

VxV Acts 1 Student Guide

I. Setting the Stage: Intro to Acts

- *Context*
 - The author of Acts is Luke, who also wrote the Gospel of Luke (think of the book of Acts as Luke Pt. 2).
 - If the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) tell us what Jesus *did* and *taught*, Acts tells us what Jesus *continued* to do and teach through His disciples after He went to heaven.
 - Acts is all about the birth and growth of the early church.
 - They were empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the good news of Jesus from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

II. Discussion: Acts 1 Breakdown

- *Jesus's Final Instructions & the Promise of the Spirit (Acts 1:1-8)*
 - Tell me about what Jesus' days looked like after the resurrection (vv. 3-5). What does "convincing proofs" mean in verse 3?

 - What was the disciples' big question in verse 6? Why do you think they were so focused on this?

- How does Jesus respond to their question in verse 7? What does this tell us about God's timing?

- What is the *most important* thing Jesus tells them they *will* receive in verse 8? What will this power enable them to do?

- Where does Jesus say they will be His witnesses? (Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth). What does this progression tell us about how the gospel spreads?

- *The Ascension (Acts 1:9-11)*
 - Describe what happened in verses 9-10. How do you think the disciples felt watching Jesus ascend?

 - What do the two men in white robes tell the disciples? What is the significance of Jesus returning "in the same way"?

 - How does the Ascension mark a turning point in the lives of the disciples?

- *The Upper Room & Choosing Matthias (Acts 1:12-26)*
 - After Jesus ascended, where did the disciples go (v. 12)? What were they doing there (v. 14)? Why is this important?
 - Who was gathered with the apostles in the upper room? (v. 14 - Mary, Jesus's brothers, and other women). What does this tell us about the early church community?
 - Why did Peter say they needed to choose a replacement for Judas (vv. 16-20)? What does this show about their understanding of Scripture?
 - What were the specific qualifications for Judas' replacement v. 21-22? Why was it so important that he have those specific qualifications?
 - How did they choose between Joseph and Matthias (vv. 24-26)? What does this method tell us about their reliance on God's guidance at this stage?

III. Application & Wrap-up

- Acts 1 talks a lot about waiting for the Holy Spirit. What are some things in your life that you might be waiting on God for? How can Acts 1 encourage you in that waiting?

- Jesus told the disciples they would be His witnesses. What does it mean for *you* to be a witness for Jesus in your school, with your friends, or at home?
- The early believers were devoted to prayer (v. 14). How can we make prayer a more central part of our lives and our youth group?

IV. Homework

- *Read and Reflect*
 - Read Acts 2, slowly, at least two times this week. Write down some of your initial thoughts here.
- *Group Chat Discussion Starter*
 - In your opinion, what is the most crucial part of Acts 2? Why?
 - Have a conversation via text or in person with at least 2 other teens this week about your opinion.

- Encourage each other as we study Acts together, ask questions, make comments, push each other to be better Bible students (iron sharpens iron).

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