SUBJECT: C. R. S

CLASS: J.S 3

INSTRUCTION: COPY INSIDE YOUR NOTE

**FIRST TERM 2021/2022 SCHEME OF WORK**

Week 1: Introduction to the book of Acts.

Week 2: The beginning of the Church.

Week3: The Pentecost day.

Week4: Fellowship in the early Church.

Week5: Problems in the early Church.

Week6: Opposition to the gospel message.

Week7: Opposition to the gospel message continues

Week8: The ministry of Peter.

Week9: The ministry of Peter.

**TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ACTS**

The book of acts is one of the books of the Bible found in the New Testament. It was written by Apostle Luke, the author of the gospel of Luke to a recipient called ‘Theophilus’ Acts of the apostles simply means the activities or deeds and actions of the disciples of Jesus during their earthly ministry after Jesus had gone back to heaven.

**The contents of the book of Acts [Acts 1:1-26]**

The book of Acts contains the activities of Jesus and his disciple from his resurrection and ascension as well as the works of the disciples after Jesus has ascended into heaven. The book also centers on the promise of the Holy spirit, how it came down on the apostles and how they were able to carry out the GREAT COMMISSION given to them by Jesus.

**THE BOOK OF ACTS AS A CONTINUATION OF THE BOOK OF LUKE**

The book of Acts of the Apostles is the continuation of the book/gospel of Luke because it started from where the gospel of Luke stopped that is, ascension of Jesus. It tells us about the coming of the Holy spirit, how it came down on the apostles and how the holy spirit used them to bring the power of God into manifestation and that is why it is called the **‘SPIRIT WORKSHOP’** Hence it marks the beginning of the glorious Church.

**SIGNIFICANCE** **AND** **MORAL LESSONS**

1. The gospel of Luke and the book of Acts of the Apostles were written by Saint Luke.
2. The book of Acts was written to Theophilus.
3. The book of Acts is a continuation of the gospel of Luke.
4. The gospel of Luke centers more on Jesus while the book of Acts centers on the works of the Apostles.

**TOPIC: THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH**

**The Personality of the Holy Spirit**

One of the attributes of God is that God is Trinitarian which means that there are three persons in one God. Which include God the father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the trinity. Other names of the Holy Spirit are; the counselor, the paraclete, comforter, helper, teacher, guardian, senior partner etc. Holy is important in the life of a man especially Christians because He helps us to do what ordinarily we cannot do on our own. Jesus was able to carry out his work on earth through the power of the Holy Spirit. Since he knows the importance of the Holy Spirit to man, He promised same to his disciples even before He was crucified.

**THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**[Joel 2: 28-29, Luke 24: 49]**

God the father in different places in the Bible promised to send the Holy Spirit upon His people for example, in the book of Joel he said;

“Afterwards, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,

Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message,

Your old men will dream dreams and your young men

will see visions. At that time, I will pour out my spirit

even upon maid and male servants”

Jesus during his own time also promised to send the Holy spirit upon his disciples when he said in the gospel of Luke said;

“And I will send upon you what my father has promised;

But you must wait in Jerusalem until the power comes

Down upon you from above”

Jesus also told his disciples that he pray to his father to give them another comforter who will abide with them forever and here he was referring to the Holy spirit. He re-affirmed the promise of the Holy Spirit when he resurrected. Before his ascension he told them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:13.

**WORKS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The following are the works or functions of the Holy Spirit;

1. Holy Spirit teaches us all secret about God.
2. He gives courage and boldness to face opposition to the gospel.
3. He counsels us in our daily activities.
4. He comforts us as Christians when we are passing through trial.
5. He guides us to all truth and knowledge, so that we don’t enter into danger.
6. He helps us in our weakness.
7. He gives us strength to work for God.

**TOPIC: THE PENTECOST DAY [ACTS 2: 1-13]**

**DEFINITION:** The word Pentecost can be defined as an agricultural feast of the Jews celebrated fifty [50] days after Passover. It is also known as the feast of wheat.

When the time came for the promise of the Holy Spirit to be fulfilled, the disciples were all gathered in the upper room and suddenly a sound came from heaven like a mighty rushing wind and filled the room in which they were. Then appeared and rested on their heads like tongues of flame of fire and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Immediately, they started speaking in other tongues {languages} as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance.

The people that came to Jerusalem for feast of Pentecost saw what was happening that the disciples were speaking in their own native languages, and they said in amazement.

