

VxV Acts 1 Teacher 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?
 - **Answer:** For 40 days after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples, spoke with them about the kingdom of God, and gave them instructions. "Infallible proofs" means that he showed them many undeniable signs that he was alive, so there would be no doubt.

- What was the disciples' big question in verse 6? Why do you think they were so focused on this?
- **Answer:** They asked, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" They were still focused on the political idea of a physical, earthly kingdom where Israel would be free from Roman rule.

- How does Jesus respond to their question in verse 7? What does this tell us about God's timing?
- **Answer:** Jesus says it's not for them to know the times or dates that the Father has set. This teaches us that God's timing is perfect and not something we need to know or worry about.

- What is the *most important* thing Jesus tells them they *will* receive in verse 8? What will this power enable them to do?
- **Answer:** The most important thing is the Holy Spirit. This power will enable them to be His witnesses.

- Where does Jesus say they will be His witnesses? What does this progression tell us about how the gospel spreads?
- **Answer:** Jesus says they will be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. This shows that the gospel spreads naturally from where you are to the people around you and then to the entire world.

- *The Ascension (Acts 1:9-11)*
 - Describe what happened in verses 9-10. How do you think the disciples felt watching Jesus ascend?
 - **Answer:** While the disciples were watching, Jesus was taken up before their very eyes and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were likely a mix of sad and astonished.
 - What do the two men in white robes tell the disciples? What is the significance of Jesus returning "in the same way"?
 - **Answer:** The men tell the disciples that Jesus will come back in the same way they saw him go. The significance is that His return will be a physical, visible event, just as his ascension was.
 - How does the Ascension mark a turning point in the lives of the disciples?
 - **Answer:** The ascension marks the point when the disciples are no longer physically dependent on Jesus's presence. They must now rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to continue his work on Earth.

- *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?
- **Answer:** They returned to Jerusalem and went to an upstairs room. They were devoted to prayer. This is important because they were being obedient to Jesus's command to wait for the Holy Spirit.
- 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?
- **Answer:** Mary (Jesus's mother), Jesus's brothers, and other women were with them. This shows that the early church community was a close-knit group that included family and women, not just the male apostles.
- Why did Peter say they needed to choose a replacement for Judas (vv. 16-20)? What does this show about their understanding of Scripture?
- **Answer:** Peter explains that Judas's actions fulfilled Old Testament prophecy (Psalm 69:25 and 109:8). This shows they relied on Scripture for guidance and believed it was important to restore their number to 12.
- What were the specific qualifications for Judas' replacement v. 21-22? Why was it so important that he have those specific qualifications?
- **Answer:** The person had to have been with them during Jesus's entire public ministry, from his baptism to his ascension. This was important so he could be a credible and

authentic witness to the resurrection, which was a core message of the early church.

- 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?
- **Answer:** They prayed and cast lots. This shows that they completely relied on God to make the final choice. They trusted that the outcome was directed by Him.

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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