

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Acts 1:1–11

Church on Fire Wk1 - Powerful Witnesses – 01.11.26



About This Week's Message

This week, Pastor Kyle launched our journey through the Book of Acts by reminding us that the ministry of Jesus did not end at the cross or even at the resurrection. Acts tells the story of what Jesus continues to do through His people by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Before sending His disciples into the world, Jesus told them to wait for the promise of the Father. They were not to rely on strategy, strength, or timing, but on the presence and power of God. The Holy Spirit would come not just to comfort them, but to empower them to be witnesses of all that Jesus had done and all that He was still doing.

As a presence-centered church, we are learning that God's power flows through ordinary people who are willing to open their mouths, share their stories, and live on mission right where they are.

Goals of This Week's Discussion

- Understand that Acts is the continuation of Jesus' ministry through His people.
- Recognize the role of the Holy Spirit as the source of power for witness.
- Shift focus from waiting for the future to being faithful in the present.
- Identify personal opportunities to be witnesses right where we are.

Connections with the 7 Marks of a Jesus Follower

Stand in Awe – We respond in worship as we see God's power and faithfulness at work through ordinary people.

Keep in Step – We depend on the Holy Spirit rather than our own ability or timing.

Share Your Story – We bear witness to what Jesus has done and is doing in our lives.

Starter Questions

- When you hear the word “witness,” what comes to mind?
 - Where do you most want clarity or certainty about the future right now?
 - What makes sharing your faith feel exciting, awkward, or intimidating?
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Read Acts 1:1–5 — Jesus Continues His Work

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, **2** until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. **3** He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. **4** And while staying^[a] with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Discussion

- Why do you think Luke says Jesus “began” His work in the Gospel and continues it in Acts?
- What stands out to you about Jesus spending 40 days speaking about the Kingdom of God?
- Why do you think Jesus told them to wait instead of immediately sending them out?

Key Insight:

Jesus’ ministry continues today through His people, empowered by His Spirit.

Read Acts 1:6–7 — Shifting the Focus

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7** He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

Discussion

- What were the disciples hoping would happen politically or nationally?
- Why do you think Jesus refused to give them a timeline?

- Where do you find yourself more focused on outcomes than obedience?

Key Insight:

Jesus redirects us from controlling the future to being faithful in the present.

Read Acts 1:8 — Power for a Purpose

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses...

Discussion

- According to Jesus, what is the primary purpose of receiving the Holy Spirit's power?
- How is being a "witness" different from being an expert or debater?
- What has Jesus done in your life that you could give testimony about?

Key Insight:

The Holy Spirit empowers us not just to feel close to God, but to speak about Jesus.

Read Acts 1:8 — Right Where You Are

"...in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Discussion

- Why do you think Jesus starts with Jerusalem before moving outward?
- What might "Jerusalem" represent in your own life (home, work, school, neighborhood)?
- Who might God already be working in around you right now?

Key Insight:

God's mission always begins right where we are and moves outward from there.

Read Acts 1:9–11 — From Watching to Witnessing

⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of

Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Discussion

- Why do you think the angels told the disciples to stop staring into the sky?
- How can waiting for Jesus’ return sometimes distract us from His mission?
- What does this moment teach us about hope and responsibility?

Key Insight:

Hope in Jesus’ return should fuel our mission, not replace it.

Applying the Text

- Where might God be inviting you to be more intentional about sharing your story?
 - What fears or obstacles keep you from being a witness?
 - How would trusting the Holy Spirit’s power change your confidence?
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Practical Challenge

Pray for One: Ask God to place one person on your heart this week who needs Jesus.

Be Available: Look for natural opportunities to listen, care, and share.

Tell Your Story: Practice sharing what Jesus has done in your life in simple terms.

Pray Together

- Ask the Holy Spirit to give boldness and sensitivity to His leading.
 - Pray for specific people God has placed in your lives.
 - Thank God that His power is still at work through His church today.
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Gospel Connection

Jesus did not leave His followers alone. He sent His Spirit so that ordinary people could carry an extraordinary message. We are not witnesses because we have everything figured out, but because we have encountered a risen Savior who is still changing lives. His power in us is for the sake of others.