

Life Group Guide

Acts 1:6-11 | Witnesses of an Ascended and Returning King

Overview

This guide is designed to help your group move beyond simply hearing the sermon to actively engaging with its content together. The goal is not just discussion but transformation -- helping one another understand why God has left us here and what He is calling us to do about it.

Key Takeaways

- Two of the most fundamental questions in life are who made us and why are we here. Scripture answers both, and Acts 1:6-11 speaks directly to the second.
- Until our King returns, the Holy Spirit calls and empowers us to be His witnesses.
- The Holy Spirit supplies power we cannot produce so that we can be faithful witnesses to the risen Savior.

- The gospel is not meant to be admired from a distance -- every believer has been commissioned to participate in the Great Commission.
- The ascension of Jesus assures us that He reigns. His promise assures us that He will return. Both truths are meant to move us toward obedience, not paralysis.
- God uses ordinary people empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim an extraordinary Savior.

Getting Started

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

1. When you woke up this morning, what was the first thing on your mind? What typically drives your sense of purpose on a given day?
 2. Have you ever been handed a responsibility you thought you were just supposed to admire or agree with -- only to realize it was actually yours to carry out? What was that experience like?
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Discussion Questions

Witnesses Empowered by the Holy Spirit

In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells the disciples they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them -- power they could not produce on their own.

1. The sermon drew a contrast between self-reliance and Holy Spirit dependence. In your own life, where do you tend to lean on your personality, preparation, or programs rather than depending on the Spirit? What does that dependence actually look like in practice?
2. Peter went from denying Jesus out of fear to boldly proclaiming Him before thousands. What does his transformation tell us about what the Holy Spirit is capable of doing in someone who feels unqualified or afraid?
3. The sermon made the point that we are not the apostles -- we were not eyewitnesses to the resurrection -- but we have been given the apostles' eyewitness testimony through Scripture. How does that truth change the way you think about the authority and power behind the message you carry?

4. The pastor said our confidence cannot rest in great programs, well-ordered services, or careful preparation alone -- it must rest in the Holy Spirit. What would it look like practically for your church or small group to shift from confidence in systems to dependence on the Spirit while still stewarding those things well?

Witnesses Commissioned to the Nations

Jesus gives the disciples a specific scope for their witness: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

5. The sermon made the point that God placed the disciples in Jerusalem -- the very city that rejected and crucified Jesus -- and told them to start there. What does that tell us about the places and people God might be calling us toward that feel uncomfortable or even hostile?
6. Samaria represented people the disciples would naturally avoid -- those with different backgrounds, worldviews, and histories of conflict. Who in your life or community might represent your personal "Samaria"? What would it take to move toward them?

7. The pastor said, "We cannot loudly celebrate that the gospel is for everyone while quietly assuming that sharing it is someone else's responsibility." Where do you see that tension showing up in your own life or in the church broadly?
8. The sermon identified several groups of people who might represent the "far from God" in this community: those hurt by the church, those with broken pasts, and those who grew up in cultural Christianity without a genuine relationship with Jesus. Which of those groups do you feel most equipped to reach, and why?

Witnesses of an Ascended and Returning King

In Acts 1:9-11, the disciples watch Jesus ascend into heaven and are reminded by angels that He will return in the same way.

9. R.C. Sproul is quoted in the sermon as saying the ascension was not a departure but a coronation. How does viewing the ascension as Jesus being enthroned as King change the way you think about the mission He left us with?

10. The disciples stood gazing into heaven even after Jesus had already given them their assignment. The problem was not that they were looking up -- it was that they were not moving. In what ways might we as believers, or as a group, be doing the same thing?
11. The sermon said, "If you can take great hope in knowing the certainty of the future, it will change the way that you actively live in the present." How does the promise of Christ's return practically shape the urgency and confidence with which you engage in everyday witness?

Practical Applications

These are not suggestions to consider and set aside. Work through them together and hold one another accountable.

Know the Gospel Deeply The first step to being a faithful witness is understanding clearly what Jesus came to do, why He died, and why His resurrection matters. Spend time this week reviewing the core of the gospel -- not as information, but as the story

that has changed your life. Be prepared to share it simply and clearly.

Write Down a Name Before you leave your group time, write down the name of one person in your life who is far from God. Commit to praying for that person by name every day this week. Ask God to open a door for a conversation, and ask Him to give you the courage and clarity to walk through it.

Identify Your Jerusalem Where has God already placed you? Your neighborhood, your workplace, your family, your school, your gym -- these are not accidents. Identify one specific context where God has positioned you and ask how you might be more intentional about being a witness there.

Pray Specifically and Together As a group, pray for the names you wrote down. Pray that God would move across your community, that He would open hearts, and that He would use ordinary people -- your group specifically -- to make His name known. Return to these names next week and share what God has done.

Closing Thought

The disciples were not left on this earth by accident, and neither are you. The same Holy Spirit who transformed a denier into a bold proclaimer lives in every believer. The King has ascended. He is reigning. He is returning. And until He does, the mission is clear. Do not just admire it -- participate in it.