“Are these men not Galileans, how come they

Are speaking our own native languages?”

They however, mocked them and concluded that they were drunk.

**PETER’S SPEECH ON THE PENTECOST DAY**

**[ACTS 2: 14-41]**

Peter as the head of the apostles stood up and told the people that they were not drunk as it was only 9 o’clock or 3rd hour in the morning. He further explained to them that what they were seeing was the fulfillment of God’s promise to pour out His Spirit on all flesh on the last day, he quoted the book Joel 2: 28-29.

Peter continued his speech by telling the multitude about Jesus whom they have killed and whom God raised from dead. As the people listened to him, they became converted, and they asked him what they should do. He then told to repent of their sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus so that they will receive God’s gift of the Holy Spirit.

Following Peter’s speech that day, three thousand [3000] men were converted and added to the Church. Hence the number grew from 120 to 3000.

**THE EFFECTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE APOSTLES**

The effects of the Holy Spirit on the apostles were clearly seen in the way they operated. He gave them the following.

1. The Holy Spirit gave them courage.
2. He gave them wisdom.
3. He gave them the power to work signs and wonders.
4. He gave utterances and interpretation.
5. He gave them boldness.
6. Holy Spirit gave them strength.
7. He gave them power of unity.

**TOPIC: FELLOWSHIP IN THE EARLY CHURCH**

**Sub-topic: Healing of the cripple at the gate of the temple**

**[Acts 3:1-10]**

The disciples healed many sick people and among them is the leman at the beautiful gate of the temple and here is the account.

Peter and John were going to the temple to pray at the ninth [9th] hour [3’oclock] and they saw a cripple sitting down at the entrance of the gate begging for money. When he saw Peter about to enter the temple, he expected alms from them, but Peter looked straight at him and said;

“I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have;

In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, walk”

He stretched out his right hand and raise him up and he stood on his feet leaping and praising God, he entered the temple with them. When the people saw him, they were greatly amazed of what had happened to the man.

**FELLOWSHIP IN THE EARLY CHURCH [ACTS 2: 41- 47}**

The early Church refers as be Church of disciples of Jesus. They include the twelve apostles, one hundred and twenty disciples and the new converts that joined them as a result of preaching.

Fellowship, however, is the feeling of togetherness among the people with common interest. The members of the early Church fellowshipped together virtually in all aspects of their lives irrespective of the diversity in their tribe, language and background.

Fellowship and togetherness in the early Church are manifested in the following ways;

1. They prayed together.
2. They ate together.
3. They had a common purse.
4. They had a strong love for one another.

**MORAL LESSONS FROM THE HEALING OF THE CRIPPLE**

1. The of Jesus is above sickness and disease.
2. Faith is required for healing to take place.
3. We learnt that there is healing power in the name of Jesus.

**TOPIC: PROBLEMS IN THE EARLY CHURCH**

**[Acts 5: 1-11]**

**Definition:** fraud can be defined as the crime of cheating somebody in order to get money or goods illegally. While murmuring is the act of complaining in a low voice about somebody or something.

In the days of early church, fraud was committed by a couple named Ananias and Sapphira. They sold a portion of their land and kept back some part of the money and brought the remaining part to the apostles as if it was all that they realized. Peter then said to Ananias;

“Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy

Spirit, and to keep back some part of the proceeds

From the land? Before was it not yours? And after

It was sold was it not at your disposal? Why have you

Conceived this evil in your heart? You have not lied

To man but to the Holy Spirit”

When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. The young men bound him up and went to bury him. After three hours Sapphira came in not knowing what had happened. Then Peter asked her if the money they presented to the Church was the actual amount they realized from the land and she said yes. Then Peter asked why they both have agreed to tempt the Holy Spirit and he told her that the feet of those who went to bury the husband is at the door to also carry her and immediately, she fell down and died and the young men also carried her and buried her by her husband.

The news of this incident brought great fear upon the Church.

**MURMURING IN THE EARLY CHURCH**

**[ACTS 6:1-7]**

As the number of the disciples increased, The Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews for discriminating or neglecting their widows in the daily distribution of food. When the eleven apostles heard about the murmuring, they called all the disciples together and told them that it was not good for them to leave the gospel work in order to serve table. They advised the disciples to choose from among them competent men full of the Holy Spirit so that they can handle the daily distribution while they concern themselves with preaching of the word.

