

Acts Role Play Summary 2023

1. **Peter** /Rock Fisherman, Disciple, walk on water, cut off ear, denial, Pentecost, Prison, Cornelius 3yrs after, Gentiles and Jews a Rock in the end.
 - a. **You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the Far ends of the world.**
 - b. 12 stood up all talking languages, Peter – Anyone who calls upon the Lord will be saved.
 - c. You put the Messiah on a cross and killed him. You rejected him. The Lord raised him again.
 - d. They asked: “What must we do to be saved?”
 - e. Repent, Have faith in Jesus Christ to forgive your sins, be baptised and receive the Holy Spirit +3000
 - f. Devoted themselves to the apostles teachings share everything one accord
 - g. Peter and John, Silver and Gold have I none, Prayer for boldness, Earthquake Healed many, Apostles arrested and angel let them out. **Gamaliel** = Flogged and rejoiced for being worthy of it.
 - h. Temple courts and house to house preaching the good news
 - i. **Stephen** preached in the synagogue, stoned outside the city, **Saul** Held their coats and approved
 - j. **Persecution broke out everywhere everyone but the twelve scattered**
2. **Barnabas** son of encouragement, sold a field, Levite, Pharisee, Early Apostle (Brother was one of the 72), the successful preaching of Christianity at Antioch to non-Jews led the church at Jerusalem to send Barnabas there to oversee the movement (Acts 11:20–22). He found the work so extensive and weighty that he went to [Tarsus](#) in search of Paul. Went back to Jerusalem with relief money and then onto Cypress with Mark as well
 - a. **John Mark** (cousin) He left on the first journey at Parga Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. And there arose a sharp contention, so that they separated from each other; Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and departed... **John was in Prison with Paul in Rome at the end (where Paul wrote [Ephesians](#), [Colossians](#), [Philemon](#), and [Philippians](#)).**
3. **Saul** &
 - a. **Silas**
4. grandmother **Lois** and
 - a. mother **Eunice**
 - i. **Timothy** (from [Lystra](#), Jewish mother, Grandmother 2nd trip of Paul, First Bishop of Ephesus, Greek City in Turkey. He didn't ask “what next?” Ouch, chased out of every town in Asia Minor or that if he will be a bishop one day?)

5. **Epaphras/ Epaphroditus** (Colossae Turkey, Met Paul in Ephesus first. Rich merchant, carried most letters, Paul lost money and Epaphras paid it himself)
 - a. Acts 19:1-20:1 Ephesus and the School of Tyrannus 3 years reached the whole Roman Region. Ephesus was the 4th largest Roman city at the time. Home of Artimus.
 - b. Aprox 52 AD Epaphras went back to Colossae **160** Km away. Until the earthquake in about 60 it was a Trading Centre for distant goods. Epaphras never stopped wrestling in prayer for these three cities. Colossae “learned” the gospel from Epaphras Col 1:7 (Greek: The infinitive verb *μανθάνω* manthanow is associated with “systematic instruction”, “to learn by use and practice”; to be in the habit of, to be accustomed to such a method of instruction)
 - c. At the time of Colossians, Epaphras was in prison with Paul in Rome.
 - d. He had carried many of the NT letters from place to place.
 - e. He was a trusted treasurer carrying gifts from Philippi to Paul in places like Thessalonica and Rome
 - f. Epaphras was young and faced outside teachings and leaders that challenged his authority and version of the gospel. This is why Paul writes Colossians and fully endorses him in the opening volley.
 - g. Known for three things:
 - i. wrestling in prayer non-stop prayer
 - ii. bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in knowledge of God
 - iii. beloved fellow servant of Christ, faithful minister
 - h. Philemon
 - i. Onesimus

6. **Archippus** “master of the horse”, “**a champion of the gospel**” & “fellow soldier”. Based in Colossae and son of Philemon.
 - a. Philemon 2: ...and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house.
 - b. Col. 4:17 And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfil the ministry that you have received in the Lord.” (Same endearing writing as Paul wrote to Timothy)
7. **Nympha** (her name was changed to a man’s name in the middle ages) [Laodicea](#) Turkey is about **20 kms** from Colossae. Laodicea was the largest of the cities in the area and fairly well off (Rev 3:15-20) Archaeologists have found it to be a commerce and banking hub. Nympha had a large house. (Colossae known for cold pure water; Hierapolis hot springs; Laodicea lukewarm springs, eye and ear medicine and manufacture of fine white cloth. Destroyed in an earthquake but had money and help from Rome to rebuild quickly. Hierapolis and Colossae did not. Colossae never really recovered.)

Other examples of strong women of faith: Mary, Martha, Junia (was changed to a man’s name in the middle ages), Lydia of Thyatira Philippi, **Priscilla, Apphia (Philemon) & Phoebe (Rome)**. OT Debra.

(Romans 16:1, 2 Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae (Village of Corinth Greece). Phoebe was one of the first generation of Titans, who were one set of sons and daughters of Uranus and Gaia. She was the grandmother of the sun god Apollo, the moon goddess Artemis (Hunter, crops, fertility), and the witchcraft goddess Hecate. According to myth, she was the original owner of the Oracle of Delphi before gifting it to her grandson Apollo. Her name, meaning "bright", was also given to a number of lunar goddesses like Artemis and later the Roman goddesses Luna and Diana, but Phoebe herself was not actively treated as a moon goddess on her own right in ancient Greek mythology.)

The What Ifs...

1. What if Peter had not made it back from his denial of Christ?
2. What if Barnabas had not vouched for Paul in Jerusalem and later disciplined him?
 - a. Barnabas and Paul had such a fight as to destroy both parties?
 - b. Barnabas had not taken Mark John under his wing and took the Gospel to Cyprus and beyond. Disciplined Mark to the point where Paul could later depend on him? What else did Mark do?
3. What if Paul had stayed in Tarsus?
4. What if Timothy didn't agree to adult circumcision? Agree to be chased out of every town in Asia Minor only to be sent back in alone sometimes? What if Timothy never let himself take over from Paul and become the first Bishop of Ephesus?
5. What if Epaphras never went to the Hall of Tyrannus and got the vision of Paul? What if he never carried the letters and money up and down the networks? What if he did not stick up for Paul? What if he let the older and wiser outsider groups rule over Colossae?
6. What if Archippus never went to Hierapolis and Laodicea? What if Archippus had quit the ministry against the fond encouragement of Paul? What if all walked away from the devastating earthquake that took out those three towns? 6-8 years into the church plants everything was erased from the face of the planet. Who helped the citizens cope, heal and rebuild?
7. What if Nympha didn't lead in a male dominated Church? What if the Earth Quake finished off her movement?

Where would we be today?

Paul's time line

(There are conflicting theories on the time line. This represents a "middle of the road" time line)

32AD Stephen's stoning

33 Persecution and scattering of the church

34 Paul and the road to Damascus

46 Barnabas goes to Tarsus to get Paul

47 First Trip with Barnabas and John Mark

49 Second trip – Barnabas to Cypress

Picks up Timothy at Lystra Acts 16:1-5

51 Lydia Philippi

54 Ephesus Acts: 19

56-57 Paul writes in Romans 15, gospel "has no place left to go" in Asia Minor. 10 years after starting his first trip with Barnabas. 22 years after the road to Damascus. At least 10 years on the left side of the Graph

60 Writes to Colossae (Epaphras 5-6 years on the left side of the graph)

Depending on different theories [Laodicea](#) had run its course between 69 and 96AD and needs a reboot. (Revelation 3:15 "luke-warm")