

# THE BOOK OF *Acts*

|| Group Discussion Guide ||

Acts 1:4-8

January 22, 2023

THE SPIRIT & THE MISSION

1

The first commands the disciples must obey after Jesus' ascension are to stay put and to wait. Why might this have been a difficult task for the disciples? Are we ever reluctant to obey the command to wait on the Lord?

2

The disciples are to "wait for the promise of the Father." What is this promise? See Joel 2:28-29, Isaiah 32:15, Ezekiel 36:27. Why was it important that this promise was fulfilled before the apostles embarked on their post-ascension ministry?

3

The verb baptizō or baptize means to immerse, submerge, or even to overwhelm. What does this indicate about the coming baptism with the Holy Spirit? What was this experience going to be like for the apostles?

4

While Jesus is speaking about this promise in connection with the apostles, all believers have been similarly promised to receive the Holy Spirit at conversion (Ephesians 1:13-14, 1 Corinthians 12:13). What does this mean for us? How does receiving the Holy Spirit shape our lives?

5

Jesus draws a connection as well as a contrast between the water baptism of John and the baptism with the Holy Spirit that the apostles would experience soon (v. 5). What are points of connection between the two? See Luke 3:21-22. What contrast is highlighted? See Luke 3:16.

**6**

The focus of Jesus' teaching here has been two-fold: the kingdom of God and the Spirit of God. What is the connection between the two? See Luke 4:18-19.

**7**

Before his ascension, the disciples ask Jesus when the kingdom will be restored to Israel. What are they expecting (and when)? How does their interest in the kingdom of Israel contrast with Jesus "speaking about the kingdom of God" (v. 3) throughout his ministry?

**8**

Jesus denies his followers knowledge about the timeline of events, but promises instead they will receive power through the Holy Spirit. This empowerment will be for the purpose of being his witnesses (v. 8). What does it mean to be a witness? Note that the Greek word for witness used here is *martys*—how does this help provide context for the English word "martyr" as well as "witness"? What is the connection between the two?

**9**

Are there times when we ask for knowledge, when instead God wants to empower us for mission? What areas of knowledge are we most eager for?

**10**

Jesus tells the apostles that they will be his witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." What does this indicate about the scope and reach of their mission? What do these geographical designations mean for the mission of the church today?

