

Take Home

APRIL 27, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 1:1-11

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” 6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

GETTING TO KNOW THE BOOK OF ACTS

READ Acts 1-12 in one sitting (it takes 30-40 minutes). Consider reading it again in a different translation. Write down your questions as they come to you, and note when something confuses you or excites you, or you find something that you want to explore further.

WATCH Acts 1-12, an explainer video from the Bible Project: bibleproject.com/videos/acts-1-12/

A DAILY PATTERN FOR MEETING WITH GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE:

Now that you’ve seen the big picture, zoom in on a smaller portion of Scripture each day. Slow down, close your eyes, take deep breaths and become aware of God’s Presence. Ask the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of your heart. Read the passage slowly, two or three times. Consider: what does this passage clearly reveal about God? What does it clearly reveal about me / humanity? Ask the Holy Spirit: Why are you revealing these truths to my heart today? What is God asking me to do today? Respond with adoration, confession, thanksgiving and petitions.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS FOR SMALL GROUPS, FRIEND GROUPS & HOUSEHOLDS:

1. Read the Scripture passage printed above. What stands out to you in these verses? What questions do they raise? Feel free to take time to wrestle with these questions.
2. What do you bring with you to this journey through the first part of the Book of Acts? What excitement, misgivings, or preconceived notions do you bring? What do you hope the Holy Spirit does in and through us as we dive into this part of Scripture together?
3. Luke insists that “the incarnation continues” through the church. To what extent do you think the church is faithfully continuing Jesus’ work? Where have we gotten off base?
4. The disciples assumed (incorrectly) that God’s Kingdom would come through violence. What assumptions do modern Westerners make about how the Kingdom of God comes? How does the idea that Jesus calls His followers to be “witnesses” help to reshape our expectations about how the Kingdom comes?
5. Jesus’ Kingdom has already come, but it has not yet come in full. How do we live between the already and the not yet? What do we need to sustain us so that we don’t grow weary and lose heart?

Sermon Notes