36). **When an illness took her life, the believers prepared her body for burial—but believed that God could do the impossible (verse 37).**

On arriving, Peter was met by some of those touched by Tabitha's kindness—widows showing him the coats and other clothing she had made for them (verse 39). Similar to Jesus' actions at the home of Jairus, whose daughter had just died, Peter sent those who had gathered out of the room (verse 40; see Matthew 9:24–25). Faced with the reality of death and the despair of those who loved Tabitha, Peter knelt down and prayed. He then told the still-dead disciple to get up. She opened her eyes, saw him, and sat up. Peter helped her up, then blessed the widows who had gathered by giving them back the one they so loved (Acts 9:41).

The story of raising Tabitha was told beyond the community of believers and brought many unbelievers to the Lord (verse 42). The gifts of the Holy Spirit can cause such wonder among God's people that the report reaches unbelievers as well. These gifts can also be used by God directly in unbelievers' lives (Hebrews 2:4).

[Heb 2:4 KJV] 4 God also bearing [them] witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

After raising Tabitha from the dead, Peter stayed in Joppa. There he lodged with a tanner named Simon, whose occupation was considered unclean by Jews (Acts 9:43, Leviticus 11:24–31). Scholars believe Simon tanned unclean as well as clean animals, possibly because of Peter's vision in Acts 10:9–16. This vision will further Peter's openness to bring Christ to those outside of Judaism.

Discuss

? Why do you suppose Peter (and Jesus, on one occasion) sent others out of the room before raising a dead person?

? Explain why prayer is the best response to a seemingly hopeless situation.

? Can you list several things God has done for those in your church that may touch the heart of unbelievers you know?

Part 3—Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

Accepted From All Nations

Acts 10:1–2,19–20,30–38

[Act 10:1-2, 19-20, 30-38 KJV] 1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian [band], **2 [A]** devout [man], and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. ... **19** While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. **20** Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them. ... **30** And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, **31** And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. **32** Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of [one] Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee. **33** Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God. **34** Then Peter opened [his] mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: **35** But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. **36** The word which [God] sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) **37** That word, [I say], ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; **38** How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Say: The Book of Acts begins with the message of the gospel being preached only to Jews. It continues with Philip's witness to the Samaritans. Peter is God's instrument to open the mission to the Gentiles, beginning with an army officer who was part of the Roman occupation. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

About 30 miles north of Joppa was Caesarea, named in honor of Augustus Caesar. It was the headquarters of the Roman forces then occupying Israel, including a centurion named Cornelius (Acts 10:1). Verse 2 describes Cornelius and his household as "God-fearing" (NLT). In the New Testament, this refers to Gentiles who believed in one God, and respected the moral and ethical teachings

of the Jews. They had not become full converts, however, by becoming circumcised and following Jewish dietary laws.

God was preparing Peter with a vision. God commanded him to kill and eat ritually unclean animals (see Acts 10:9–16). Peter would understand this vision two days later, when he walked into a Gentile's house and found a divinely prepared audience waiting to hear the message of Christ. For now, he needed to obey the Spirit's command and go with Cornelius's servants (verses 19–20).

At the centurion's home, Peter learned how God had brought him there (verses 30–33). Through an angelic vision, God had given Cornelius specific directions for finding Peter. Cornelius recognized God's hand in bringing Peter to speak to his household. This same knowledge gripped Peter, who realized that God does not treat people with favoritism nor partiality because of nationality (verses 34–35). **Rather, God sent a message to Israel: peace with God would come through Jesus Christ, who is the Lord of every person from every nation (verse 36). This peace became accessible to all nations through Jesus' death and resurrection (see Ephesians 2:14–18). This peace was demonstrated when Jesus, anointed by His Father with the Holy Spirit and power, released people from the evils of sickness and demon possession (Acts 10:37–38).**

Discuss

? Since Jesus told the apostles to preach to all nations (Luke 24:46–48), why did Peter hesitate to do so before experiencing this vision?

? How does Jesus' sacrificial work bring us peace with God?

Spirit-Filled—With Evidence

Acts 10:39–48

[Act 10:39-48 KJV] 39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: 40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; 41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, [even] to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God [to be] the Judge of quick and dead. 43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. 44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify

God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Say: As God opened the door of faith to Gentiles, there arose questions and opposition. To assure the first believers, who were Jewish, that He accepted Gentiles into His covenant family, **God poured out His Holy Spirit upon them publicly and unmistakably.**

(Share your highlights from the following text.)

