



THE BOOK OF

ACTS

GROUP DISCUSSION | Week 1: Jesus Ascends

SERIES OVERVIEW

In this series, we examine the remarkable spread of the Gospel and the Kingdom of God from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Despite challenges from outside and within, the Kingdom of God continued to advance. The same is true today.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

Think of this discussion guide as a springboard. Use what's helpful to your group and lean into discussion that's sparked from the insight and input of your group.

CONNECTION

What is your go-to method for starting a fire? Do you opt for the classic teepee? Log cabin-style? The lean-to? Do you douse the wood with lighter fluid? Or does "starting a fire" mean flipping to switch to the gas logs?

As we start this Acts series, the idea of a spark igniting into a fire that ultimately grows and rages is a perfect illustration for the early church. — Share one of the first memories that comes to mind from being around a campfire?

TRUTH

When we pick up in Acts 1, Jesus has resurrected and is now spending the 40 days prior to His ascension preparing His followers for the mission He's entrusting to them. Read Acts 1:1-8.

From this interaction, we can glean 3 key components to carrying out Jesus' mission:

1. Prepare for the mission
2. Don't go it alone; work with the Holy Spirit
3. Be a witness

How have you seen Jesus demonstrate those key components to His followers throughout His ministry?

Jesus prepared His disciples to be witnesses (Acts 1:2); to tell others about God's love and His plan of salvation. Do you feel prepared to be God's witness? If no, then what do you think would help to prepare you to be a witness?

In Acts 1:8, Jesus uses "here, there, and everywhere" language; think "spark-to-wildfire." He communicates to start locally, move regionally, and then go globally with the Good News. How could you personally or as a life group effectively witness in each of these 3 areas?

APPLICATION

Monte's key point was: **Our purpose is to be a witness for Jesus.** Share what you think it means to "be a witness for Jesus?" What does that look like?

Monte shared about two conversations he had where he asked "What would you be willing to do so that your children or grandchildren would know Jesus?" Now turn that to you: what would you be willing to do, give, sacrifice so that people who are not saved would have the opportunity to hear the gospel? Would it be possible to live out the plan Monte shared to reach people with the Gospel?

1. Prayer
2. Show Kindness
3. Share your story
4. Invite them — How would you implement these?

PRAYER

Life is short. Life is fragile. Do you feel the urgency? Are there people close to you who need Jesus? As a group, would you pray for them? Would you pray for one another to have courage and opportunity to share your story with them?