

DISCOVER

INSIDE ISSUE 6: ACTS, JOHN, EXODUS, JAMES

1 Find a time when you can read the Bible each day



2 Find a place where you can be quiet and think



4 Ask God to help you understand what you read



3 Grab your Bible and a pencil or pen



5 Read today's Discover page and Bible bit



6 Pray about what you have read and learned



We want to...

- Explain the Bible clearly to you
- Help you enjoy your Bible
- Encourage you to turn to Jesus
- Help Christians follow Jesus

Discover stands for...

- Total commitment to God's Word, the Bible
- Total commitment to getting its message over to you

Team Discover

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How to use Discover

Here at Discover, we want you at home to get the most out of reading the Bible. It's how God speaks to us today. And He's got loads of top things to say.

We use the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible. You'll find that the NIV and New King James Version are best for doing the puzzles in Discover.



The Bible has 66 different books in it. So if the notes say...

Read Acts 19 v 1

...turn to the contents page of your Bible and look down the list of books to see what page Acts begins on. Turn to that page.

"Acts 19 v 1" means you need to go to chapter 19 of Acts, and then find verse 1 of chapter 19 (the verse numbers are the tiny ones). Then jump in and read it!



Here's some other stuff you might come across...

WEIRD WORDS

Cobtremble

These boxes explain baffling words or phrases we come across in the Bible.

Think!



This bit usually has a tricky personal question on what you've been reading about.

Action!



Challenges you to put what you've read into action.

Wow!



This section contains a gobsmacking fact that sums up what you've been reading about.

Pray!



Gives you ideas for prayer. Prayer is talking to God. Don't be embarrassed! You can pray in your head if you want to. God still hears you! Even if there isn't a Pray! symbol, it's a good idea to pray about what you've read anyway.



Coming up in Issue 6...

Acts: Spread it!

We jump into the book of Acts to read its nail-biting final chapters.

We'll follow Paul as he travels by boat from Israel to Italy — via Malta! But this is no luxury Mediterranean cruise. There are shipwrecks, snake bites, a plot to murder Paul and an all-or-nothing trial in front of a very important king.

But despite all that, Paul doesn't stop telling people about Jesus — the good news is just too important to keep quiet! Reading Acts will help us carry on talking about Jesus too!

John: The real Jesus

You might have heard before that Jesus said He is “the light of the world” and “the good shepherd” — but did you know He also said that he is “the gate”?!

Sound strange? You can read it for yourself in John's Gospel.

John was one of Jesus' closest friends. In his book about Jesus, John tells us loads of amazing things Jesus did that show that He is God's Son.

But there were many people who didn't like the things that Jesus was saying or doing. Jump into John and find out what happened!

Exodus: God is great

We join the Israelites right after God has set them free from slavery in Egypt — but their adventure in the desert is only just beginning!

Time and time again the Israelites have to trust God to give them what they need: bread to eat, water to drink or a path through a mega-wide sea!

The Israelites are sloooooow learners, so make sure *you* get the message quickly: God is GREAT and there's nothing that He can't do!

James: Fantastic faith

James was Jesus' younger brother — but more importantly, he became a follower of Jesus too (that's got to be one special big brother, right?!).

After Jesus died, rose again and went back to heaven, James became one of the leaders of the early church. He wrote a fantastic letter to Jewish Christians around the world. It's recorded in our Bibles today in a book called... James!

James wants to tell readers how their faith in Jesus should be obvious in everything they do — from how they respond to hard times, to how they spend their money. So there's loads for us to learn from this letter too!

**Can't wait to get started?
Then step right in...**

Acts: Spread it!

Acts 19 v 1-7



Let's get stuck into the book of Acts. People like Paul have been travelling around telling people about Jesus, and loads of them are becoming Christians! But now there's a problem.

But first, imagine this...

WEIRD WORDS

Apollos

A guy who was great at telling people about Jesus!

Interior

Inland, not by the coast

Mel is all alone in the desert. She's had no water for 2 days.

Suddenly, she sees a lake in the distance and runs as fast as she can towards it. She dives in and...

...gets a mouthful of sand. Ugh!

The lake was just a mirage. It **looked** like water, but it wasn't water at all.

Read Acts 19 v 1-4

These people looked like Christians, but didn't follow Jesus Christ at all.

What was missing?

