

Theme: This series looks at the growth of the early church in the book of Acts, giving an overview of the characteristics of a thriving, ever growing Church. This not only helps us understand how the early church went from a small band of fearful disciples to a worldwide movement full of the Spirit's power in a few short decades, but also gives principles for growing thriving churches in our own day as well.

I. A Thriving Mission

- A. Theme: A thriving, growing church understands that our mission propels us into all the world - from our local area to the farthest corners of the globe.
- B. Text: Acts 1:6-8
- C. Response: Prayer
- D. Benediction: Psalm 67:1-2

II. A Thriving Power

- A. Theme: A thriving church must be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to know and accomplish God's call.
- B. Text: Acts 2:1-12
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Acts 28:30-31

III. A Thriving Life of Prayer

- A. Theme: A thriving, growing church is fueled by a life of prayer, enjoying communion with God, and crying out for Him to work in their midst.
- B. Text: Acts 1:12-14; 4:23-31
- C. Response: Prayer
- D. Benediction: Deuteronomy 1:11

IV. A Thriving Spirituality

- A. Theme: A look at means of grace in the early church
- B. Text: Acts 2:36-42
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction:

V. A Thriving Community

- A. Theme: A thriving church is a true community, centered on Christ, awed God's power, showing practical love, living life together, and experiencing God's favor.
- B. Text: Acts 2:42-47
- C. Response: Water Baptism
- D. Benediction: Numbers 6:24-26

VI. Thriving By the Power of the Gospel

- A. Theme: The Church exists because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And, the primary means by which it continues to thrive is the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- B. Text: Acts 4:1-12
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction:

vii. A Thriving Union

- A. Theme: As Paul learned on the road to Damascus, we thrive not through our own righteousness, but because we have a vital unity with Christ and His Church.
- B. Text: Acts 9:1-6 (also 11:27-30)
- C. Response: Prayer
- D. Benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:14

viii. A Thriving Outreach: God, Gentiles, Going

- A. Theme: A look at the outreach of the church to Gentiles.
- B. Text: Acts 10:30-35; 39-48a
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Psalm 67:1-2

ix. A Thriving Growth

- A. Theme: Luke describes the early church as thriving with continuous growth as it is strengthened by the Spirit through the means of grace to fulfill the Great Commission - even in the face of severe opposition.
- B. Text: Acts 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Deuteronomy 1:11

x. Thriving Through Persecution

- A. Theme: God is on a mission to glorify the name of His Son, Jesus. There are times that God has chosen to use persecution to ensure that the gospel of His Son goes forth and that His Church thrives.
- B. Text: Acts 8:1-8
- C. Response: Prayer
- D. Benediction: 1 Timothy 6:15-16

xi. A Thriving Future

- A. Theme: The book of Acts closes with a bold, unhindered proclamation of the Gospel - in spite of all the oppositions of Satan and the world - which guarantees a glorious thriving future for the Church and the kingdom of God.
- B. Text: Acts 28:30-31
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Genesis 12:2-3

Thrive - The Early Church Grows - Series Outline
Acts