

## ***ACTS: PRACTICING CHRISTIANITY***

### ***THE BIRTH, DEVELOPMENT & EXPANSION OF CHRIST'S CHURCH***

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## ***THREE: GROWING PAINS***

**SECTION LEAD-IN:** The good news about “growing pains” is that you have to be growing to have them! And this newborn church of Christ in Jerusalem was definitely growing by leaps and bounds. But Satan wastes little time going after the Lord’s church, hitting it from all sides. But Jesus was with His people and He gave them all the spiritual resources they needed to face and overcome all these challenges. But the best part is that, in spite of all the “growing pains,” the church kept on growing!

**SECTION BREAKDOWN:** (See INTRODUCTION-F)

### **III. THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (3-7) A.D. 30-35?**

- A. (3:1-8) Another amazing SIGN (miracle)!
- B. (3:9-11) Another astonished CROWD!
- C. (3:12-26) Another inspired SERMON!
- D. (4:1-22) Peter and John arrested and THREATENED
- E. (4:23-31) The church's prayer for CONTINUED boldness
- F. (4:32-37) The church's caring and \_\_\_\_\_
- G. (5:1-11) Two "\_\_\_\_\_ " in the church
- H. (5:12-16) More ministry, more growth
- I. (5:17-42) The 12 arrested, \_\_\_\_\_ and released
- J. (6:1-7) \_\_\_\_\_ conflict and resolution
- K. (6:8-15) Stephen's brief ministry ends in his arrest
- L. (7:1-53) Stephen's speech: Not a defense, but an \_\_\_\_\_!
- M. (7:54-60) First \_\_\_\_\_: Stephen is martyred by the high council!

## SUPPLEMENT A: Conflict Resolution in the Early Church (Acts 3-8)

### The CONFLICT/CHALLENGE

1. Material \_\_\_\_\_  
(Acts 2.44-45; 4.32-37)
2. \_\_\_\_\_/pressure  
(Acts 4.1-22; 5.17-42)
3. \_\_\_\_\_, deceit  
(Acts 5.1-11)
4. \_\_\_\_\_, complaints  
(Acts 6.1-11)
5. All-out \_\_\_\_\_  
(Acts 7.54-8.4)

### The RESPONSE/RESOLUTION

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What challenges do 21<sup>st</sup> Century believers face out in the world?

How should we meet these challenges?

2. What challenges do 21<sup>st</sup> Century believers face in the home?

How should we meet these challenges?

3. What challenges do 21<sup>st</sup> Century believers face within the church?

How should we meet these challenges?