**SELECTION OF DEACONS**

The following are the names of the seven deacons:

1. Stephen
2. Philip
3. Prochorus
4. Nicanor
5. Trimon
6. Parmonas
7. Nicolas

**QUALITIES OF A GOOD DEACON**

The following are qualities of a good deacon:

1. He must have a good character.
2. He must be honest.
3. He must not be a drunkard.
4. He must not be greedy.
5. He should marry only one wife.
6. He should be to manage his wife and children.

**MORAL LESSONS**

1. We should avoid murmuring because it brings about chaos and disunity.
2. The apostles prayed and laid hand on the seven deacons before they started ministering.
3. We should always pray and commit our ways into God’s hands.
4. We should avoid discrimination.
5. As leaders, we should have listening ear always and consider the complaints of our followers.

**TOPIC: OPPOSITION TO THE GOSPEL**

DEFINITION: Opposition can be defined as the act of disagreeing with somebody about something from happening.

**Types of opposition**

The following are the types of opposition

1. Arrest
2. Death
3. Blackmailing
4. Protest
5. Persecution Conspiracy

**OPPOSITIONS IN THE EARLY CHURCH**

There are various oppositions encountered by the early Church;

1. Arrest of Peter and John.
2. Arrest and martyrdom of Stephen.
3. Persecution of the church by Saul.
4. Martyrdom of James.
5. Arrest of Peter.
6. Arrest of the whole apostles.

**ARREST OF PETER AND JOHN**

Following the miracle of Peter and John at the beautiful gate, the people gathered around the disciples in great amazement. Then Peter used the opportunity and started preaching to the crowd concerning Jesus who they crucified, died and resurrected was indeed the Messiah whom God had sent to deliver them. He told them that the promises God made to Abraham and His prophets can only be fulfilled in their lives if they repent of their sins.

As Peter John were still speaking to the people when some priests, captain of the temple guards and some Sadducees came upon them and arrested them and preaching about the resurrection of Jesus which they didn’t agree with.

**THE ARREST AND MARTYRDOM OF STEPHEN**

**[ACTS 6:8-15, 7:1-60]**

Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit and was successful in all he did among the disciples. He worked great signs and wonders among the people and this made the Jews who could not withstand or outwit him in wisdom to frame up or level false accusation against him. They accused him of speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God. As a result of this, he was arrested and was dragged before the council where they further accused him of speaking against the temple and the law. The elders and the scribe on hearing this asked him if it was true. Stephen in his defense gave the elders and the scribe the history of their origin and relationship with God starting from Abraham to that day and he made it clear to them that they were stubborn and stiff-necked people who are never tired of killing the prophets of God. When they heard these words, they were enraged and ground their teeth against Stephen. But Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit and gazed into heaven and said;

“Behold! I see heaven open and the son of man

Standing at the right – hand side of God “

Following the above statement, they became very angry and sized him, cast him out of the city and stand him but before he died, he prayed to God saying;

“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”

He knelt down and cried out in a loud voice;

“Lord! Do not remember this sin against them”

Saul also known as Paul was the ringleader of those who killed Stephen. Hence Stephen was the first martyr of the Church.

**SIGNIFICANCE AND MORAL LESSON**

1. We should always forgive those who offended us.
2. We should pray for our enemies.
3. We should not retaliate or avenge any offence against us.

**TOPIC: OPPOSITION TO THE GOSPEL**

**SUB-TOPIC: PERSECUTIONOF THE CHURCH [ACTS 8:1-3, 9:1-2]**

DEFINITION: Persecution can be defined as the unjust, cruel and unfair treatment given to people as a result of their race or belief.

After the death of Stephen, the Church experienced hard times and persecution which made the disciples to scatter throughout the region. Saul was ravaging the and arresting men and women who believe and threw them into prison.

As a result of this persecution by Saul, Philip went down to Samaria and preached Christ to them. Large number of Samaritans believed when they saw the signs performed by Philip.

Saul continued to threaten the believers to the extent that he went to the high priest and obtained a letter of permission to allow him to go to Damascus and arrest the believers and bring them into prison.

**CONVERSION OF SAUL [ACTS 9: 1-19]**

While Saul was on his way to Damascus to arrest the believers, suddenly, a light from heaven shone around him and he fell down and heard a voice saying “Saul Saul, why do you persecute me” And Saul said, who are you, Lord? And He said, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting” The voice then told him to go to Damascus, there he will be told what to do. Saul got up blinded and was led into the city by his travelling companions who heard the voice but did not see anyone. Saul was blind for three days and without food nor drink.

