

DEEPER ROOTS

April 8-13

Planting Seeds: Read Acts 1

We will be spending the next two months reading through the Book of Acts. Specifically, we will be looking at the work of the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts. The people of God are powerless without the spirit, and they are empowered and radically transformed after they are indwelt by the Spirit. In the beginning of the book, we see Jesus instructing the Disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Spirit to fall. He is leaving them, but He will send the Spirit in His place. They are confused, they still don't understand the work of Jesus. They still believe that He is going to restore a worldly, political kingdom. Jesus has bigger and different outcomes in mind. And as Jesus is giving them instructions, He ascends into heaven. This is the way that life goes with Jesus. He doesn't do what we want or expect. He doesn't give all the instructions and clarity that we want. And sometimes He makes us wait. Waiting on Jesus is part of our faithful obedience, but that doesn't make it easy. **How have you had to wait on the Lord in the past? What happened during your time of waiting? What happened after you were willing to wait?**

Digging Deep: Read Luke 24, Acts 1, Mark 16:12-13,

It is important to remember that the book of Acts was written by the same person who wrote the Gospel of Luke. These two stories are meant to be read together. The Gospel of Luke is the story of Jesus and His Disciples. The Acts of the Apostles is the story of how the Apostles tell about the work of Jesus and build the early church after Jesus has left them. The books share similar styles and themes. Luke is the only New Testament author who is not a Jew. He is very concerned with telling the story of how Jesus cares about outsiders, and how the doors are opened wide for Gentiles to enter the Kingdom with the arrival of the Holy Spirit. We see this in Luke's last chapter as He spends twenty-three verses telling the story of the men on the Emmaus Road. We don't even know their names, but Luke thinks it is important to tell the stories of many others, not just the twelve. The only other place we see any mention of this story is two verses in Mark. In the beginning of Acts, Jesus is telling the Disciples to wait in Jerusalem now, but He is about to send them to the far corners of the world with the Gospel message. **How do you sense the connection between the books of Luke and Acts? When Jesus commands us to take His story to others, how does that play out practically in your life?**

Pioneer Drive Baptist Church wants you to grow in The Word during the week of 4.8-13.24. Planting Seeds is a quick devotional and Digging Deep is a more robust study for you, your family, or your group. If you have questions or feedback, please email Terence@pioneerdrive.org.