

ACTS - Introduction

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Acts 1:1-12

August 21, 2022

Reflection & Discussion Questions

The book of Acts is the origin story for the people of God

The past shapes and forms the present.

- *How has the desire to be connected to place and people shaped you?
- *What types of experiences have been a part of your 'origin story' as a person? As a believer?
- *What do you hope to learn from Acts – the picture of the childhood of Christianity?

Luke says: I already told you about Jesus, now let me tell you what comes next

He tells us the new covenant in Jesus' blood isn't like the old covenant.

Read and discuss Acts 1:1-9(NIV)

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

- *What do these verses say about people? What do they say about Jesus?
- *What shifts need to take place for these believers?
- *What does Jesus say power will be connected to?

God has done something powerful through Jesus and now it's time for His people to respond

When it comes to following God, we don't need a plan and a strategy as much as we think we do.

Read and discuss Acts 1:10-12(NIV)

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

- *What do these verses say about our response?
- *How have you used planning and strategy to avoid trusting God?
- *When have you seen power born of responsiveness – in church history, in your life, etc.?

Few things are more important than cultivating a heart that is responsive to God's leading

When we start responding to this leading, things change for us.

- *When was the last time you changed something in your life because you felt led by God to go in a new direction?
- *Has God corrected or re-formed something in you lately?
- *What is the Holy Spirit nudging you to respond to now?