God then instructed Ananias to go to street called straight in the house of Judas and pray for Saul. Ananias objected but later went and laid hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord who appeared to you on the way has sent me so that you will regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit” Immediately, scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight.

**REACTION TO SAUL’S CONVERSION [ACTS 9: 20-30]**

As soon as Saul was baptized, his life changed, and he started preaching the gospel. This made his old companions and Jews plotted to kill him, so they watched the gate day and night to ensure he didn’t escape. When the brethren I Damascus heard about it, they lowered him over the wall in a basket at night and fled from Jerusalem and joined the disciples there. Then from Jerusalem he moved to Caeserea and finally he went to Tarsus his home town.

**MARTYRDOM OF JAMES [ACTS 12: 1-2]**

At that time, Herod the king laid a violent hand upon the members of the Church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword and when saw that it pleased the Jews, he also arrested Peter and put him in prison hoping to kill him later but God sent His angel to deliver Peter miraculously.

**PERTER’S RELEASE FROM PRISON [ACTS 12: 3-17]**

King Herod Peter and put him in prison waiting for trial but God sent His angel at night release him. The angel entered the cell and told Peter to rise up and dress up. Peter obeyed and the angel told him to follow him. Peter followed the angel who led him out of the prison without the notice of the guards watching him. The gate opened by itself, and the angel led into the city. Peter initially thought it was in dream but later found out it was a reality, and he went the house of Mary the mother of John Mark where the Church was praying earnestly for him. On getting there, he knocked, and a lady called Rhoda came to open the door but on realizing that it was Peter, she ran back and told them, but they said she was mad.

**THE DEATH OF HEROD**

Herod at that time was visited by the people of Trye and Sidon who depended on him for food. They came for a peace mission and Herod having put on his royal rope sat on his throne to deliver a powerful address to them. The people that the oration said that his voice is like the voice of God and not man. Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him with rod, and he was eaten up by worm and he died.

**SIGNIFICANCE AND MORAL LESSON**

1. We must fear God more than men so as to be able to obey Him in all circumstances.
2. We should not give up our faith like early disciples in the mist of opposition.
3. We should always defend Christianity as Paul defended the Jewish law.
4. We should not always condemn something we don’t understand as Paul did by condemning Christianity.
5. We should always listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as Peter did.
6. We should always pray over every problem we have as a group or individually.

**TOPIC: THE MINISTRY OF PETER**

Peter was the head of the apostles of Jesus Christ, and he did and performed many miracles in the course of his missionary journey among them are;

1. The healing of Aeneas
2. Raising of Dorcas from death
3. Peter’s encounter with Simon the magician.

**PETER’S ENCOUNTER WITH SIMON THE MAGICIAN**

**[ACTS 8:14-25]**

Simon was a magician who lived in Samaria and had performed so many wonders and claimed to be great to the extent that people started calling him “The great power”

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the Samaritans have received the gospel, they sent to them Peter and John who went and prayed with them received the Holy Spirit. When the magician saw that the Spirit was by laying on of hands of the apostles, he offered them money saying;

“Give this power to me too, so that anyone I place my hands on will receive the Holy Spirit”

But Peter rebuked him and said;

“Perish with your silver, you think you can obtain the gift of God with money, you have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your Heart is not right before God”

Peter further told him to repent of his wickedness pray that God would forgive evil intent of his heart. Then Simon pleaded with to Peter pray for him that all the evil he said will not happen to him.

**THE HEALING OF AENEAS [ACTS 9: 32-35]**

As Peter was going round the Churches, he came down also to Lydda, there he found a man called Aeneas who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralysed and peter said to him;

“Aeneas Jesus Christ heals you, Rise up and carry your bed”

Immediately, he rose and all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him and they turned to the Lord.

**RAISING OF DORCAS FROM DEATH [ACTS 9:36-42]**

At Joppa, there was a disciple named Dorcas which also means Tabitha. She was a widow full of generosity and good work. One day she fell sick and died and her body was washed and laid in an upper room waiting for burial. When the disciples heard that Peter was at Lydda which was not far from Joppa, they sent for him.

When Peter arrived, they took him to where they had laid Dorcas, and the widows surrounded her corpse crying. They showed all the garments that Dorcas made for them when she was alive. Peter made them to go outside, and he knelt down and prayed and said to her;

“Tabitha arise”

She opened her eyes and Peter held her by hands lifted her and handed her over to the Church / saints in Joppa alive. Many people believed because of this miracle and he stayed for many days with the disciples in Joppa.

