

Lesson 1: Acts 1:1-5 The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Background: Luke writing to Theophilus regarding the Gospel According to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 1:1-2 To whom was the book of Acts addressed?_____

Acts 1:3 How long did Jesus remain on earth, appearing to His disciples after His resurrection?__

Acts 1:4-5 What were Jesus' disciples supposed to wait for in Jerusalem?_____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

Adult Signature X_____

Acts 1:1-5 Question Answers

Acts 1:1-2 The writer of the book of Acts, is Luke, the same writer who wrote the Gospel according to Luke. Luke was a doctor and a traveling companion of the Apostle Paul. The book of Luke and the book of Acts, otherwise known as The Acts of the Apostles, are part of a two volume set. In the first volume, the Gospel According to Luke, Luke records the accounts of eye-witnesses, people who had seen and spoken with Jesus before and after His resurrection from the dead. In Luke's second book, Acts, Luke records all of the things that happened to the church, the family of God on earth, after Jesus' resurrection. **Both of these books are addressed to Theophilus**, whose name means "lover of God." Theophilus is probably a rich follower of Jesus who paid Luke to write an orderly account of the life of Jesus and the history of the early Christian church after Jesus' resurrection.

Acts 1:3 After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus appeared to His friends, unbelieving family, and even to Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor of the church, over a period of **forty days**. During this forty day period, everyone who met the risen Jesus came to know that He really is God the Son and that His death on the cross really did pay for the sins of all who trust and follow Him.

Acts 1:4-5 Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until God the Father baptized them with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the One True God. Jesus was promising His disciples that in a few days they would receive **the baptism of the Holy Spirit**, at which time God the Holy Spirit would come down upon them and live in their hearts. When the Holy Spirit comes to live in someone's heart, He gives them the power to live the life God wants for them most by transforming them to be more and more like God the Son, Jesus everyday.

Lesson 2: Acts 1:6-11 The Ascension

Background: Jesus with His eleven disciples on a mountain in Galilee

Acts 1:6-7 When did Jesus say He would restore the kingdom to Israel? _____

Acts 1:8 What did Jesus promise His disciples would receive? _____

Acts 1:9-11 Where did Jesus go next? _____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

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Acts 1:1-5 Question Answers

Acts 1:6-7 Jesus' disciples believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ, the King who God the Father had promised King David would sit on his throne and rule over the whole world forever. When Jesus died on the cross at the hands of the Romans instead of becoming king and defeating all of the enemies of God, His disciples were disappointed. After Jesus came back from the dead though, they were really hoping that Jesus would finally defeat the Romans and would become king over Israel and the whole world. Because God the Father loves the humans He created, He does not want anyone to perish. He does not want anyone to have to pay for their own sins, because they did not trust and follow Jesus, God the Son. So rather than judge everyone on earth and destroy everyone who had not yet given Jesus their sins, it was God the Father's plan for Jesus to return to earth **on a day and at a time that no one but the Father knows.**

Acts 1:8 Jesus promised His disciples that **they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them.** God the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the One True God. The Holy Spirit lives in everyone who trusts and follows Jesus, and He gives them the power to live the life God wants for us most. The Holy Spirit helps us become more and more like Jesus everyday. When God the Holy Spirit entered the eleven disciples and all of Jesus' true followers, they were given the power to tell everyone in from Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, all of the way to the ends of the earth that Jesus is God the Son, so that they might chose to follow Jesus too.

Acts 1:9-11 After Jesus had told His disciples that they would be His witnesses to the whole world, He ascended up into the sky in a cloud, until He finally disappeared from their sight. Suddenly, two angels in white, appeared to the eleven disciples as they were still staring up into the sky. The angels told them that **Jesus went to heaven,** then they promised that Jesus, God the Son, would one day return to earth in the same way He had left. Just as the prophet Daniel was shown that the Christ, the promised King from God would come to earth riding on the clouds (Daniel 7:13), Jesus, God the Son, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, will return riding on the clouds of heaven.

Lesson 3: Acts 1:12-26 Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

Background: The eleven disciples, Mary the mother of Jesus, the women, and Jesus' brothers in the upper room.

Acts 1:12-14 What did the disciples do when they returned to Jerusalem? _____

Acts 1:15-20 What did Peter say was written in the Book of Psalms concerning the death of Judas?

Acts 1:21-26 How did the disciples decide who would replace Judas? _____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

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Acts 1:12-26 Question Answers

Acts 1:12-14 Peter, who is also called Simon the son of Jonah, was a fisherman in business with John and James, the sons of Zebedee. Peter's brother, Andrew, introduced Peter to Jesus. Philip lived in the city of Bethsaida near Peter and Andrew. Thomas, had asked to put his finger in the wounds on Jesus' wrists and side after the resurrection. Bartholomew, who might also be called Nathanael and was first introduced to Jesus by Philip. Matthew, who is also called Levi the son of Alphaeus, was a tax collector before Jesus called him to be His disciple. Matthew also wrote the book of Matthew in the Bible. James the son of Alphaeus, is sometimes called James the younger and might have been the brother of Matthew. Simon the Zealot, may have been a member of the anti-Roman group who were trying to get the Jewish people to revolt and overthrow their oppressors. he might also have been called Nathanael, who was first introduced to Jesus by Philip. Judas the son of James is also called Thaddaeus. All of these men, the women followers of Jesus, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Jesus' half brothers all went to the upper room where **they devoted themselves to prayer.**

Acts 1:15-20 Judas' betrayal of God's promised King, the Christ, was revealed to king David 1000 years before Jesus came to earth. King David wrote about the Betrayer in Psalm 69:25, which says that his camp will be empty, just like the field that no one wanted after Judas' body fell and his guts spilled out onto it. In Psalm 109:8, it says that the Betrayer's days will be few and that another person should take his place. Jesus' disciples believed that this meant that because Judas hung himself, **they needed to find someone else to replace Judas as one of the twelve apostles.**

Acts 1:21-26 After determining which followers of Jesus had been with them from the beginning, since the baptism of John through the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, **the disciples prayed to God and cast lots to see who God had chosen.** Casting lots was like drawing straws or flipping a coin. While all followers of Jesus are His disciples, only the twelve had been given the mission to be apostles, those who are sent out to be witnesses of Jesus' resurrection. God alone calls people to go out and be apostles. Although Joseph and Matthias had both been following Jesus as long as the twelve original disciples, God had not necessarily called them to go out to the outermost parts of the world to be witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus. Even after Matthias was chosen by the eleven to replace Judas, he is never again mentioned in the Bible. Perhaps this means that God did not really chose him to be an apostle. If you are a follower of Jesus, you are His disciple. This means you should be learning about Jesus from the Bible and being transformed to be more and more like Jesus through God the Holy Spirit living in your heart. God calls all of us to tell the people around us about Jesus everyday. God does not call every disciple of Jesus to be an apostle. Not everyone is supposed to go to other countries to preach to the world that Jesus is God the Son. Most of God's church family is supposed to stay where we are in order to tell our neighbors, friends, and family about Jesus.