1. Belief in J _ _ _ _ (v4)

2. Receiving the H _ _ _

S _ _ _ _ (v2)

Here's what some of those tricky phrases mean.

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God. When Jesus went back to heaven, He gave His Spirit to live in the lives of all believers. This Holy Spirit helps Christians to live for God.

John's baptism

John told people they needed to stop disobeying God. He told them that Jesus was coming to save them. But these people didn't know that Jesus had died to rescue them.

Repentance

Turning away from all the wrong stuff we do, and living for God instead.



They wanted to please God, but they weren't following Jesus.

Once Paul told them all about Jesus, they were quick to put that right!

Read verses 5-7

Spoke in tongues

God made them able to speak different languages.

Propesied

Told the people God's message to them.

When they put their trust in Jesus, they (like all Christians) received the **Holy Spirit** to help them become more like Jesus. In this case, there were special signs (v6) to prove it.

Wow!



We can't please God by ourselves. We need Jesus to save us from our sinful ways. And the Holy Spirit to help us serve God. If you're a Christian, you have both of these things! Say thank you!

Keep talking

Acts
19 v 8-10

- A ●—
- B ●—●●
- D ●—●
- E ●
- F ●—●●
- H ●●●●
- I ●●
- L ●—●●
- M —
- N ●—
- O —
- R ●—●
- S ●●●
- T —
- U ●—●
- V ●●—
- W ●—
- Y ●—

All of today's answers are in morse code.

Read Acts 19 v 8-10

How long did Paul spend preaching in the synagogue? (v8)

— — — — —
- / ●●●● / ●— / ● / ●

— — — — —
— / — / —● / — / ●●●● / ●●

How did some of the people react? (v9)

— — — — —
●—● / ● / ●●—● / ●— / ●●●● / ● / —●●
to

— — — — —
—●●● / ● / ●—●● / ●● / ● / ●●— / ●

How long did Paul stay in Ephesus? (v10)

— — — — —
- / ●— / —

— — — — —
—●— / ● / ●— / ●—● / ●●

Some people have heard the truth about Jesus so many times they become hardened against it.



Not again! He's always jabbering about Jesus. I wish he'd just zip it!



I'd stop going to church if my parents didn't make me go.

But look at verse 10. Even though many people rejected the truth about Jesus...

— — — — —
● / ●●— / ● / ●— / ●— / — / — / ● / ●

in the area of

— — — — — **heard it!**
●— / ●●● / ●● / ●—



Think!

Has everyone YOU know heard about Jesus?

What will you do about it?



Pray!

Ask God to reach everyone you know with the good news about Jesus. Ask Him to help you tell your friends and family about Jesus.

WEIRD WORDS

Obstinate

Hardened, not persuaded by any argument

Maligned

Said bad, misleading things

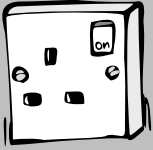
The Way

Another name for Christianity

Power point

Acts

19 v 11-22



Today we're looking at Jesus' power in our lives.

Are you a powerhouse for God or are you suffering a power failure?

WEIRD WORDS

Invoke

Call on for help

Sorcery

Evil magic

Fifty thousand drachmas

Loads of money!
One drachma was a day's pay, so imagine 50,000!

Read Acts 19 v 11-16

These seven guys tried to use Jesus' power to beat the devil but they hadn't turned to Jesus, so they had no power. They couldn't call on Him for help. It's like trying to use a kettle with nowhere to plug it in! They were doing what they'd seen others do, but there was no power.

Wow!

Christians have the Holy Spirit with them, helping them live for God. It's not about saying the right words. It's about letting God work in your life.



The story spread like wildfire. And it changed people's lives in three ways.

Read verses 17-22

1. Praising Jesus (v17)

The people realised that only Jesus had control over evil spirits, so they praised Him.

You've read all about how powerful Jesus is. Do you thank and praise Jesus for being so powerful?



2. Confessing sin (v18)

They realised they'd been doing wrong and had disobeyed Jesus.

When you do wrong, do you own up and say sorry to God?

3. Drastic action (v19)

They got rid of stuff connected with their wrong ways. This showed they really had turned away from their sin. When someone becomes a Christian, it means making changes. Turning away from your old sinful ways.



Action!

What things in your room go against the lifestyle Jesus calls His followers to live?

What do you need to stop doing, reading, or listening to?

