



# ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 1:1-11

Week of June 25, 2023

**Start at 9:45-9:55**

**Belong:** *Use 5-10 minutes as an opportunity to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and to know the group members.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Choose two of the questions below:

- Ask about highs or lows that have happened since the last time you met.
- Or, Give a fun fact about yourself.
- Or, What would you pick if you could choose your own superpower?

**How has God revealed Himself to you this week?**

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**9:55-10:05**

**Believe:** *Use 5-10 minutes to read this week's assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that helps you to understand the passage better. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

For the remainder of the year, we are going to look at the Book of Acts. The "Acts of the Apostles," is a unique book in the New Testament. This is because 4 early Christian leaders wrote the Gospels of Jesus Christ - which give an account of Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection. Only 1 of those, Luke, continued the story of the early church.

The Acts of the Apostles introduces us to the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the conversion & ministry of Paul as well as the spread of the Gospel from Jerusalem...to Judea...to Samaria and then to the ends of the earth. Today we'll be in **Acts 1:1-11** and see how this Gospel movement began. Have a group member read **Acts 1:1-11** aloud.

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**10:05-10:20**

**Build:** *Use about 15 minutes to engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning.*

Writer's often introduced their main themes at the beginning of a work. From **verses 1-11**, what do you think Luke's main theme is in the Book of Acts.

In **1:3**, what does Jesus teach to them for the 40 days after His resurrection?

- Does **Mark 1:15** help you at all?
- What does this phrase mean? Do we think of our faith in these terms? Why or why not?

In **vs. 8**, what does the phrase 'receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you' mean?

- Was the Holy Spirit only for them or for others like us? In what way?
- Didn't they already have the Holy Spirit? (**Compare Ephesians 1:13**)

In **Acts 1:9-11**, Jesus stopped speaking to the disciples and He ascended.

- Where did Jesus go?
- What does it state about the future?
- What does Jesus leave His disciples to do in the meantime? How does that expectation affect our own lives?

10:20–10:35/40

**Become:** Use about 15 minutes to apply what you have read. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?

In the first **8 verses of chapter 1**, we see that the Holy Spirit is mentioned 4 different times. (vs. 2, vs. 4, vs. 5 & vs. 8)...

- What is Luke telling us about the Holy Spirit's identity and mission in taking the Gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth?
- What was significant **about Jerusalem?** (*Jesus was recently crucified there.*) **About Judea?** (*Where the Jewish religious leaders ruled and hated Jesus & His followers*) **About Samaria?** (*The people group that the Jews hated...*); **and to the ends of the earth?** (*This is where the Gentiles lived...the dogs*)
- **NOW**...what's the significance of God sending them the Holy Spirit?
  - Is the mission of God/ sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ supposed to be easy?

Have someone read **1 Thessalonians 1:5** aloud.

- What does Paul show us about the work of the Holy Spirit as He works through the Word?

As disciples of Jesus, do you believe that our lives reflect a dependence upon the Holy Spirit?

- Does the ministry/ mission at FBC Portland reflect a dependence upon the Holy Spirit?

Wrestle with **ONE** of these quotes.

- **"Before Christ sent the church into the world, He sent the Spirit into the church. The same order must be observed today."** – John Stott
- **"If God were to take the Holy Spirit out of this world, much of what we're doing in our churches would go right on and nobody would know the difference!..."** – AW Tozer
  - **How do they speak to you? Do you agree?**

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10:35/ 10:40 – Class ends at 10:45

**Begin:** Use the last 5–10 minutes for prayer. It's important that we not only hear and discuss God's Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)

**Do you see any of God's attributes in this week's passage that struck out to you?  
How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?**

**At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:**

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

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## Additional Resources:

**Blue Letter Bible: Acts 1:** Check out the QR code to learn more.



**Precept Austin: Acts 1:** Check out the QR code to learn more.

