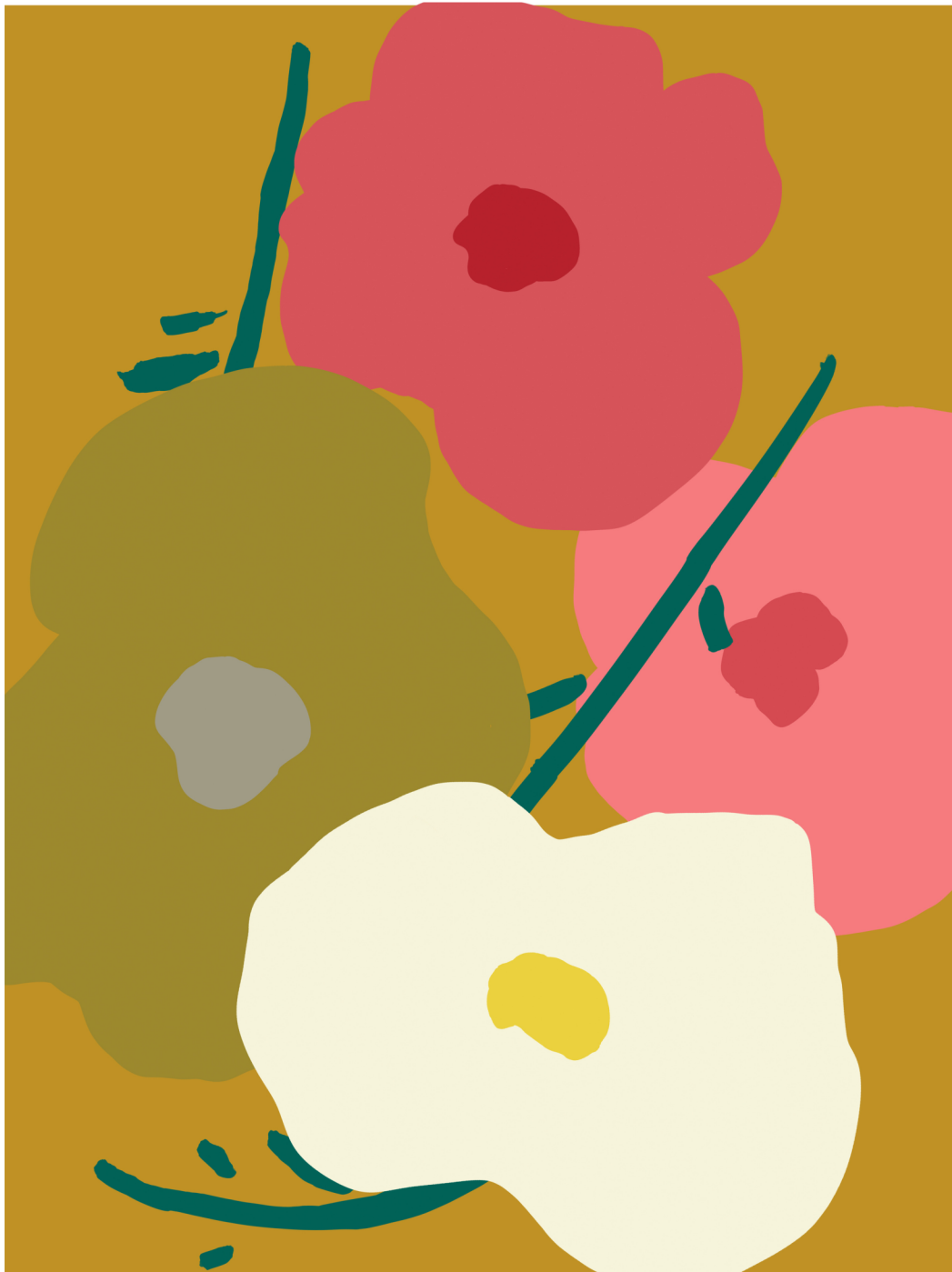


# Acts Intro

## Lesson 1: Welcome

a study through the eyes of Luke



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# A quick introduction of

Sharie King



## ◆ Ministry and Marriage

Hello and welcome to this study on the book of Acts. My name is Sharie King and I became a Christian at age 11 and felt called to serve in ministry at 12 years old. Possibly you're thinking that 12 years old is too young to comprehend this kind of commitment! I agree with you. I could not fathom the joys and pains of being in ministry at twelve years old, but I believe the innocence of my desire at a young age produced in me a clarity of purpose which kept me determined and focused for whatever path lay ahead. I also believe my childlike understanding allowed me to say yes to diverse opportunities which offered no personal advancement because I saw myself as underqualified. I still feel underqualified to study, learn and teach others about God because his essence is unknowable. However, since the Creator longs to be known by his creation (this is us), "I desire to seek to understand him through the Word and to help others come to know him too.

It seems reasonable that someone called to ministry would pursue an undergraduate ministry degree, but I obtained a Recreation Management degree with a concentration in Experiential Education from Appalachian State University. The reason for this choice grew out of the love I had for the Christian camps I attended as a middle schooler and worked for at ages 16-18. My love for the Lord grew exponentially in this environment and I remember asking Jesus for the opportunity to provide this kind of ministry for students in the future. So, after I graduated college in 1997, Clayton King hired me as a rock climbing instructor for Crossroads Summer Camp. Clayton felt called to ministry at 14 years old and began Crossroads Camps in 1996 to solve a

a dilemma he was experiencing. Clayton was being invited by multiple churches to preach at their camps but there were not enough weeks in the summer to say yes, so he decided to start a camp and invite the churches to come together. He hired me in the second year of these camps and we have been building Crossroads Camps and Clayton King Ministries together ever since. Clayton King Ministries (CKM) is our primary ministry and we serve the local church in many ways including Crossroads Summer Camps and Winter Conference for students, Marriage Conferences, study tours to Israel and Greece, Coaching Networks for adults, and mission trips for all ages.