Write it down on spare paper and then stop doing it!

Pray!



1. Thank Jesus for being far more powerful than the devil!
2. Say sorry to Him for the times you've let Him down.
3. Ask God to help you get rid of stuff that causes you to sin.
And make sure you do it!

Riot and wrong



Acts 19 v 23-41



Read Acts 19 v 23-34

These men hated Paul and his friends! Many people were turning to Jesus. This worried Demetrius and the craftsmen, as they thought people would stop buying their statues of false gods (like Artemis). They would lose money.

Demetrius knew that when people became Christians, it meant **change**.

Think!

What changes did you write down yesterday? How will they affect other people? Have you done any of them yet?



Read verses 35-41

God used the city clerk to stop the riot and rescue the Christians Gaius and Aristarchus. The city clerk was probably a friend of the rioters, but that didn't stop God using him to help God's people.

Wow!

God can use the most unlikely people to carry out His plans. We sometimes think that God can't possibly change situations. But there are no obstacles He can't overcome!

Action!

Write down the names of people you would like to get to know Jesus and become Christians.



WEIRD WORDS

The Way
Christianity

Silversmith
Someone who makes things using silver

Shrines
Things used in worshipping false gods

Discredited
Thought badly of

In unison
All together

Clerk
Secretary (an important man in the city)

Blasphemed
Said bad things about

Proconsuls
Judges

Pray!



God can use ANYONE to serve Him, whatever they are like! Ask Him to save these people from their sins, so they start living God's way, serving Him with their lives.

Deadly snooze

Acts
20 v 1-12



Ever been in church and the preacher seems to be going on for hours?

You feel yourself dropping off.

Suddenly you wake up and hope no one noticed!

Today we'll read about someone who had the same problem. But first, Paul has some more travelling to do.

Read Acts 20 v 1-6

Some tricky names there!
What's your fave one?

Time to meet snoozing Eutychus.

Read verses 7-9

What a nightmare! He dozed off to sleep and fell out of the window to his death! But God had other plans for Eutychus...

Read verses 10-12

Jesus' power working through Paul brought Eutychus back to life. How amazing is that??!



Wow!

No one knows when they are going to die. There's only one way to be ready. To trust in Jesus' death to put us right with God.

Christians don't know when their death will come. But they do know that it won't separate them from Jesus, who died in their place and has complete power over life and death.



*Fill in the vowels to complete what Paul said in **Romans 6 v 23**.*

Th_ w_g_s _f s_n
_s d__th, b_t th_
g_ft _f G_d
_s _t_rn_l_l_f_
_n Chr_st J_s_s
__r L_r_d

We don't know why God chose to bring Eutychus back to life, or what Eutychus did afterwards. But if you're a Christian, God has given life to you too.

Think & pray!

How are you going to use that life for God? If you mean it, spend time right now asking God to use the rest of your life on earth to please Him.

WEIRD WORDS

Festival of Unleavened Bread

A week-long feast celebrating what God had done for His people

Break bread

When Christians eat bread to remember Jesus died for them

Acts 20 v 13-21



Paul and his friends are on the move again, telling everyone they meet about Jesus.

WEIRD WORDS

Pentecost

Special feast to thank God for the harvest

Elders

Leaders

Humility

Putting other people first

Repentance

Turning away from sin and living more and more for God

Follow the leader



Read Acts 20 v 13-16

following Paul's route on the map.

Ryan is a total
\$\$\$*@\$**!!

Where did you hear
that horrible word??

Charlotte says it
all the time.

We all follow other people's examples, and not always the best ones! Paul knew this. And he wanted these church leaders to follow his **good example**.

Read verses 17-21

and fill in the missing letters.

Paul served the Lord with
great humil²__ty and with
__³ears (v19).

Do you do what you can to serve God, even when it hurts?

He taught them for hours
both p⁶__bly and in their
__⁴ouses (v20).

Are you willing to give up your time to help other Christians?

He told everyone that their
great need was repent¹__nce
(turning away from sin) and
__⁵aith in our __⁷ord Jesus
(v21).

Do you take every opportunity to tell people about Jesus?

Use the letters you filled in earlier to form a word that describes Paul's life.

f _ _ _ _ _
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

That means that Paul lived his life for God. He tried to serve God in everything he did.

Pray!



Ask God to help you become more faithful to Him, serving Him in everything you do.

