

# Survival - Acts 1

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After the ascension of Jesus into heaven, the new believers were faced with a challenge. Do they return to their old lives, or do they forge forward into the unknown. As we know, they chose to move forward, because once you've had a real encounter with Jesus it changes you and the entire direction of your life begins to change. This is what we see unfolding in the Book of Acts: believers/followers who are going through a crisis, facing the unknown, and yet forging ahead.

Mel shared with us several important aspects to beginning that journey.

First, honest truth telling. No matter how bad things may be, it's best to face the reality and tell the truth to one another.

- In what ways do you find yourself wanting to put your head in the sand and avoiding the possible truth of what we're facing? What are the truths that we're really facing at this time?
- Do you find yourself tempted by or falling into self-destructive behaviors? Share your challenge with your friends, and if appropriate, with your group.

Second, the first believers practiced intentional waiting on God, like Jesus instructed them. Waiting is not a passive, do nothing act. It's actually a spiritual practice that involves expectation, hope, and trust in God.

- Do you find yourself waiting on God at this time? What does that look like?
  - What exactly are you waiting and hoping for?
  - What is the hardest aspect of waiting for you?
  - What helps you to be patient?
- Talk about your level of trust in God right now. Is it challenged? How so? Has it grown? How so? Are you struggling even more? Talk about it.

Third, the first believers were unashamedly for Jesus. They didn't start that way, but 50 days of waiting and pursuing God made them that way.

- Consider, how can God change you and embolden you during this time of waiting?
- Why would waiting make them more bold and confident? What have you felt happening in your heart as you waited?

As she closed, Mel shared a few challenges with us.

- Mel shared a graffiti quote, "We can't return to normal, because the normal we had was precisely the problem." What do you make of this statement?
- What is God resetting "normal" in your life? How is a new normal emerging in your life? Are you even allowing yourself to entertain that possibility, and giving yourself permission to anticipate it? What will you leave behind to make space for this new normal?

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- What can you do this week to strengthen your bonds with other believers?