

Acts 1

Acts 1:1-8

MAIN IDEAS

- The disciples and apostles are told to wait in Jerusalem until God empowered them with His Holy Spirit. It was only after receiving the Spirit that they could move forward.
- Dependence on God's power and guidance are essential for witnessing and building the church.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Other than Acts 1, the final words of Jesus and details of His ascension are described in Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:14-20, and Luke 24:36-53. Compare and contrast those accounts. If anything in particular stands out about Acts 1:1-11, discuss those details.

It is widely agreed upon that the words Jesus speaks in Acts 1:7-8 are His last on earth before He ascends to Heaven.

- What is significant about these words? Consider the themes and teachings of Jesus' earthly ministry.
- What implications do these words have for us as believers today?

Discuss the significance of being baptized by the Holy Spirit as referenced in Acts 1:5.

Why might the arrival of the Holy Spirit have been delayed until after Jesus' ascension?

What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus? Consider the following questions:

- What should our testimony depend upon?
- What differences are there in the role of one who witnessed for Jesus while He was present on earth and one who witnesses without His earthly presence?
- What are the risks and rewards to being a faithful witness? Is there any correlation to the cost of being a disciple?
 - Consider the following Scriptures: Luke 14:25-33, Matthew 16:24-28, Matthew 8:18-22, John 15:18-John 16:4.

Who is ultimately responsible for building the church? What does this mean for our role in building the church?

What implications does Acts 1:11 hold for the disciples? For us as believers and witnesses for Jesus today?

GROUP RESPONSE

What role is the Holy Spirit playing in your group? Is it one that aligns with Scripture? Discuss any ways your group may need to make changes to be more in tune with the leading of the Spirit.

What does witnessing for Jesus currently look like for your group? Consider Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:16-21, Mark 16:15-18, and Luke 24:47-49. Discuss any ways your group could grow collectively as His witnesses.

REPRODUCE

If listening to and heeding the Holy Spirit is challenging, find a brother or sister who is gifted in this to seek advice for how to grow in relationship with the Spirit. What is one practical step you can take to better access the Holy Spirit?

If witnessing to others is difficult, seek wisdom from a brother or sister who is gifted in this. What is one practical step you can take to witness in a way you haven't before?

KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- Acts 1:1-11

Additional verses from the study:

- Matthew 28:16-20
- Mark 16:14-20
- Luke 24:36-53
- Luke 14:25-33
- Matthew 16:24-28
- Matthew 8:18-22
- John 15:18-John 16:4