

NEW LIFE ONE STUDIES



Series: “You Are The Church”

Week 1 Study Guide

Message: “It Starts Here.”

SCRIPTURE

Main Text:	Cross References:
<i>Acts 1:1-11</i>	<i>Acts 4:33</i> <i>2 Corinthians 1:21-22</i> <i>2 Peter 3:9</i>

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

*(This section focuses on understanding what the text means —
before jumping to what it means for us.)*

Read Acts 1:1–3

Main Idea: The mission of the Church is the continuation of Jesus’ work.

Commentary:

Luke opens Acts by connecting it directly to his Gospel, describing it as what Jesus “began to do and to teach.” This establishes a crucial

theological truth: the story of Jesus did not end with His resurrection or ascension. Instead, His work continues—now carried out through His people by the power of the Spirit.

The phrase “**many convincing proofs**” emphasizes that the resurrection is not symbolic or abstract. It is historical and tangible. Jesus intentionally anchored the disciples’ faith in reality by appearing to them repeatedly over forty days. He ate with them, spoke with them, and taught them about the Kingdom of God.

This period is formative. Before the disciples are sent, they are grounded. Their mission will not be fueled by emotion or assumption, but by certainty. The Church is built on the unshakable truth that Jesus is alive.

Cross References:

Luke 24:36–43 — *Jesus eats with the disciples, proving He is physically alive*

John 20:24–29 — *Jesus invites Thomas to see and touch*

1 Corinthians 15:3–8 — *Multiple eyewitnesses to the resurrection*

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Luke mean when he says Jesus “began” His work in the Gospel?
2. Why is it significant that Jesus gave “many convincing proofs” of His resurrection?
3. How does this passage establish the foundation for everything that follows in Acts?

Takeaway:

The Church exists as a continuation of the living work of Jesus, grounded in the reality of His resurrection.

Read Acts 1:4–7

Main Idea: The disciples are called to wait for the Spirit rather than act in their own strength.

Commentary:

Despite having witnessed the resurrection, the disciples are instructed not to move forward yet. Jesus commands them to wait for “**the gift**” — the Holy Spirit.

This reveals an essential truth: even with right belief, they lack the capacity to fulfill the mission on their own. The resurrection gives them confidence, but the Spirit will give them power.

Their question about restoring the kingdom to Israel shows that their expectations are still shaped by political and national hopes. They are looking for immediate, visible fulfillment. Jesus redirects them away from timelines and toward trust in God’s authority.

This moment highlights the tension between what God has revealed and what He has not. The disciples must learn to live in obedience without full understanding of timing.

Cross References:

Luke 24:49 — *“Stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high”*

Joel 2:28–29 — *Promise of the Spirit being poured out*

2 Corinthians 1:21–22 — *The Spirit as a guarantee of what is to come*

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Jesus command the disciples to wait before beginning the mission?
2. What does their question about restoring the kingdom reveal about their expectations?
3. How does Jesus redirect their focus in His response?

Takeaway:

The mission of God cannot be carried out through human effort alone—it requires dependence on the Spirit.

Read Acts 1:8

Main Idea: The Church is empowered by the Spirit to be witnesses of Jesus everywhere.

Commentary:

Acts 1:8 serves as the mission statement for the Church. It unfolds in three movements:

1. “You will receive power...”

This power (Greek: *dynamis*) is not natural ability but divine empowerment. It is the enabling presence of the Holy Spirit that equips believers to live and act beyond their own capacity.

2. “You will be my witnesses...”

A witness does not create a message—they testify to what they have seen and experienced. The disciples are called to proclaim the reality of the Gospel of the resurrected Jesus.

3. “In Jerusalem... Judea... Samaria... to the ends of the earth...”

This outlines the expanding scope of the mission:

Jerusalem → their immediate context

Judea → surrounding region

Samaria → culturally and socially uncomfortable places

Ends of the earth → global reach

The mission begins locally but is not confined by comfort or familiarity.

Cross References:

Matthew 28:18–20 — *The Great Commission*

Romans 1:16 — *The gospel is the power of God for salvation*

Zechariah 4:6 — *“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit”*

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to “receive power” from the Holy Spirit?
2. How does the role of a witness shape the identity of the Church?
3. What is the significance of the progression from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth?

Takeaway:

The Church is a Spirit-empowered people, called to testify to Jesus in every place and to every person.

Read Acts 1:9–11

Main Idea: The ascension marks the beginning of the Church's active mission in the world.

Commentary:

Jesus' ascension is not an ending but a transition. His physical departure signals that the responsibility of carrying the mission forward now rests with His followers.

The disciples' response—standing and looking into the sky—reflects a moment of awe, but also hesitation. The angels' question, "Why do you stand here looking into the sky?" serves as a gentle correction.

Their message contains two key truths:

1. *Jesus will return.*
2. *In the meantime, there is work to be done.*

The Church exists in this tension—between Christ's ascension and His return. This creates urgency. The mission is not optional or passive; it is active and time-sensitive.

Cross References:

2 Peter 3:9 — *God's patience in delaying His return*

Matthew 24:36 — *No one knows the day or hour*

Philippians 3:20 — *Our citizenship is in heaven, awaiting Christ*

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the significance of Jesus' ascension in this passage?
2. Why do the angels redirect the disciples from looking upward?

3. How does the promise of Jesus' return shape the Church's present mission?

Takeaway:

The time between Jesus' ascension and return is a window of mission—the Church is called to act with urgency.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

This passage challenges how we think about church and our role in it.

The early disciples didn't just attend something—they became something. Their lives were shaped by three core realities:

- a. They were fully convinced Jesus is alive
- b. They were dependent on the Holy Spirit
- c. They were committed to the mission

Reflection Questions:

1. Which of the above feels most real in your life right now—and which feels weakest?
 2. Where are you relying on your own strength instead of the Spirit's power?
 3. What would actually change in your daily life if you truly lived like Jesus is alive?
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LIVING IT OUT

The mission of the Church is not abstract—it plays out in everyday life.

Think about your “Jerusalem” (your immediate environment):

Your home

Your workplace or school

Your relationships

Then consider your “Samaria”:

The people and places you avoid

Action Steps:

1. Identify one place where God is calling you to step out this week.
 2. Pray specifically for the Spirit to empower you in that space.
 3. Look for one opportunity to share, serve, or speak about Jesus.
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For LifeGroups:

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER

The Church is not meant to live on mission alone—it’s a shared calling.

Share:

- a. Share a moment where you sensed God working through you (even in a small way).
- b. Where do you need boldness or clarity right now?
- c. How can this group support you in living on mission this week?

Pray together:

- a. Ask God to deepen your conviction that Jesus is alive.
- b. Ask for fresh filling of the Holy Spirit.
- c. Ask for boldness and urgency to live as the Church this week.