



Leader Guide

You Will Be My Witnesses

February 5, 2023

Main Passage: Acts 1:1-8

Theological Theme

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave final instructions to His followers. He also promised them that the Holy Spirit would give them all the power necessary to be witnesses for Him to all people.

Introduction

- ❓ What are some final words from a coach, leader, or loved one that stand out to you?
- ❓ Why would you say final words carry more weight?

1. Final Moments (Acts 1:1-3)

Acts opens with an introduction to the purpose of the book and the author. The book of Acts was written by Luke. He referenced continuing his writings about the life and ministry of Jesus that began with his Gospel account. This book describes Jesus's ministry continued after the events in the Gospels—a ministry that still works in the church today. Acts does not encompass all that the early church did to grow, but it does describe how the gospel spread from Jerusalem to Rome.

- ❓ Why is it significant that the text tells us Jesus gave instructions “through the Holy Spirit” in His final moments?
- ❓ Why might trusting the Holy Spirit be tough for those early believers? In John 16:7, Jesus said it was to the disciples benefit that He would go away, and the Spirit would come. Is it tough for you to trust the Holy Spirit?
- ❓ Discuss: Where do you need to trust in the Holy Spirit's power instead of your own strength?

2. Final Instructions (Acts 1:4-5)

Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father—the Holy Spirit. Imagine how that instruction might have been more difficult than being told to travel around teaching and preaching. Sometimes waiting is the hardest thing for us to do, but when the instruction to wait comes from the Lord, we can be assured that the waiting will be worth it and disobedience is foolish.

- ❓ Recall a time when you felt like God was clearly calling you to wait. What made this difficult?
- ❓ Share an experience you have had of the power of the Holy Spirit when you've been faithful to wait as God instructs?
- ❓ Application: Where do you need to further surrender to the Holy Spirit?

3. Final Promise (Acts 1:6-8)

The disciples came together with Jesus for the last time they would see Him in person on earth. Nothing in the Scriptures tells us that they knew this was their final moment with their Savior and friend. They did ask a question that may indicate they suspected their time with Him was almost through.

- ❓ What is a big question you want to ask Jesus? What can you take away from Jesus's response to the disciples in this instance?
- ❓ Application: What would you say you are most often a witness of in your life? How would others answer this question for you?

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Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).