Peter testified firsthand to having witnessed Jesus' earthly ministry. Then, following a frequent pattern of preaching in Acts, he proclaimed these facts about Christ: He was crucified. God raised Him from the dead. There was proof—in this case, eyewitnesses—of His resurrection (Acts 10:39–41; see 3:14–16; 1 Corinthians 15:3–9).

[1Co 15:3-9 KJV] 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Jesus, who is Lord of all, will also judge the living and the dead (Acts 10:42). Faith in Him and in His sacrificial death and resurrection frees us from the fear of death and judgment. **Every person who commits himself or herself to Christ can rejoice in the knowledge of sins forgiven and the guarantee of eternal life (verse 43; see John 3:16).**

Peter's sermon was interrupted when the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the good news about Jesus (Acts 10:44). The Jewish Christians who accompanied Peter were "amazed" (verse 45, NLT) or "astonished" (KJV) that God would pour out His promise—the Holy Spirit—on Gentiles. **They were convinced by the evidence of hearing them "speaking in other tongues and praising God" (verse 46, NLT).**

This evidence satisfied Peter himself as well. He asked if anyone could object to Cornelius's household being baptized in water, and did not expect—nor receive—any such objection (verse 47). These Gentiles who had received forgiveness through faith in Christ and received the baptism in the Holy Spirit were now publicly baptized in water as a witness to their new faith in Christ (verse 48). Peter, at Cornelius's request, stayed there several more days, likely sharing with them further teaching about life in Jesus Christ.

Resource Packet Item 3: Why Shouldn't You Be Baptized?

Distribute the work sheet and ask students how they would respond to each individual. Also, ask students for other excuses they may have heard, as well as any personal obstacles they overcame before being baptized in water.

Discuss

- ? In what ways can we keep our witnessing simple, yet effective?
- ? What proof can we offer today of Jesus' resurrection?
- ? Why were the Jewish believers surprised that Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit?

What Is God Saying to Us?

Say: God worked through Philip by witnessing to an individual on a remote road as surely as He had worked through him to touch the crowds in Samaria. He worked through Peter as he brought healing and life to individuals in Lydda and Joppa, and as he brought the gospel to an entire Gentile household in Caesarea. God's priority of bringing grace into people's lives remains the same, whether to one person or to a crowd. He used the apostle Peter, the deacon Philip, and He will use every believer who opens herself or himself to His power and direction.

Living It Out

Ministry in Action

- Look for ways to spend time with family and friends who have never heard the gospel.
- Make time daily to listen for the voice of God and to open yourself to His specific direction.
- Examine your heart for any prejudices that may keep you from sharing the gospel.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday:

Israel Expanded in Canaan.
Joshua 21:41–45

[Jos 21:41-45 KJV] 41 All the cities of the Levites within the possession of the children of Israel [were] forty and eight cities with their suburbs. 42 These cities were every one with their suburbs round about them: thus [were] all these cities. 43 And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. 44 And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. 45 There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.

Tuesday:

David's Kingdom Expanded.

2 Samuel 5:1–12

[2Sa 5:1-12 KJV] 1 Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we [are] thy bone and thy flesh. 2 Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel. 3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David [was] thirty years old when he began to reign, [and] he reigned forty years. 5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah. 6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem unto the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land: which spake unto David, saying, Except thou take away the blind and the lame, thou shalt not come in hither: thinking, David cannot come in hither. 7 Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same [is] the city of David. 8 And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, [that are] hated of David's soul, [he shall be chief and captain]. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house. 9 So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward. 10 And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts [was] with him. 11 And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house. 12 And David perceived that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake.

Wednesday:

Daniel's Authority Expanded.
Daniel 6:1–5,24–28

[Dan 6:1-5, 24-28 KJV] 1 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; 2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel [was] first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. 3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit [was] in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. 4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he [was] faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. 5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find [it] against him concerning the law of his God. ... 24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast [them] into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den. 25 Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. 26 I make a decree, That in every

dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he [is] the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom [that] which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion [shall be even] unto the end. 27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. 28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Thursday:

Jesus' Ministry Expanded.
Mark 1:32–39

[Mar 1:32-39 KJV] 32 And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. 33 And all the city was gathered together at the door. 34 And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him. 35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. 36 And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. 37 And when they had found him, they said unto him, All [men] seek for thee. 38 And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth. 39 And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.

Friday:

Paul's Ministry Expanded.
Acts 16:5–12

[Act 16:5-12 KJV] 5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily. 6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, 7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. 8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. 10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. 11 Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next [day] to Neapolis; 12 And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, [and] a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

Saturday:

God's Kingdom Expanded.
Revelation 11:15–17

[Rev 11:15-17 KJV] 15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become [the kingdoms] of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. 16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, 17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.