

Life Group Guide

Acts 1:1-5 | Jesus Is King Over His Church

OVERVIEW

This week we began our journey through the book of Acts, exploring how Jesus is king over his church. From the opening five verses, we see that Jesus prepares his people for his mission in two specific ways: by grounding us in his finished work and by assuring us with his promise. As North Georgia Fellowship launches forward, this passage calls us to pursue faithful obedience while depending fully on the Holy Spirit rather than our own abilities.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The book of Acts is not the story of what the church did for Jesus, but what the risen and ascended Jesus continued to do through his church by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- The church's mission is grounded in what Jesus did, what Jesus taught, and the certainty that Jesus is alive. Without those realities, nothing we do carries any weight.
- Jesus commanded his disciples to wait, not because the mission was unimportant, but because having the right message and genuine passion does not make us sufficient in ourselves. We need the Holy Spirit's power.
- The saving work of God is a fully Trinitarian effort. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all actively involved in the redemption of people and the advancement of the kingdom.
- The church's faithfulness to the mission is not grounded in creativity, programs, personalities, or abilities. It is grounded in what Jesus has done and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit working through us.

GETTING STARTED

Use one of the following questions to open your group time and help everyone ease into the conversation.

1. When you heard that the sermon series was moving into the book of Acts, what was your initial reaction? How familiar are you with this book?
2. Think of a time when you jumped ahead of something before you were fully prepared or equipped. What happened, and what did you learn from it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

On His Finished Work

1. The pastor pointed out that the word "began" in Acts 1:1 is significant. Luke says his gospel dealt with all that Jesus "began" to do and teach. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus' work did not end with his

ascension but is continuing through his church?

2. Luke emphasizes that Jesus presented himself alive to the disciples "by many proofs" over 40 days, not just once. Why do you think the repeated nature of these appearances mattered for the disciples' confidence in the mission? How does the certainty of the resurrection shape the way you think about sharing your faith?
3. Jesus spent those 40 days speaking to his disciples about the kingdom of God. The pastor described the kingdom as God's saving reign that is already inaugurated through Jesus but not yet fully revealed. How does keeping that big-picture perspective on the kingdom affect the way you approach your everyday life and your role in the church?

On His Promise

4. Jesus commanded his disciples to wait in Jerusalem rather than immediately going out to preach. The pastor said that trusting God's provision meant trusting God's timing. Where

in your own life have you struggled to wait on God's timing when you felt urgency about something that seemed good and right?

5. The pastor made the distinction that we are not waiting for a Pentecost-like outpouring of the Spirit today because that has already happened. Every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

Knowing that, what does it look like practically to depend on the Holy Spirit rather than running ahead of him?

6. The pastor asked a pointed question toward the end of the sermon: "Where have we begun trusting in our own ability more than the Holy Spirit's power?" Take a moment to sit with that question as a group. Where do you see this tendency showing up in your life, your family, or even in how you think about church ministry?

Bringing It Together

7. The pastor described a simple but profound rhythm: stop and pray before you parent, before you lead, before you share the gospel,

before you plan. How consistent is that rhythm in your life right now? What makes it difficult to maintain?

8. The overarching theme of this year has been that Jesus is king over all. We have seen him as king over our lives in Colossians, king over the future in Haggai, and now king over his church in Acts. How has that thread shaped or shifted the way you think about who Jesus is and what his reign means for you personally?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice before your group meets again.

- Audit your dependence. Identify one specific area of your life, whether parenting, work, ministry, or relationships, where you have been functioning as though everything depends on you. Write it down. Spend time this week praying specifically over that area, asking God to work in ways only he can.

- Pray before you plan. Before your next significant decision, conversation, or task this week, stop and pray first. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead, convict, and work in a way that goes beyond what you are capable of on your own. Make note of how that changes your approach.
- Revisit the foundation. Spend time this week reading through one of the Gospel accounts of the resurrection. Let the reality of what Jesus did and the many proofs of his resurrection renew your confidence in the mission he has given his church.
- Share the foundation with someone. The pastor reminded us that Christianity does not begin with something we do but with everything Jesus has done. This week, look for an opportunity to share that truth with someone who does not yet know Jesus. Ground your conversation not in your own persuasiveness but in what he accomplished.

CLOSING REFLECTION

Close your group time by reading Acts 1:1-5 together aloud. Then spend a few minutes in prayer as a group. Ask God to show each person where they need to stop trusting in their own strength and start depending more fully on the Holy Spirit. Pray specifically for North Georgia Fellowship, that the church would move at God's pace, on God's path, and in God's power.