



1. Who is the writer and/or speaker ?
2. When was it written and/or said ?
3. To whom was it written and/or spoken ?
4. What are the major natural divisions ?
5. What is the repeated key word ?
6. What simple sentence sums it all up ?
7. What is an application to my life today ?

Survey of the Book of Acts

1. The writer : The name of Luke does not appear in the book, but his hand is obvious. He was a physician (Col4v14) with an eye for medical details (3v2, 7-8, 4v22, 9v18, 12v23 et cetera). The passages (Ac16v10, 20v5-15, 21v1-18, etc.) where he speaks of himself (86x) coincide with the remarks of Paul about Luke (Col4v14, 2Tim4v11 & Phm24). The prologue refers to the Gospel he wrote (cf. Ac1v1 & Luke 1v3) as a clear indication that Luke is also the writer of this book.
2. The date : This book was written after the Gospel according to Luke (cf. Ac1v1 & Luke 1v3), but before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD (28v17-21). Paul is still in prison for the first time in Rome (28v30) and there is no mention of the great fire in that city (64 AD) so it is probable that Luke wrote from 59-61 AD.
3. The readers : Luke wrote this for Theophilus (1v1) who was a nobleman (Lu1v3). He takes the time to describe places (1v12, 18-19, etc.) and explain customs (2v5, 3v1, etc.) for a reader who might miss these important details. There is a tone of defense of the Gospel and of the first Christians who were so unjustly persecuted (1v3, 2v15, 32, 3v12, 4v9-10, 21, 25, 5v28-29, etc.)
4. The divisions : The Lord Jesus Christ offers us the outline of this book in Ac1v8.
 - My witnesses in Jerusalem, ch1-7
 - My witnesses in Judea and Samaria, ch8-9
 - My witnesses in all the world, ch10-28
5. The key word : Witness (μάρτυς ...the Greek root in nouns, verbs and adjectives) 34x (used in this book more than in any other book of the Bible).
The Greek word for witness is "martyr" because a bad witness paid for his error with his or hers life. Remember, there is no such thing as a "silent witness" in court ! The key verse of the book is Acts 1v8 : "You shall be my witnesses".
6. The message : A good witness never changes his story (cf. 4v20, 5v28-29 & 7v1).
7. The application : Every Christian IS a witness of what God has accomplished in their life, like it or not. It may be a good testimony or a bad one, but the words that come out tell what is in the heart (Luke 6v45). May my actions match my words (4v13).