**SIGNIFICANCE AND MORAL LESSON**

1. We should stop treading with the gift of God as Christians.
2. We should always rebuke all the people with evil intention in the Church.
3. There is power in the name of Jesus.
4. Faith is very necessary for healing to take place.
5. A miracle in the name of Jesus brings about soul winning.
6. Christians must learn to affect the life of their neighbor positively through kindness and generosity.
7. One good turn deserves another as it was in the case of Dorcas and the widows.

**TOPIC: THE MINISTRY OF PETER**

**SUB-TOPIC: CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS [ACTS 10:1-48]**

**DEFINITION:** Conversion is a change from one belief/faith/ religion to another. It could also means a change in one’s understanding and point of view about life. Cornelius was converted from Judaism to Christianity through his encounter with Peter.

**THE VISION OF CORNELIUS [ACTS 10: 1-48]**

At Caeserea, there was a man called Cornelius a centurion known as the Italian Regiment. He was a devoted man and his household feared God. He gave alms to the poor and prayer constantly to God. At about ninth hour of the day [3 o’clock], he saw a vision of an angel of God coming to him, he stared at him in terror and said “What is it Lord” The angel told him not to be afraid because his prayer and alms have ascended to God as a memorial. He then told him to send men to Joppa to bring a man called Simon Peter who was lodging with Simon the Tanner whose house was by the seaside. When the angel left, he called two of his servants and a devoted soldier and sent them to Joppa.

**PETER’S TRANCE AT JOPPA**

The next day at noon while the messengers were on their way to the city, Peter went up to the house top at the sixth hour [12noon] to pray. He became hungry but while the food was being prepared, he fell into trance and saw heaven opened and something like a great/large sheet descended from heaven to earth, in it were all kinds of animals, reptiles and birds of the air. Then a voice came from heaven to him saying;

“Peter, get up, kill and eat”

But Peter replied;

“No Lord, for I have never eaten

Anything common or unclean”

The voice repeated three times saying;

“What God has cleansed you shall

Not call common”

The sheet was taken up into heaven.

Peter was perplexed over the vision and as he was contemplating it, the messengers from Cornelius arrived at the gate of the house where Peter was. Then the Spirit of God said to Peter;

“Behold, three men are looking for

you go and see them”

Peter then went down and said to them;

“I am the one you are looking for

What is your reason for coming?”

They told Peter the mission and he accepted his quest.

**PETER IN CORNELIUS HOUSE**

The next day, Peter arose and went with the messengers from Joppa to Caeserea alongside with some brethren from Joppa. When Cornelius was Peter, he fell down and worshipped him, but Peter lifted him up saying;

“Stand up I am a man like you”

He demanded his reason for calling and Cornelius told him about his encounter with the angel. Following this Peter then told them how unlawful it is for a Jew to visit a Gentile, but he had learnt that God has no favourite. He also told them about his vision and preached the gospel to them. While Peter was still talking, the Holy Spirit came down on them and this greatly amazed the believers that that came with him that the Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles. Peter baptized Cornelius and his household together with the people that were there in the name of Jesus Christ. They then asked him to remain with them for some days.

**PETER DEFENDS HIS ACTION IN CORNELIUS HOUSE**

After Peter had obeyed God and converted Cornelius and his family, including other Gentiles, the apostles and Church members heard of it and felt so agitated that Peter visited the Gentiles. When Peter went to Jerusalem, they accused him of interacting and eating with the Gentiles or uncircumcised men. Peter then defended his action by telling them the circumstances that led to the conversion of Cornelius. He told them that he had no option but to obey those who taught him not to discriminate nor make distinctions among people.

Peter went on to explain to them that while he was still speaking the Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles, the way it fell on the apostles on the Pentecost day. He reminded them of the promise of God to baptize his people with Holy Spirit. When the disciples heard Peter’s defense, they glorified God for granting repentance to the Gentiles.

**SIGNIFICANCE AND MORAL LESSON**

1. God is not a respecter of any man.
2. Salvation in Christ is for all both Jews and Gentiles.
3. We should always listen and obey the instructions of the Holy Spirit.
4. We should not consider ourselves better than others in the sight of God.
5. God is not the God of the Jews alone but a universal God.
6. God is not the God of confusion.