

NEIGHBORHOOD LIGHTHOUSE LESSON

LESSON 1: THE CHURCH JESUS STARTED | ACTS 1



15 min | Fellowship & Food/ Snacks
0:10 – 15 min | Worship & Prayer
0:30 – 45 min | Connect Group Lesson & Discussion
(encourage attendees to make room for everyone to share)
Conclude with Personal Prayer & Ministry Time

SCRIPTURE READING

SERIES VERSE:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

LESSON VERSE: Acts 1

Have the group read Acts 1, taking turns when possible.

**JESUS IS
RETURNING FOR
THE CHURCH HE
STARTED**

LESSON NOTES

THE KINGDOM TO COME!

The Book of Acts was written by Luke as an account of how the disciples responded to Jesus’s ministry, how the early Church was established and **how they went about changing society through the testimony of Christ with divine power**. Luke himself later becomes part of the story as well.

A study of how the church responded to Christ’s ministry and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit should lend us greater understanding not only the Gospels but the entire testimony of scripture. A study of The Book of ACTS can turn the pages of scripture from a flat-reading to a 3D real-life example of the Church as Jesus started it. **If they did it, we are called to do it too!** If they changed society, “turned the world upside down” by the WAYS Christ told them to, then we can as well!

In Acts 1, Jesus follows up with the Great Commission (Matt 28:16) by saying (paraphrased) “before you go into all the world, you are going to need power.” “Wait in Jerusalem UNTIL you are clothed with power from on high.”

Christ intention for the church was to be a witness to Him by DOING what He did. Healing the sick, casting out demons, prophesying, showing compassion while demonstrating a self-less life laid down for others. Those who lived this way were clearly disciples of Jesus, because they were witnesses by example, that Jesus was still alive. **To be a witness is to be a witness of the resurrection, by example.**

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus tell them to wait for power, instead of just send them out? How would the Church today be different if we could only do what God wants us to do by His power?
2. Why do you think Jesus ascended in a cloud before their eyes? (He could have just disappeared)
3. Why did they cast lots instead of praying and fasting? What was different AFTER the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
4. Why did Jesus not answer the disciple’s question about restoring Jerusalem to Israel? What did He tell them to do instead?
5. Do YOU have any prayer needs? How can we as a group pray for you?

BEFORE CLOSING | Ask for **Prayer Requests** | Enter Weekly Attendance Report in **Planning Center!**

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