First things first

Acts
20 v 22-27

Read Acts 20 v 22-27

Now find the verse that matches each sentence on the right. Copy each sentence and its 3 letters into the correct box.

No. 1

WEIRD WORDS

Compelled

Commanded

The Spirit

The Helper who God has given to all Christians

Testifying

Giving evidence

Good news of God's grace

The great news that God sent His Son Jesus to rescue us from sin even though we don't deserve it

The kingdom

Living with God as King of your life

Will of God

What God wants us to do

v22				...because I have not hesitated to tell you God's truth	S S T
v23				The Holy Spirit keeps warning me that I'll suffer	E O I
v24				I don't know what will happen to me in Jerusalem	J C F
v26				No one can blame me if they refuse to live God's way	U E S
v27				I don't mind suffering as long as I finish the work Jesus gave me — telling people about Him	S M R

You should have made 3 words reading down the 3 columns. What are they?



Pray!



Does Jesus come first in your life? Ask God to help you to always put Him first in everything you do (and think and say).

Wolfwatch

Acts 20 v 28-38



WEIRD WORDS

Savage

Wild and vicious

Distort

Twist the true meaning

Word of his grace

The great truth about God sending Jesus to rescue us

Inheritance

The amazing things God gives Christians

Sanctified

Set apart to serve God

Coveted

Wanted other people's stuff

Grieved

Upset

Read Acts 20 v 28-31

Paul compared the church leaders to shepherds. They had to look after their flocks (people in their churches).

Find two dangers that Paul warns of in v29 and 30.

1. _____
will come among you

2. Men will rise up and

There are still false teachers around. Watch out for them!

Find two tactics for dealing with false teachers (v31).

1. Be on your g _____

2. R _____ God's
warnings

Watch out for false teachers. Check anything you're unsure about with the Bible and with other Christians.



Read verse 32

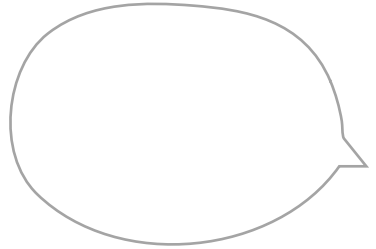
Here's what Paul is saying...

I'm going now, but I'll pray that our great God will look after you. God's Word (the Bible) can make you into what He wants you to be and give you everything you could need!

Read verses 33-38

Work hard for those weaker than you

And don't think you can get out of it!!! *What did Jesus say (v35)?*



What has God given **you**? Time? Money? Abilities? How can you give these things to others?



Action!

On scrap paper, write a list of things you can do for God and His people, especially those worse off than you. Stick it on your wall and make sure you do them! Ask God to help you.

John: The real Jesus

John
7 v 1-13



John was one of Jesus' closest friends.

In his book about Jesus, John tells us loads of amazing things Jesus did that show He is God's Son.

Let's jump into John's book...

WEIRD WORDS

Festival of Tabernacles

Jewish feast thanking God for the harvest

Disciples

Followers

Works

Miracles

Testify

Give evidence

In Judea, Jesus was a wanted man! He was fairly safe while He stayed in Galilee, but the Jewish leaders in Judea were out to get Him as soon as He arrived there.

Read John 7 v 1-5

Fill in the missing vowels (aeiou) to show what Jesus' brothers wanted Him to do.

G__ to J__d__
so that your d__sc__pl__s
may see the w__rks you do
(v3). Sh__w y__rs__lf
to the w__rld (v3-4).

They didn't really believe that Jesus was God's Son. And they couldn't understand why He wanted to keep a low profile.

Read verses 6-9

How did Jesus answer them (v6)?

My t__m__s
n__t y__t h__r__ (v6).

Jesus came to earth to **die** on the cross, to rescue people from their sins. But it wasn't time for His death yet. It wasn't time to walk into the traps of His killers.

Why did so many people hate Jesus (v7)?

The world h__t__s m__

b__c__s__

I testify that its ways
are __v__l.

Wow!

Many people still won't have anything to do with Jesus. They don't like hearing that they do wrong things and need forgiveness from God.



Read verses 10-13

Jesus did sneak to the feast. He heard what people thought about Him. They didn't really know who He was.

Pray!

Pray for friends and family who don't really know who Jesus is, or won't have anything to do with Him. Ask God to open their eyes so they can see who Jesus really is — God's Son.

