Harvester Christian Church

Life Groups | **PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY**

ACTS | POWERED BY THE SPIRIT

**WEEK 1 – INTRODUCTION/CHAPTER 1**

If you have a good study Bible, open to the introductory page of the book of Acts to see what you can learn about the following. There is also a more thorough introduction to the book found at GTY.org, the website of the “Grace to You” ministries. Simply go to GTY.org, scroll down to the bottom to find the “FREE” section where you will see “BIBLE INTRODUCTIONS”. Once there, scroll down and click on ACTS. Then answer the following questions:

Who wrote the book of Acts?

What else did he write?

What was his occupation?

* Colossians 4:14

What was his purpose in writing?

What time frame is most likely for the date of the book?

How did he gather his information about the events recorded in his books? Consider multiple answers.

* Luke 1:1-4
* Acts 16:10; 20:5

Theme and Structure of the book

* In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells His disciples that they would be His witnesses in Jerusalem (where they were at the time), in Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth. The book of Acts records the spread of the gospel to those places: Jerusalem (chapters 1-7), Judea and Samaria (8-10), and to the ends of the earth (11-28).

The book of Acts is primarily concerned with how the Holy Spirit empowered the Apostles (especially Peter and Paul) to spread the good news about Jesus and establish His church. It begins, however, with some reminders about Jesus himself. **Read Acts 1 and then answer some questions below.**

#### What does chapter one teach about Jesus?

Acts 1:3 says that Jesus gave many convincing proofs of His resurrection from the dead.

* Read I Corinthians 15:1-8. What kind of proofs are listed there?
* Why do you think Jesus made the proofs so convincing? Consider multiple answers.

Acts 1:4-5 says that Jesus told His disciples to wait for the gift His Father had promised, the Holy Spirit.

* Read John 16:5-11. What name (description/title) is given to the Holy Spirit in this passage?
* What did Jesus mean when He told His disciples it was GOOD that He was going away?

In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells His disciples that they were to be witnesses for Him and spread the good news throughout the world.

* What promise did He make in this verse?
* In what ways is this verse similar to Matt 28:18-20?

#### What does chapter one teach about the Apostles?

Even though Jesus didn’t answer their big question (1:6-7), they followed His instructions to return to Jerusalem and wait (1:12).

* What are some possible reasons why Jesus didn’t answer their question?

Acts 1:14 reveals how they spent their “waiting” time.

* What does this verse say they were they doing?
* How does this compare with what we are told to do in I Thessalonians 5:16-18?
* Acts 1:24 tells us one specific topic they prayed about. What was it?
* What are some things you should be praying about in your seasons of waiting?

#### Discussion Questions

Jesus told His disciples to wait for the gift the Father had promised, the Holy Spirit (1:4).

* What do you think would have happened had they decided not to wait?
* What might they have missed out on if they moved on without the Holy Spirit?
* What might we be missing out on by trying to live our lives without truly relying on the Holy Spirit for wisdom, direction, power, etc.?

When the Apostles were told to wait, they didn’t run ahead, nor did they sit idly by. They prayed. A lot.

* What is one thing you are currently waiting for, or have waited for in the past?
* Is/was your waiting more active or passive? Please explain.
* How did you see God work through your time of waiting?

The men in white (angels) told the disciples that Jesus would return.

* How do you think that impacted their next steps?
* How should it impact our lives?
* In what way might your life look different if you expected the return of Jesus to happen soon?

**Prayer Time**

Please share, if you are willing, one thing from your own life about which the group can pray.

Pray also that God’s Spirit will be leading and empowering us as we study the book of Acts and seek daily to live it out in our lives. Pray for God to make us sensitive to the leading of His Spirit and make us good followers.