

How did a handful of ordinary people become ten thousand followers of Jesus in the year following his public execution? How did his movement gain so much momentum, especially as ten of the eleven charter members were crucified, burned, or stoned to death? How did ten thousand Christians become one million by the second century, and 3.3 billion today?

Written in the middle of the first century, The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of how Christianity spread like wildfire across the Roman Empire and beyond. For 25 weeks we will journey through Acts in pursuit of the truth behind history's most consequential movement.

Group Discussion Guide: Week 1

Acts 1:1-8

Who is Luke, and how does his upbringing, career, and relationships with the apostles influence his work in Luke and Acts of the Apostles?

After the ascension, Jesus spent 40 days with his disciples teaching and pouring into them. Jesus mentored his disciples, who has mentored, or poured into you?

In Acts 1 we see Jesus teach on three things before he ascended into heaven.

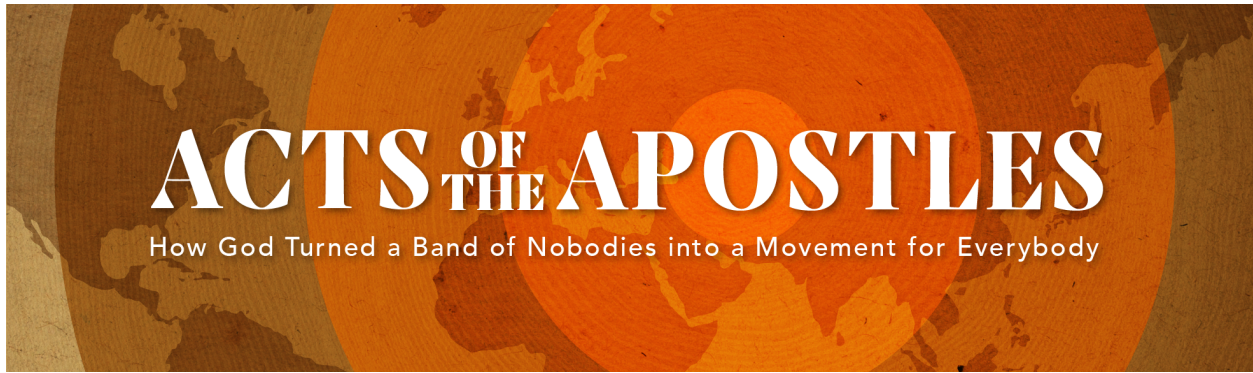
1. Jesus taught about The Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God is _____ (Mark 1:15)

The Kingdom of God is our _____ (Matthew 6:10)

The Kingdom of God is our _____ (Matthew 6:33)

Why were the disciples confused about the Kingdom Jesus was inaugurating?



2. Jesus taught them to wait for the Holy Spirit

Jesus told his disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit before they got to work spreading the good news. Why do you think Jesus gave the command to wait when there was so much to be done?

Why was and is the Holy Spirit essential in the expansion of Jesus' Church?

3. Jesus taught them that they will be his witnesses “to the ends of the earth.”

From the first pages of the Bible there has always been an emphasis on God reaching the entire world. Where do we see this in the Old and New Testament?

How can we join the disciples in becoming witnesses in Houston, Texas, and beyond?

We are citizens of God's Kingdom, empowered by God's Spirit, to do God's work in the world.

Whose Kingdom do you call home?

Whose power moves you?

Whose work are you doing?