

Week 3 (April 27-May3)

Acts 8:25-13:12



Daily Breakdown of the Readings

Monday [Acts 8:25-40](#)

Tuesday [Acts 9:1-31](#)

Wednesday [Acts 9:32-43](#)

Thursday [Acts 10](#)

Friday [Acts 11](#)

Saturday [Acts 12](#)

Sunday [Acts 13:1-12](#)

Some Old Testament References

Acts 8:32-33 (Isaiah 53:7-8)



Key Passages

Acts 8:36

Acts 9:15-16

Acts 10:15

Acts 10:34-35

Acts 10:42

Acts 12:23

Notes

- Look for parallels between the story of Jesus told in Luke's Gospel and the stories in our reading this week. Also look for a parallel between Bar-Jesus and Saul.
- Watch the video for this week to learn about text variants in our reading for this week. A text variant is when different manuscripts etc. of the text don't say the same thing. Think about the ways in which our preferred translations impact how we read the text and how we apply the text to our life.
- We have two accounts of miracles performed by Peter in Acts 9:32-43. It's important to remember that Peter is only able to perform these miracles because of the authority he received from the Holy Spirit.
- Note the tension throughout our readings this week between some of the disciples regarding the salvation and baptism of the Gentiles. Tension has always been present in the church, especially when we talk about who is included and who is excluded. Often those we include look like us. This is not good and it's not the example of community we find in Acts. The ELCA is the whitest denomination in the United

States. We need to seriously think about who we include in our communities. If you have the time I suggest you read *Dear Church: A Love Letter From a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in America* by Lenny Duncan.

- Don't be thrown off track by the magician in our reading for this week. Magicians were common in the ancient world. There are historical accounts of cities banning magicians for certain periods of time. While it might seem strange to us, it would not have shocked someone in the ancient world.

Questions

1. What parallels do you see between the story of Jesus as told in Luke's Gospel and the stories we read this week? What purpose do you think these parallels have?
2. If you had to pick a favorite story out of our readings for this week, what would you pick and why?
3. Think about who we include in our community. Are we an inclusive or exclusive community? Why? What can we do better or are we doing enough?
4. What can we learn about being bold from our readings this week?
5. What is your preferred translation of the Bible? Is what you grew up with? Or did you discover it later in life? Why do you prefer it?