WHAT DID THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH TEACH ABOUT JESUS?
(A Study in Acts)

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"KERYGMA"
PREACHING JESUS

Acts is the only book in the Bible that records the actual historical accounts of the beginnings of the first century church. The aim of the study is to find out what the apostles were teaching about Jesus and what the recipients of the message were being told to do in response. Hopefully by doing so there will emerge a clear pattern concerning the aforementioned questions.

Directions

In each passage from the book of Acts, check the boxes concerning what is being taught about the message of Jesus and what the people were being taught to do in response to that message. Note that in some cases there may not have been any instruction mentioned, but only inferred.

Acts 2:22-39
Peter's Presentation on Pentecost

What were they taught about Jesus?

☐ He performed miracles. vs. _____
☐ He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. _____
☐ He will judge mankind or the world. vs. _____
☐ He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. _____
☐ He died for the sins of mankind. vs. _____
☐ He ascended into heaven. vs. _____
☐ He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. _____
☐ He has a kingdom. vs. _____
What were they instructed to do in response?

- Believe vs. _____
- Invite Jesus into their heart vs. _____
- Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. _____
- Repent (change one’s heart) vs. _____
- Be sprinkled with water vs. _____
- Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. _____
- Keep the Ten Commandments vs. _____
- Live a godly life for Christ vs. _____
- Say a sinner’s prayer vs. _____
Acts 3:12-4:4
Peter's Presentation on Solomon's Porch

What were they taught about Jesus?

- He performed miracles. vs. ______
- He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. ______
- He will judge mankind or the world. vs. ______
- He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. ______
- He died for the sins of mankind. vs. ______
- He ascended into heaven. vs. ______
- He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. ______
- He has a kingdom. vs. ______

What were they instructed to do in response?

- Believe vs. ______
- Invite Jesus into their heart vs. ______
- Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. ______
- Repent (change one’s heart) vs. ______
- Be sprinkled with water vs. ______
- Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. ______
- Keep the Ten Commandments vs. ______
- Live a godly life for Christ vs. ______
- Say a sinner’s prayer vs. ______
Acts 4:8-12
Peter's Presentation to the High Priests

What were they taught about Jesus?

- He performed miracles. vs. ______
- He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. ______
- He will judge mankind or the world. vs. ______
- He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. ______
- He died for the sins of mankind. vs. ______
- He ascended into heaven. vs. ______
- He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. ______
- He has a kingdom. vs. ______

What were they instructed to do in response?

- Believe vs. ______
- Invite Jesus into their heart vs. ______
- Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. ______
- Repent (change one’s heart) vs. ______
- Be sprinkled with water vs. ______
- Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. ______
- Keep the Ten Commandments vs. ______
- Live a godly life for Christ vs. ______
- Say a sinner’s prayer vs. ______
Acts 5:28-32
Peter's Presentation to the Council

What were they taught about Jesus?

□ He performed miracles. vs. ______
□ He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. ______
□ He will judge mankind or the world. vs. ______
□ He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. ______
□ He died for the sins of mankind. vs. ______
□ He ascended into heaven. vs. ______
□ He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. ______
□ He has a kingdom. vs. ______

What were they instructed to do in response?

□ Believe vs. ______
□ Invite Jesus into their heart vs. ______
□ Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. ______
□ Repent (change one’s heart) vs. ______
□ Be sprinkled with water vs. ______
□ Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. ______
□ Keep the Ten Commandments vs. ______
□ Live a godly life for Christ vs. ______
□ Say a sinner’s prayer vs. ______
Acts—Preaching Christ

Acts 5:42
Apostles encounters from house to house

What were they taught about Jesus?

- He performed miracles. vs. ______
- He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. ______
- He will judge mankind or the world. vs. ______
- He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. ______
- He died for the sins of mankind. vs. ______
- He ascended into heaven. vs. ______
- He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. ______
- He has a kingdom. vs. ______

What were they instructed to do in response?

- Believe vs. ______
- Invite Jesus into their heart vs. ______
- Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. ______
- Repent (change one’s heart) vs. ______
- Be sprinkled with water vs. ______
- Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. ______
- Keep the Ten Commandments vs. ______
- Live a godly life for Christ vs. ______
- Say a sinner’s prayer vs. ______
Acts 8:4-13
The Conversion of the Samaritans

What were they taught about Jesus?

