



**A FIVE-WEEK GROUP STUDY
IN THE BOOK OF ACTS**

WEEK ONE

WHAT HAPPENED
NEXT



WEEKLY READING

Read: Acts 1-2

For extra background, read: Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20 & 21

Read ahead for next week: Read Acts 3-4

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To better understand how the Holy Spirit helps us, comforts us, and empowers us

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: When were you in the best shape of your life? What could you do then that you can't do now?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. At the beginning of Acts, the apostles* are left staring up into the sky. Have you ever felt like Jesus has left you "high and dry?" How did you get through that period? How do you know He is with you always?
2. What was the command that Jesus gave the apostles in **Acts 1:4-5**? Did they obey his command? (See **Acts 1:12**). Have you ever felt like you were waiting for God to fulfill a promise? How can we be faithful to obey Him while we wait for the fulfillment of His promises?
3. In **Acts 1:12-26**, the apostles select another member to take the place of Judas Iscariot, who had betrayed Jesus and then committed suicide. Read how they chose Matthias in **Acts 12:23-26**. Does casting lots seem like a strange way to determine God's will? How does God direct us now that the Holy Spirit has been given to all believers?
4. In **Acts 2:14-41**, Peter stands up and addresses the crowd who had gathered to make fun of the apostles (see **Acts 2:13**). When you think about Peter's earlier failure (see **Matthew 26:69-75**), why is it significant that Peter is the one to stand up and speak boldly to the crowd?
5. Read **Acts 2:42-47**. What things stand out to you in the description of the early church's activities and behaviors? What was the reputation of the church among the community? What might the reputation of the Christian church be like if Christians today lived like this?
6. Read **1 Corinthians 3:16** and **Romans 8:11** out loud as a group. As you think about Pastor Doug's sermon on Sunday, how does it encourage you to know that the Spirit of God is alive *in* you?

* The term **disciple** means "student," or "learner," while the term **apostle** means "sent one." The apostles included the original 11 disciples (excluding Judas Iscariot), Matthias, Paul, Barnabas, and a handful of others who were designated as **apostles**.



