

**Bible Challenge 2014**  
**Going Deeper – Questions for Readings**  
**Week 47**

**Who is Saul? What was so remarkable about his experience on the road to Damascus? How did that experience change him? How has that experience impacted both Christianity and the church? (Acts 9)**

**Why do you think the apostles were shocked when Peter told them about his experience with Cornelius? What was surprising and revelatory about this encounter? (Acts 10:1-11:18)**

**Why was James killed and Peter imprisoned by Herod? How was Peter freed from prison? What did this do to his faith and the faith of the other apostles? Why? (Acts 12)**

**What ministry were Paul (formerly Saul) and Barnabas commissioned to do starting in Antioch? How and why do you think this ministry became so successful? (Acts 13-14)**

**What was the issue of disagreement between Jesus' apostles and the Jewish council of elders in Jerusalem in Acts 15? How was this disagreement resolved? Why is Peter's statement in Acts 15:11 important in understanding the difference between Christian and Jewish theology?**

**Why do Paul and Barnabas eventually go their separate ways? Who joins Paul in his ministry to the gentiles (non-Jews)? How do Paul and Silas use their time in prison as an opportunity for evangelism in Acts 16? Were their efforts successful? Why or why not?**

**What does James mean when he says that, "Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."? (James 2:17) How has this theological statement impacted our understanding of Christian ministry both historically and today?**

**What does James mean when he says, “Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God”? (James 4:4) According to James, how then should we live our lives in order not to become a friend of the world?**

**What does James believe about the power of prayer? When, where, and for whom does he say we should pray? Why? (James 5:13-20)**

**What does Paul mean when he says, “We know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.”? (Galatians 2:16) How does this statement conflict with James’ understanding of faith and works?**

**According to Paul, what does it mean to be “justified”? How are we justified by faith? Why are we not justified by the Law of Moses? What is the purpose of the law? Who can become a child of God? How? (Galatians 2:15-3:29)**

**What does Paul say are the works of the flesh? What are the works of the Spirit? How are they in tension with one another? How can the works of the flesh be overcome by the works of the Spirit? (Galatians 5:16-26)**

**How does Paul end his letter to the Galatians? What does he encourage them to do? Why? (Galatians 6)**