☐ He performed miracles. vs. _____
☐ He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. _____
☐ He will judge mankind or the world. vs. _____
☐ He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. _____
☐ He died for the sins of mankind. vs. _____
☐ He ascended into heaven. vs. _____
☐ He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. _____
☐ He has a kingdom. vs. _____

What were they instructed to do in response?

☐ Believe vs. _____
☐ Invite Jesus into their heart vs. _____
☐ Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. _____
☐ Repent (change one’s heart) vs. _____
☐ Be sprinkled with water vs. _____
☐ Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. _____
☐ Keep the Ten Commandments vs. _____
☐ Live a godly life for Christ vs. _____
☐ Say a sinner’s prayer vs. _____
Acts 8:26-39
The Conversion of the Eunuch

What were they taught about Jesus?
- He performed miracles. vs. _____
- He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. _____
- He will judge mankind or the world. vs. _____
- He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. _____
- He died for the sins of mankind. vs. _____
- He ascended into heaven. vs. _____
- He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. _____
- He has a kingdom. vs. _____

What were they instructed to do in response?
- Believe vs. _____
- Invite Jesus into their heart vs. _____
- Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. _____
- Repent (change one’s heart) vs. _____
- Be sprinkled with water vs. _____
- Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. _____
- Keep the Ten Commandments vs. _____
- Live a godly life for Christ vs. _____
- Say a sinner’s prayer vs. _____
Acts 9:1-22; 22:3-16
The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus

What were they taught about Jesus?

☐ He performed miracles. vs. ______

☐ He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. ______

☐ He will judge mankind or the world. vs. ______

☐ He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. ______

☐ He died for the sins of mankind. vs. ______

☐ He ascended into heaven. vs. ______

☐ He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. ______

☐ He has a kingdom. vs. ______

What were they instructed to do in response?

☐ Believe vs. ______

☐ Invite Jesus into their heart vs. ______

☐ Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. ______

☐ Repent (change one’s heart) vs. ______

☐ Be sprinkled with water vs. ______

☐ Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. ______

☐ Keep the Ten Commandments vs. ______

☐ Live a godly life for Christ vs. ______

☐ Say a sinner’s prayer vs. ______
Acts 10:34-48; 11:13-14
The Conversion of Cornelius

What were they taught about Jesus?
□ He performed miracles. vs. ______
□ He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. ______
□ He will judge mankind or the world. vs. ______
□ He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. ______
□ He died for the sins of mankind. vs. ______
□ He ascended into heaven. vs. ______
□ He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. ______
□ He has a kingdom. vs. ______

What were they instructed to do in response?
□ Believe vs. ______
□ Invite Jesus into their heart vs. ______
□ Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. ______
□ Repent (change one’s heart) vs. ______
□ Be sprinkled with water vs. ______
□ Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. ______
□ Keep the Ten Commandments vs. ______
□ Live a godly life for Christ vs. ______
□ Say a sinner’s prayer vs. ______
Acts 13:23-42
Paul and Barnabas’ Presentation to Pisidia of Antioch

What were they taught about Jesus?

- He performed miracles. vs. _____
- He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. _____
- He will judge mankind or the world. vs. _____
- He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. _____
- He died for the sins of mankind. vs. _____
- He ascended into heaven. vs. _____
- He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. _____
- He has a kingdom. vs. _____

What were they instructed to do in response?

- Believe vs. _____
- Invite Jesus into their heart vs. _____
- Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. _____
- Repent (change one’s heart) vs. _____
- Be sprinkled with water vs. _____
- Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. _____
- Keep the Ten Commandments vs. _____
- Live a godly life for Christ vs. _____
- Say a sinner’s prayer vs. _____
Acts 16:14-15
The Conversion of Lydia and Household

What were they taught about Jesus?

☐ He performed miracles. vs. _____
☐ He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. _____
☐ He will judge mankind or the world. vs. _____
☐ He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. _____
☐ He died for the sins of mankind. vs. _____
☐ He ascended into heaven. vs. _____
☐ He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. _____
☐ He has a kingdom. vs. _____

What were they instructed to do in response?

