

Acts 1



Led By the Word and Prayer

Life Group Leaders should read through this material and choose a few questions to talk over in your group. Your group will not have time to cover all the material. The guide is for personal study and for choosing a few questions that you and your life group would like to discuss.

Context of Acts: The book of Acts was written by Luke, who accompanied the Apostle Paul in much of his missionary travel. It was written towards the end of Paul's life around AD 62-64, which is around 30 years after the resurrection of Jesus. The book of Acts gives us not only the inspired word of God, but a detailed account of the beginnings of the Christ's church. The book of Acts contains "descriptive" truth, simply meaning an event that occurred is described accurately. Acts also contains "prescriptive" truth, meaning it provides God's order and directives for the church. It is important as we read the book of Acts to acknowledge that not everything that is "described" is "prescribed" for the church in every era. For example, God chose to send His Holy Spirit to the Apostles and to give them the sign of "tongues of fire" and empower them to speak in new languages in order to preach the Gospel. Just because this is described in Acts does not mean that it is prescribed to happen every time the Holy Spirit is given. We are excited to journey through the book of Acts and grow in our understanding of God and His good news through Jesus Christ.

Read Aloud Acts 1:1-11

Before we break down this section of Scripture, describe what is happening in your own words. (Being able to summarize Scripture is a great way to see if we are comprehending what we have just read.)

Acts 1:1-3

Luke is referring to the writing of the Gospel of Luke (Luke 1:3). After His resurrection, Jesus met with the Apostles for 40 days. This shows the character of Christ to invest in faithful men who could take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. This is discipleship! God's plan was and is to partner with us to accomplish His will.



Do you see your role in partnering with God in His mission to reconcile the world back to Himself? Why or why not? (2 Corinthians 5:17-6:1)

Acts 1:4-5

The baptism of John was one of water. Being immersed into the water was a symbol of the turning away of sins and the forgiveness of God. However, the spiritual baptism that needed to occur was not one of water, but was one of a new heart through the Holy Spirit as prophesied in Jeremiah 31.

Look at what these passages say about the new heart through the Holy Spirit:

Titus 3:1-7

John 3:1-8



Explain when you knew Christ had “baptized you with His Spirit?”

In other words, how would you describe when you received a new heart from Christ?

Acts 1:6-8

The disciples were focused on the literal kingdom of Israel being restored. There are many prophecies of the kingdom of Israel being established on earth and ruled by the Messiah to sit on David’s throne forever. This is what the disciples were expecting. However, this will be fulfilled in its greatest sense at the return of Christ. Yet, during the times of the Apostles until now, God was and is establishing His kingdom through His people, the Church. Jesus was sending out the Apostles to establish a spiritual kingdom. This is exactly what the Scriptures predicted, that God’s kingdom would span the entire earth. This would start with Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria as the Gospel would blossom from God’s chosen people. Finally it would be sent out to the Gentile nations, that they too could worship God as predicted in the Old Testament. Again, we are a part of God’s plan to reconcile the world back to Him, which He has had planned before time began (Ephesians 1:1-14)!

The disciples could not accomplish this task without the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit not only changes our heart, but He gives us the power to change.



What sticks out to you in the following Scriptures about the importance of the Holy Spirit?

Romans 8:26

Mark 13:11

1 John 4:4

Romans 8:11

Old Testament prophecies about the Kingdom of God reaching the ends of the earth:

Genesis 17:5

1 Kings 8:60

Isaiah 49:6, 56:7

Psalms 67:1-7, 72:8

Acts 1:9-11

The Apostles witnessed Christ ascend into heaven. The Scripture tells us of Christ’s physical resurrection and physical ascension to heaven as well as His physical return. This is important to recognize as Christ’s “manhood” to fill the role of the Messiah to both redeem and judge the world as the second Adam.

Scriptures of Christ’s ascension and return:

Ephesians 1:20-23

Hebrews 4:14-16

Daniel 7:13-14

Matthew 24:30

Revelation 1:7

Hebrews 8:1

Revelation 19:11-16



Read Aloud Acts 1:12-26

Before we break down this section of Scripture, describe what is happening in your own words. (Being able to summarize Scripture is a great way to see if we are comprehending what we have just read)

Acts 1:12-14

As the Apostles awaited the fulfillment of the promises of Christ, they joined with the other disciples and devoted themselves to prayer.



What does it mean to be devoted to prayer?

What is your personal and intentional prayer life like?

Acts 1:15-26

Peter leads the apostles through the Scriptures in order to appoint the 12th apostle. This is the last time “casting lots” is used in the New Testament. It seems that as the Holy Spirit was given that the practice of casting lots ceased. Nonetheless, Matthias was chosen and became a part of the 12 Apostles in establishing the church. — *It is interesting to note that Peter was led to make this decision from the Scripture. Effective leaders and disciples make their decisions based upon God's will found in His Word.*



Share a time where you felt stuck, then after looking into God's Word it brought clarity on the right decision, and it was not actually as complicated as you thought.

Weekly Challenge

A theme of chapter 1 is that Christ gave direction, and the Apostles were led by the Word of God and prayer. It is great to pray throughout our day, but it is also important to have intentional time with the Lord. Can you make a commitment to increase your devoted and intentional time of prayer with God? If you have not been doing this lately, try to commit to 10 minutes a day. If you have been doing 10 try 20, if you have been doing 20 try 40, and so on. Whatever the amount of time is, is really between you and God. The point is, let's be a church led by intentional and devoted prayer!

Memory Verse

Acts 9:31 ESV

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

