

# A Survey of the Book of Acts, With a Few Side Trips

*SFCA Senior Bible, 2023-2024 Academic Year*

Pastor Russell S. Howard and Mrs. Rios

*Second Period, Fellowship Hall*

SFCA, a ministry of McGregor Baptist Church, will partner with Christian parents in providing their children with a distinctively biblical and academically excellent education that will equip students to be godly leaders and to successfully engage the culture for Christ.

This course is a verse-by-verse survey of the Book of Acts examining the triumphs, trials, and travels of the early church as the Gospel is carried, to “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Special attention will be paid to the forensic/apologetic character of the work, the functional ecclesiology of the early church, and the passionate pursuit of the global missionary imperative given by Christ to the church. As we reach the points in Acts where given NT Epistles were written, we may be taking “side trips” into the study of some of those Epistles.

## The Instructor:

Russell S. Howard, MDiv., has served the McGregor Baptist Church for the last 21 years and has been the Lead Pastor of the church since early 2017. Pastor Howard is a veteran of many mission teams, work teams, and overseas teaching trips to destinations in Central America, the Caribbean basin, South America, Western Europe (including England, Germany, Austria, and Italy), Eastern Europe (including Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary), the Eastern Mediterranean (including Greece, Turkey, and Israel), South Asia, and Africa, as well as 35+ years of local church Pastoral leadership. He and his wife of 40 years, Gail, have two adult sons, both of whom graduated from SFCA. Philip, his older son, is married to Gabrielle, and Kyle, his younger son, and his wife, Avery, are the parents of his two grandchildren, Levi and Reese Howard.

## The Textbooks:

*The English Standard Version* text of the book of Acts is our biblical source. There is **high value** attached to the students having this text in front of them **every time the class meets**. Many participants in the class, including the Instructor, have found that a print-out text derived from [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) is an economical and “notebook friendly” way to acquire the scriptural text of Acts.

Students will also be provided a copy of Kevin DeYoung's *Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will*, which will be taught during the first semester as a supplement to our survey of Acts.

**Note On Technology:** You are **NOT** permitted to have a laptop or other device in this class. Cell phones and tablets are, likewise, not permitted.

## Other Supplies:

**A notebook** (the Student will be taking **extensive** notes in class). The notebook is for the student's use, not mine. Thus, whatever form of notebook the student is most comfortable using (spiral, looseleaf, legal pad, etc.) is perfectly permissible.

**A highlighter** (for marking Bible passages) and **A blue or black pen**

## Course Expectations:

That each student would (1) see himself or herself as an active participant in the 2,000 year unfolding of the church and its chief priority: Great Commission and (2) gain greater grounding in that perspective by a thorough examination of the church's early history and Apostolic teaching.

## **The Grading:**

### **10% Service**

Five service hours are due in the first quarter. This expands to six hours in the second quarter and seven hours in each of the third and fourth quarters. HS Students must submit their service hours on the link provided in Canvas for their Bible class. Submissions must be made by the due date to earn credit. Hours must be from unpaid service performed beyond your own family beginning no earlier than May 2021 to present. The Due Dates for the four quarters are Oct 6, Dec 15, Mar 4, and May 3.

This current-year Bible requirement must be met even if a student has already met the Graduation Service requirement from service in previous years. Excess hours recorded in any quarter will carry over to the next quarter's requirement. House chores, yard work at home, and parent or relatives' signatures do *not* count!

### **20% Paper**

Each nine weeks, a significant outside writing assignment will be given, either research or compositional in character. This paper will be graded on both form and content.

### **15% Reading/Homework**

This grade will be based on reading-related quizzes.

### **10% In Class Participation**

This grade will be assigned based on the Instructor's personal evaluation of in-class "engagement" (active listening, questions, discussion participation and the like).

### **45% Major Tests**

15% of each Quarter's grade will be determined by the Student's performance on each of three major tests.

**In terms of classroom conduct expectations**, many of you will be in college next year. My expectations will be similar to those that you will encounter in college. I place an extraordinarily high value on mutually respectful decorum. I neither anticipate nor tolerate problems. I'll follow school policy on how I handle any difficulties that arise, but, again, I anticipate no difficulties.

### **Some Specific Expectations:**

- It is expected that every student will conduct himself in an orderly, courteous manner at all times with prompt and respectful obedience to all school personnel, following all adult direction without comment. If a student questions a teacher's decision, he/she should speak to the teacher privately after class. At that time, he/she should respectfully explain the situation and wait for the teacher's response.
- It is expected that every student will respect the feelings and rights of others. This includes students, teachers and visitors.
- It is expected that every student will conduct himself in an honest manner, avoiding such actions as lying, stealing and cheating.
- It is expected that every student will be on time to each class and be prepared with a proper mental attitude and all their necessary materials, books and assigned work.
- It is expected that every student understands that the teacher's desk, computer, and other personal belongings and work area is personal property and will be treated as such.

- It is expected that every student will remain in compliance with the classroom teacher's rules, policies and procedures.

Minor student disruptions will be dealt with following the secondary 4-step discipline plan.

- The student will receive a verbal warning the first time.
- The student will receive a written warning the second time that will be sent home to the parents via FACTS and a conference may be requested.
- The teacher will assign a penalty to the student in the form of a detention, written assignment, or other discipline deemed appropriate if there is a third occurrence of discipline issues.
- The teacher will refer the student to the Administration if a fourth incident arises.

SFCA Policy will be followed in matters of student absences and such.

I am not difficult to reach. The best means to do so is via my email address, which is [Russell.Howard@mcgregor.net](mailto:Russell.Howard@mcgregor.net). Alternatively, my office phone number is 239-689-2560.

Please sign below and have your parents/guardians do likewise, and get this back to me by Monday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. Your signature is your agreement that you have read and understood this syllabus.

Your signature and today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Neatly print your name: \_\_\_\_\_

You parent/guardian's signature and today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

As the year progresses, you can keep up with assignments, grades, and other information via your access to Canvas