☐ Believe vs. _____
☐ Invite Jesus into their heart vs. _____
☐ Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. _____
☐ Repent (change one’s heart) vs. _____
☐ Be sprinkled with water vs. _____
☐ Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. _____
☐ Keep the Ten Commandments vs. _____
☐ Live a godly life for Christ vs. _____
☐ Say a sinner’s prayer vs. _____
Acts 16:16-17
Paul’s Presentation to the Philippians

What were they taught about Jesus?
☐ He performed miracles. vs. ____
☐ He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. ____
☐ He will judge mankind or the world. vs. _____
☐ He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. _____
☐ He died for the sins of mankind. vs. _____
☐ He ascended into heaven. vs. _____
☐ He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. _____
☐ He has a kingdom. vs. _____

What were they instructed to do in response?
☐ Believe vs. _____
☐ Invite Jesus into their heart vs. _____
☐ Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. _____
☐ Repent (change one’s heart) vs. _____
☐ Be sprinkled with water vs. _____
☐ Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. _____
☐ Keep the Ten Commandments vs. _____
☐ Live a godly life for Christ vs. _____
☐ Say a sinner’s prayer vs. _____
Acts 16:29-34
The Conversion of the Eunuch

What were they taught about Jesus?
- □ He performed miracles. vs. _____
- □ He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. _____
- □ He will judge mankind or the world. vs. _____
- □ He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. _____
- □ He died for the sins of mankind. vs. _____
- □ He ascended into heaven. vs. _____
- □ He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. _____
- □ He has a kingdom. vs. _____

What were they instructed to do in response?
- □ Believe vs. _____
- □ Invite Jesus into their heart vs. _____
- □ Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. _____
- □ Repent (change one’s heart) vs. _____
- □ Be sprinkled with water vs. _____
- □ Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. _____
- □ Keep the Ten Commandments vs. _____
- □ Live a godly life for Christ vs. _____
- □ Say a sinner’s prayer vs. _____
Acts 17:1-9
The Conversion of the Thessalonians

What were they taught about Jesus?
□ He performed miracles. vs. _____
□ He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. _____
□ He will judge mankind or the world. vs. _____
□ He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. _____
□ He died for the sins of mankind. vs. _____
□ He ascended into heaven. vs. _____
□ He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. _____
□ He has a kingdom. vs. _____

What were they instructed to do in response?
□ Believe vs. _____
□ Invite Jesus into their heart vs. _____
□ Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. _____
□ Repent (change one’s heart) vs. _____
□ Be sprinkled with water vs. _____
□ Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. _____
□ Keep the Ten Commandments vs. _____
□ Live a godly life for Christ vs. _____
□ Say a sinner’s prayer vs. _____
Acts 17:16-34
The Conversion of the Athenians

What were they taught about Jesus?
- He performed miracles. vs. _____
- He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. _____
- He will judge mankind or the world. vs. _____
- He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. _____
- He died for the sins of mankind. vs. _____
- He ascended into heaven. vs. _____
- He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. _____
- He has a kingdom. vs. _____

What were they instructed to do in response?
- Believe vs. _____
- Invite Jesus into their heart vs. _____
- Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. _____
- Repent (change one’s heart) vs. _____
- Be sprinkled with water vs. _____
- Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. _____
- Keep the Ten Commandments vs. _____
- Live a godly life for Christ vs. _____
- Say a sinner’s prayer vs. _____
Acts 18:5-8
Paul’s Presentation to the Corinthians

What were they taught about Jesus?

☐ He performed miracles. vs. _____
☐ He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. _____
☐ He will judge mankind or the world. vs. _____
☐ He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. _____
☐ He died for the sins of mankind. vs. _____
☐ He ascended into heaven. vs. _____
☐ He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. _____
☐ He has a kingdom. vs. _____

What were they instructed to do in response?

☐ Believe vs. _____
☐ Invite Jesus into their heart vs. _____
☐ Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. _____
☐ Repent (change one’s heart) vs. _____
☐ Be sprinkled with water vs. _____
☐ Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. _____
☐ Keep the Ten Commandments vs. _____
☐ Live a godly life for Christ vs. _____
☐ Say a sinner’s prayer vs. _____
Acts 18:24-28
Apollos’ Presentation to the Corinthians

What were they taught about Jesus?
- □ He performed miracles. vs. ______
- □ He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. ______
- □ He will judge mankind or the world. vs. ______
- □ He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. ______
- □ He died for the sins of mankind. vs. ______
- □ He ascended into heaven. vs. ______
- □ He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. ______
- □ He has a kingdom. vs. ______

What were they instructed to do in response?
- □ Believe vs. ______
- □ Invite Jesus into their heart vs. ______
- □ Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. ______
- □ Repent (change one’s heart) vs. ______
- □ Be sprinkled with water vs. ______
- □ Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. ______
- □ Keep the Ten Commandments vs. ______
- □ Live a godly life for Christ vs. ______
- □ Say a sinner’s prayer vs. ______
Acts 19:8-10; 20:21  
Paul’s Presentation to the Ephesians

What were they taught about Jesus?

