

As you Study:

1. **Observation:** what does the text say? This is where you ask the who, what, why, where, and how questions. Who is speaking? Who is present? What is being said? Circle key or repeated words. Highlight important phrases, etc.
2. **Lesson:** this is when you begin to interpret the passage and try to discover what the text *means*. Does the meaning fit with the remainder of this passage and the rest of the Bible? Are there other passages that confirm your interpretation?
3. **Application:** this is where you apply the truths of the the passage to your own life. Now that you know what the text means, how should you respond? Make it personal: how should your life change because of these truths?

Scripture - Acts 1:8-26

1. (v. 8) What does the empowering of the Holy Spirit enable the disciples to do? What is the word “witness” in the Greek? What is another meaning of the word “witness” in relation to the believer?
2. (v. 8) When Jesus describes the 3 areas of being a witness, does practically line up with what the Lord wants to do today through believers? Why or why not? How does this apply to you? The scriptures reveal we need the baptism with the Holy Spirit (His empowering) to accomplish this. What has been your experience of this empowering working through the lives/church in the past?
3. (v.9) What happened to Jesus (Mar 16:19)? Why is this important (Eph 4:8-10)?
4. (v.10-11) Why is it important that Jesus is returning as per the context of this verse (Dan 7:13-14, Rev 19:11-16)? Should we expect to see Jesus before this (Jhn 14:1-3)? How does this truth effect your life of faith?

5. (v.12-14) What stands out to you in these verses in light of what the chapter has revealed? Does this describe your church life experiences?

6. (v.15) This is when it all began. The church. How many were in attendance? What title was given to them? What does it mean? Is the act of being a disciple different than simply believing in the teacher (in this case, Jesus)?

7. (v.16-26) Peter puts his faith into action because he is a disciple of Jesus. What did he recognize was needed as per scripture (Psalm 109:8)? What method did he use to hear from God? Did Jesus instruct him to appoint a man to the office of the 12? Was he correct in doing this - why or why not?

8. The Lord wants us to seek His leading by way of the Holy Spirit work, first in us (Jhn 14:15-17) and then through His empowering with the Holy Spirit to work through us (Act 1:5,8). Have there been times when you have handled situations like Peter did in verse 26? Have there been times when you simply handled situations because of faith and believing the Lord was leading you to do so?

Prayer:

Lord, I want to follow you and be led by your Holy Spirit in making decisions as you work in my heart. Thank you for how He teaches me your word and equips me to live for your glory. Amen.

Life Group Study Guide

Act 1:8-26

(8) "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

(9) Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

(10) And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

(11) who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This [same] Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

(12) Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

(13) And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James [the son] of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas [the son] of James.

(14) These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

(15) And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said,

(16) "Men [and] brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus;

(17) "for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry."

(18) (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out.

(19) And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

(20) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.'

(21) "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

(22) "beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

(23) And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

(24) And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen

(25) "to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."

(26) And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.