

Home Worship Guide: Acts 1:1-11

"Opportunities and Obstacles: Remember What He Did"

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to God's Word.

Icebreaker Question

What's something you're hoping for or excited about as we start 2026? What's something that makes you anxious or uncertain about this year?

Sermon Overview

This week we began our annual January series through the book of Acts, examining how the early church was birthed and what that means for us today. We looked at Acts 1:1-11, where Luke reminds Theophilus (and us) of what Jesus did, taught, and commanded before His ascension.

Key Takeaways

1. Remember What Jesus Did (Acts 1:1-3)

- Jesus both taught AND modeled everything He called us to do
- He appeared with "many convincing proofs" for 40 days
- He spoke primarily about the **Kingdom of God** (not just the church)

2. Remember His Commands (Acts 1:4-8)

- **Wait** for the Holy Spirit (patience and dependence)
- **Be witnesses** in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth

3. Remember You're Not Alone (Acts 1:9-11)

- Jesus sent messengers to remind the disciples

- We have the Holy Spirit living in us
 - We have each other in community
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Discussion Questions

Section 1: Remember What Jesus Did (Acts 1:1-3)

1. The sermon emphasized that Jesus both taught and lived out His message. Why is it significant that Jesus didn't just talk the talk but walked the walk? How does this challenge us?
 2. Pastor Wes mentioned that Jesus spoke about the "Kingdom of God" rather than just "the church." What's the difference? Why does this matter?
 3. Read the definition given: "God's sovereign activity in the world resulted in people being in right relationship with himself." How does this understanding of God's kingdom change your perspective on your daily life?
 4. **Personal Reflection:** When you think about 2026, what has God already done in your life that you need to remember? Share one way God has been faithful to you.
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Section 2: Remember His Commands (Acts 1:4-8)

5. The first command was to **WAIT** for the Holy Spirit. Why is waiting so difficult for us? What does waiting demonstrate about our faith?
6. The sermon stated: "The ministry of the Holy Spirit is not a luxury. It's an absolute necessity." Do you treat the Holy Spirit as a luxury or a necessity in your life? What's the difference?
7. Look at the five aspects of being a witness discussed in the sermon:
 - **Who** is a witness? (You)
 - **What** is the way of the witness? (Suffering)
 - **What** empowers the witness? (Holy Spirit)
 - **Where** is the need? (Everywhere)
 - **What** is the passion? (Jesus)

Which of these five aspects is most challenging for you personally? Why?

8. The sermon mentioned that "the light that shines the furthest shines the brightest at home." Are you being a witness where you live, work, and play? Who has God placed in your path right now?
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Section 3: Remember You're Not Alone (Acts 1:9-11)

9. When the disciples watched Jesus ascend, they stood gazing into heaven until angels redirected them. When do you find yourself "gazing" or stuck, rather than moving forward in obedience?
 10. How does knowing you have the Holy Spirit living inside you change the way you approach seemingly impossible tasks?
 11. How has this group or Christian community helped you feel less alone in your faith journey? How can we better support each other in being witnesses?
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Practical Application

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to put into practice this week:

Option 1: Remember What He Did

- Spend 10 minutes each day this week reflecting on God's faithfulness in your life. Write down at least one thing God has done for you each day.

Option 2: Remember His Commands

- Pray specifically for the Holy Spirit's power and guidance each morning this week
- Identify one person in your "Jerusalem" (neighborhood, workplace, family) and pray for an opportunity to be a witness to them
- Within 30 minutes of meeting someone new, find a way to naturally bring Jesus into the conversation

Option 3: Remember You're Not Alone

- Reach out to at least two people from this group this week to encourage them or ask how you can pray for them
- Share with someone how God is working in your life right now

Group Exercise: Witness Mapping

As a group, create a simple map of your collective "mission field":

1. **Jerusalem** - Where do group members live? Who are your neighbors?
2. **Judea** - What are the surrounding communities you interact with?
3. **Samaria** - Who are the people "not like us" that we tend to avoid or overlook?
4. **Ends of the Earth** - What global missions or international connections does our group have?

Spend time praying specifically for each of these areas and the people in them.

Memory Verse

Acts 1:8 (CSB) *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Closing Prayer Points

- Thank God for His faithfulness and for choosing each of us for His purposes
- Ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to do extraordinary things through ordinary people
- Pray for boldness to be witnesses where we live, work, and play
- Pray for those who are suffering for their faith around the world (Venezuela, Iran, etc.)
- Ask God to help us remember we are not alone

Additional Resources

- Read through the entire book of Acts this month (only 28 chapters!)
- Journal about where you see God's Kingdom at work around you
- Consider: What is one step of obedience God is calling you to take this month?