## ◆ Family and More

Three years into our marriage, we had our first son Jacob and Joseph followed a few years later. The boys and I traveled with Clayton for the first years of our marriage. I homeschooled them for seven years so that we could continue to travel for a while, but afterward, the boys entered public school as teens. During this time I was also able to begin writing books, podcasting, and speaking for CKM, churches, and various ministry events. When my boys became teenagers, I had a desire to pursue a Masters of Divinity because I wanted to submit myself to challenging biblical teaching and training. I have had a love for God's Word ever since I was 12 years old, and the Holy Spirit has taught me a lot in my personal study of God's Word, but the knowledge and understanding I have gained from my professors and study now have been priceless. I confess to you that I do not know it all! In fact, I believe I will never be able to fully understand God, but I am excited to be on this eternal journey of getting to know him more and more. If this is your desire too, I am excited to have you join me in this study of Acts.



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Sharie King

Jane Branch  
**Visionary**



*My Nanny*

When I lived with my Nanny (grandmother) for a little while when I was ten years old. I noticed that each Saturday night she would wash and roll her hair and then sit under her dryer as she studied her Sunday School lesson. Every Sunday morning she rose early so that she could teach to a faithful group of ladies. She served her church faithfully until she "retired" from her position in her nineties. With tears in her eyes, she shared with me that they would be removing the placard with her name on it from the door of her Sunday School Room. For her, it wasn't about having her name on the door, but rather the centuries of memories that existed in that small room. My Nanny's faithfulness to the Word and the ladies she taught is one of the reasons I have decided to create this study.

# The Purpose

In 2021, I spent a semester studying Acts and Hebrews under Dr. Channing Crisler at Anderson University. My passion for this study was born in this class because I realized that the previous sermons and teachings I had received on Acts were given as a means to an end rather than the means itself.

## ◆ Learning as a means to an end.

Before this class, Acts was taught or preached in order to address certain topics or theologies such as community, missions, church growth, or the Holy Spirit. Most often this teaching and preaching used passages from Acts to support the teaching on that topic, but after the topic was covered, the book was abandoned. Perhaps this is your experience with the book of Acts? Perhaps this is your experience with many books in the Bible? Here is the problem with this sort of teaching/learning- the writer of Acts, and the writers of each book of the Bible- did not intend for their readers to hop in and out of their writings but to read the book in its entirety.



## ◆ Learning as an end in itself.

Every book of the Bible is better understood when it is read as a whole instead of picked apart. In addition, Acts is also meant to be understood as a sequel to Luke, for Luke wrote the gospel of Luke as a first volume and Acts as a second. Readers who hop in and out of Acts often lose the beauty of the full-story narrative and connected theologies which provide his readers with a fuller understanding of the story God's of purposes in Jesus Christ and the church.

# The Goal

The goal of this study is to learn how to read Acts in the way Luke intended.



## ◆ How will we do this?

we will wade through the texts slowly and steadily, faithfully and carefully so that when we are finished you have a grasp on Luke's heart and begin to understand this book in a similar manner to his original audience.

## ◆ How are the lessons organized?

Each chapter will include multiple written lessons and homework activities which can be found on my website: [www.sharieking.com](http://www.sharieking.com). I will also be recording podcasts to go along with each lesson. You can find them on my Podcast, Overcoming Monday (available on all podcast platforms).

There will not be a minimum or maximum number of lessons for each chapter, for my hope is for you to take your time with this study, whether you do it as an individual or a group. For some, not having a set number of weeks or lessons may be frustrating, but I am trying to organize this as an old-school Sunday School-type study where there is always something new available for you to learn and study. I will provide challenging lessons to help you grow in your ability to read scripture, but also bite-sized so that you do not feel overwhelmed.

## Acts 1 Lesson 1 Homework

# Your Hope and Pledge

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My Hope is that you will feel welcome, that you will feel empowered to understand God's word, and that you will feel supported in your spiritual life.



My Pledge: is to study hard in order to provide trusted and documented information for you. I also hope to foster an environment where our study, discussions, and questions flow from what is found in scripture. Sometimes we already understand, sometimes we haven't yet learned, and sometimes God will leave things mysterious. We don't have to know it all, but I believe it's important to be honest about what we do and don't know if we are to learn and grow. I will be praying for our ability to be authentic and vulnerable before the Lord.



What is your hope and pledge?

It would be easy to skip over this homework, but I'd really like you to ask yourself what you hope to gain from this study as well as the commitment you are willing to make because defining your expectations will help you not only define, but also reach your goals. In addition, decide if you want to do this alone, or bring a friend or friends with you on this journey of studying Acts.



Lesson 1 Devo

# Hope and Pledge

Record your hope and expectations of this study and some steps you will take to attain them.

To be Achieved By:

Action Steps

01

02

03

04

Write a prayer or verse which will encourage you .

# Credits



Caylee Collins  
Editor and Creator

Caylee has been a huge help in helping me gather, consolidate, brainstorm and create this study.



Joseph Pope  
Podcast Producer

Joseph records and uploads the podcasts for this study and deserved a big mention.



The King Family: Joseph,  
Sharie, Clayton, Jacob

The King family lives in Anderson, SC.



Kelly Sikkema  
Photographer

The photos in this lesson are by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash



Acts Study

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