□ He performed miracles. vs. ______
□ He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. ______
□ He will judge mankind or the world. vs. ______
□ He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. ______
□ He died for the sins of mankind. vs. ______
□ He ascended into heaven. vs. ______
□ He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. ______
□ He has a kingdom. vs. ______

What were they instructed to do in response?

□ Believe vs. ______
□ Invite Jesus into their heart vs. ______
□ Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. ______
□ Repent (change one’s heart) vs. ______
□ Be sprinkled with water vs. ______
□ Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. ______
□ Keep the Ten Commandments vs. ______
□ Live a godly life for Christ vs. ______
□ Say a sinner’s prayer vs. _____
Acts 24:25
Paul’s Presentation to Felix

What were they taught about Jesus?
- He performed miracles. vs. ______
- He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. ______
- He will judge mankind or the world. vs. ______
- He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. ______
- He died for the sins of mankind. vs. ______
- He ascended into heaven. vs. ______
- He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. ______
- He has a kingdom. vs. ______

What were they instructed to do in response?
- Believe vs. ______
- Invite Jesus into their heart vs. ______
- Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. ______
- Repent (change one’s heart) vs. ______
- Be sprinkled with water vs. ______
- Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. ______
- Keep the Ten Commandments vs. ______
- Live a godly life for Christ vs. ______
- Say a sinner’s prayer vs. ______
Acts 26:19-23
Paul’s Summary of Presentation to King Agrippa

What were they taught about Jesus?

- He performed miracles. vs. _____
- He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. _____
- He will judge mankind or the world. vs. _____
- He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. _____
- He died for the sins of mankind. vs. _____
- He ascended into heaven. vs. _____
- He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. _____
- He has a kingdom. vs. _____

What were they instructed to do in response?

- Believe vs. _____
- Invite Jesus into their heart vs. _____
- Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. _____
- Repent (change one’s heart) vs. _____
- Be sprinkled with water vs. _____
- Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. _____
- Keep the Ten Commandments vs. _____
- Live a godly life for Christ vs. _____
- Say a sinner’s prayer vs. _____
Acts 28:23-24
Paul’s Presentation to the Jews of Rome

What were they taught about Jesus?

☐ He performed miracles. vs. ______
☐ He was prophesied in the Old Testament. vs. ______
☐ He will judge mankind or the world. vs. ______
☐ He suffered death, burial and resurrection. vs. ______
☐ He died for the sins of mankind. vs. ______
☐ He ascended into heaven. vs. ______
☐ He is the Christ or Messiah. vs. ______
☐ He has a kingdom. vs. ______

What were they instructed to do in response?

☐ Believe vs. ______
☐ Invite Jesus into their heart vs. ______
☐ Confession of Jesus as Christ vs. ______
☐ Repent (change one’s heart) vs. ______
☐ Be sprinkled with water vs. ______
☐ Be immersed in water (baptize) vs. ______
☐ Keep the Ten Commandments vs. ______
☐ Live a godly life for Christ vs. ______
☐ Say a sinner’s prayer vs. ______
Summary of the Data Collected

Using the collected data concerning the message preached about Jesus and what they were taught to do in response to that message, do a check list summary below. Transfer the checks from your previous sheets.

What were they taught about Jesus?

He performed miracles.
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What were they instructed to do in response?

Believe
- Invite Jesus into their heart
- Confession of Jesus as Christ
- Repent (change one’s heart)
- Be sprinkled with water
- Be immersed in water (baptize)
- Keep the Ten Commandments
- Live a godly life for Christ
- Say a sinner’s prayer

Based on your research of the Book of Acts, can you clearly see a pattern concerning what was taught about Jesus by the apostles?  
Yes / No

Based on the same research, can you clearly see a pattern of instruction concerning their response to this message of Jesus?  
Yes / No
Were there any categories that were not checked?
Yes / No
If so, which ones?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

What biblical message should we be preaching about Jesus to the lost?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

What should we be teaching others to do concerning their response to the message of Jesus?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

How did the people react when they heard the message about Jesus?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
How did the people feel in the Book of Acts when they obeyed what was commanded by the apostles?

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

How did you react when you identified the message of Jesus as explained by the apostles?

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

How do you think you will feel when obeying the same commands in response to the gospel message about Jesus?

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

What are you prepared to do when you hear of someone preaching a different message about Jesus or a different response to that message concerning salvation?

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________